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# Winkler Morden The

THURSDAY, **DECEMBER 31, 2015** 

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PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Gr. 1 and Gr. 2 students at Parkland School in Winkler kept up the holiday tradition of creating a giant gingerbread man just before school let out for Christmas break. The kids brought in all kinds of candy from home and spent two days and several bags of icing sugar to create the life-sized cookie, which was divvied up and enjoyed on Pyjama Day on Dec. 18.

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# **New Tabor Home ahead of schedule**

Morden personal care home on track to open fall 2016 rather than spring 2017

"THAT'S QUITE A

DIFFERENCE AND

WE ARE EXTREMELY

**EXCITED ABOUT IT.** 

WE'LL BE LOOKING

FORWARD TO GET-

TING IN THERE."

By Lorne Stelmach

The long awaited new Tabor Home project in Morden went through years of delays before work finally began this past year.

Now the community's patience is being rewarded with news that construction is moving along well enough that the completion date has been moved up.

The original date for completion was spring of 2017, but that has now been advanced to the summer of 2016.

"Graham Construction have been very efficient ... and of course the weather has been in their favour as well," said Tabor Home board chairperson Wilf Warkentin.

"So that's quite a difference, and we

are extremely excited about it. We'll be looking forward to getting in there.

"Then of course it will take a month or two to get everything moved over and everyone settled. But we should still be in there before Christmas of next year. Everyone's very excited about it."

Warkentin added the change of date also ramps up planning and preparation for the move.

"There will be a lot of work to do ... they will be very busy for the next

number of months."

The project has also not only remained within the budget of about \$39 million, but in fact is estimated to now be coming in at closer to \$36 million.

That also has proven to be a welcome benefit for the facility, Warkentin said.

"It's well under budget. So a lot of the stuff that we had to eliminate be-

> fore it went to tender we got back in there now," he said, citing examples of paving having been extra as well as features like the front canopy and having additional surveillance cameras—all of which are back in the budget.

The new 100-bed, long-term care facility taking shape on the east side of Morden will replace the existing facility that was built in 1968 and ex-

panded in 1984.

The new building will be 77,319 square feet, which is more than twice the size of the current care home on 9th St. South.

It will offer greater flexibility than the older Tabor Home, with units that will be adaptable to various levels of care based on changing community

It could also mean utilizing up to 20 beds for supportive housing, allowing the facility to be more responsive to



SUPPLIED PHOTOS Morden's new Tabor Home east of the city is on track to be completed in the summer of 2016 instead of the original spring 2017 finish date.

the needs of seniors.

It will also include a unit to provide care for seniors with more complex needs, such as severe dementia or behavioural management issues.

The facility will feature larger singleresident bedrooms with private washrooms and a variety of better spaces for

dining, recreation, and large gatherings.

As for the current Tabor Home, it will be going on the market at some point.

"We've had several inquiries from developers who are interested in

buying it for certain reasons," said Warkentin. "We haven't followed up on any of them yet because the date of takeover is still a little bit up in the air.

"I think we shouldn't have any trouble selling it because we have had several fairly firm inquiries about it."

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of our Readers and Advertisers for your support in 2015.

Office wish you all of God's Blessings in the New Year!

Publisher of the Voice

# **ACU** supports United Wa

The Access Credit Union's Dan McCausland (left) presented Morden and District United Way board member Randy Penner with a donation of \$2.500 towards this year's campaign earlier this month. "We like to help them help the communities we serve," said McCausland of the donation. "Access Credit Union is committed to the communities that we serve as well, so this is a great way to fund other organizations in our community." Penner noted that the "Access Credit Union has been an ongoing supporter of our organization" and expressed his thanks for their support again this year. The United Way has a 2015 campaign goal of \$90,000. Call 204-822-6992 if you'd like to make a last-minute, year-end donation.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



# Winkler's in good shape heading into 2016: Harder

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It can take years for the biggest civic projects to finally come to fruition, following rounds upon rounds of planning, fundraising, and yet more planning.

For the residents of Winkler, 2016 will be the year at least two major building projects long in the works finally open



their doors, while several others make some serious headway towards getting shovels in the ground.

Mayor Martin Harder sat down with the Voice before Christmas to share his thoughts on the state of the city moving into the new year.

First off, the mayor reiterated a point he's been making all year long: recreation remains a key focus for city council.

To that end, Winkler made great strides in 2015, he said.

"We've had a new park developed in Pine Ridge, we've had the Sixth St. South park refurbished and redone, we have seen just tremendous use of the park that was done in 2014 in the swimming pool area," Harder said. "We see those things as being part of the same push to try and reach out

Winkler Mayor Martin Harder said several major projects will wrap up in 2016, while planning work will continue on things like the new Rec. Complex and a regional wastewater management facility.

> **PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE**

to the community and provide them with opportunities for recreation."

Larger-scale, the major expansion to the Winkler Recreation Complex is still in the planning stages, but it is moving steadily forward.

"Projects of that scale do move slowly," Harder admitted, noting the project had hit a few behind-the-scenes bumps. "One of the major hurdles that we've overcome there has been sitting down with the Stanley Ag. Society and agreeing that we're going to do this in partnership with them."

The society owns part of the land

the city hopes to expand the recreation centre onto. Harder wants to make it clear that the new facility will honour Winkler's agricultural roots and also provide a venue for future ag-related trade shows and the like.

"We are still on the same path with our Stanley Ag. Society to enhance the visibility of agriculture in our city," he said. "This facility will be able to do that and we're excited that we've moved things closer to seeing it become a reality."

Continued on page 6









# The Winkler Morden Morden



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# Setnember 2 September 2 Septem

# What a weird and frightening year

o 2015 was a bit of a weird and somewhat crazy year in terms of the world we live in, eh?

It was a year of déjà vu in many instances—a year when we were able to say "Prime Minister Trudeau" again. That feels weird.

It was a year when Donald Trump surged to the lead in the race to be-

come Republican candidate for the American presidency. A very odd thing when you consider that 15 years ago *The Simpsons* thought such a thing was so ridiculous they actually joked about it in an episode. What



By Peter Cantelon

an odd thing. (Speaking of odds, if I were a betting man I would lay odds on Trump winning the Republican

nomination, pretty much guaranteeing a Democrat presidency).

It was also a year in which the people around us began saying crazy, sometimes frightening things; things we never imagined lived in their heads (no matter what side of the fictional no man's land of neutral you live on—liberal or conservative). Dark words of anger, fear, confusion and hurt were flung to the forefront around issues of religion and war. There were also bright words of compassion, diversity, tolerance and love, but they seemed to be drowned out more often than not.

It has been a year of conflict between countries, families, and friends. There has been a lot of death in 2015, both the obvious kind and the subtler form of death that occurs when angry, hateful, fear-filled words are hurled like so many poison tipped arrows.

Even the climate cooperated and contributed to the strangeness of the year in some odd form of pathetic fallacy as it sought to avoid "normal" as much as possible. Winter finally arrived, triggered no doubt by a belief

that my previous editorial was challenging it to stay away.

It seems to me that in 2015 people were edgier and grumpier than usual, too Little things became big things. Decisions that, while you may have disagreed with them, would not normally have drummed up the anger and rage they seemed to have this past year.

In 2015 the stranger became even stranger to us than usual. Monsters became human to us and we identified them by what they wore—head scarves and face coverings, turbans and skin colour.

The lessons of history sought to intrude upon us in our agitated states, but we successfully buried them for the most part because in 2015 we wanted to do something, anything really ... we just didn't want to think much or agonize anymore. It was a year in which we craved action.

The year saw us demonstrate how much our trust in public officials at all levels had been eroded. Trust in and

Continued on page 5

# letters

#### Time to stop the double standards; we are all human beings

Anti-Muslim, anti-Qur'an, anti-Christian, and anti-Biblical sentiments have become more common and more blatant recently.

Some people are reacting irrationally and violently. Others are making their views known through letters to the editor trying to find justification for their own beliefs and practice.

One such irrational activity is offering up quotes from the Qur'an as proof of the erroneousness of a book revered by millions. This allows proof that Islam is violent and teaches violence. Most rational people know better.

A little experiment was carried out to expose a point. Someone took a

Bible and wrapped it in a cover to make it appear like the Qur'an. Then they found verses that pertained to woman, punishment, sex, etc., none of which are compatible with how most humans live today. (Search "The Holy Quran Experiment" on Youtube to watch it yourself.)

People believing that the verses were from the Qur'an reacted with surprise, disgust, and negativity. When they were told that the verses were not from the Qur'an but from the Bible they were visibly surprised.

We need to take a look at what we are doing ourselves.

Mostly it is fundamentalists, evangelicals and conservatives of all religions who are obsessed. Some get

it, others don't. Some realize it is media, ignorance, prejudice and racism. All religions need to end their double standards. Most people are peaceful people.

Lucky we have liberal scholars in all religions who understand literature and have the skills to decipher texts, move away from "cherry picking" and "proof texting" and enable us to see that we are all human beings with the same values, virtues, fears and hopes for ourselves and for our children regardless of the holy texts.

Art Hildebrand, Crystal City



# Short-term planning, long-term vision the key: Wiebe

By Lorne Stelmach

Managing Morden's growth involves both shortterm planning and longer-term vision for the community.

Mayor Ken Wiebe sees it all coming into play as council and the city take aim at the corporate plan goal to reach a population of 15,000 by the year 2020.

"Some people think we're crazy. It may be a crazy thought ... but if you don't have a dream, where are you going to go?" Wiebe commented in a year-end interview earlier this month.

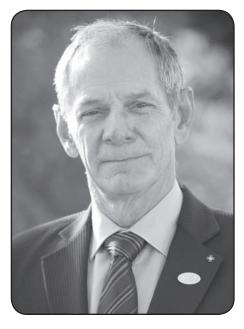
"It has a challenge to it. We're challenging ourselves to get our community ready for that kind of growth, and we think we're going there."

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

Wiebe touched on a number of developments in the past year that were significant for Morden.

Chief among them was seeing the new Tabor Home not only get underway but by year-end moving along so well that it is coming in under budget and ahead of schedule.

"That has been worked on for so many years, and



Morden Mayor Ken Wiebe says the city is prepared to meet the challenges that come with planned rapid growth.

we finally saw it come out of the ground. It's rising out there in that space and it is moving along at a tremendous pace."

Important for Morden as well this past year was the rolling out of the Code Red emergency alert system.

"A week after ... we had a tornado warning, and a majority of our residents got the warning. How much of a better test could you have?" Wiebe said. "Within another week, we had another one, and the system worked even better the second time. We're absolutely convinced it will give us almost 100 per cent coverage ... the great thing about it is that it's expandable and we can apply it to other things. It has multiple applications."

Wiebe also cited the new bicycle route along Wardrop, which may have had a couple of naysayers but has so far been embraced by the community.

The off-leash dog park located in Steppler Park has also been a huge success, he said.

"The park has never been used so much." A vital infrastructure project this past year was the new gravity sewer line along Gilmour that eliminated the need for the lift sta-

tion, which was due for replacement.

"The engineering has moved a long way in the last 20 years. We've eliminated the lift station and over the long term we've probably saved hundreds of thousands of dollars on maintenance."

Wiebe heralded the completion of the annexation agreement with the RM of Stanley as important as well for Morden's growth. The agreement including a tax sharing component involves 1,590 acres of land being added to the north and northwest.

"We had a good relationship all throughout this. It took a long time to hammer it all out, but when we finally put it on the table, it was a mutual agreement."

As well, Wiebe saw the recently completed

Morden customer satisfaction survey as a good way for the city to get input from residents that could assist them with their upcoming planning and budget deliberations.

#### A TOUGH CALL

The decision near year-end to introduce a new curbside waste collection program that includes compost and having it handled by an outside firm over a local provider proved controversial.

"The biggest objection was the change of supplier. That was a very difficult decision for council to make. It wasn't one we came to easily," said Wiebe. "One of the reasons this whole thing rolled out so late to the public was because we were trying to work with the local provider, but that just didn't come to fruition.

"Council has taken a lot of heat for that. I accept the criticism. Sometimes, the hard decisions are not easy to make. This came down to dollars."

He noted Municipal Waste Management is making a commitment to Morden, including plans to build here,

Continued on page 7

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#### > CANTELON, FROM PG. 4

of itself became something of a rare commodity, like petroleum from the oil sands.

In many ways 2015 has felt like a year of loss, resignation, and distraction. Loss of the many good things and attributes that make us human, resignation that there is nothing we can do about anything, and distraction from the very horror that continues to rise up around us and within us.

My hope for 2016 is that it might be a year when we reclaim some of the good things. That

we face darkness not with more darkness but with the light we are capable of creating. That hate is met with love, that fear is faced with trust, that the dispossessed are met with tolerance and compassion.

These are not weak things or weak words. It is the easiest thing in the world to hate, but to meet hate and death with love, this is possibly the greatest demonstration of strength of all. Let us strive for such strength in 2016.

# Wastewater project high on Stanley's to-do list



RM of Stanley Reeve Morris Olafson says the year ahead will be a busy one for the municipality.

By Lorne Stelmach

Managing the growth in a municipality that had a remarkable 31 per cent population growth in the last national census is a welcome challenge for the Rural Municipality of Stanley.

There certainly could be worse issues to be dealing with, says Reeve Morris Olafson.

There is pressure though, he says, particularly in meeting the infrastructure demands to support the continued development of the municipality.

Olafson said the year ahead will be a busy one with the need to keep up with ongoing issues like road improvements, rural water expansion, dust-proofing, drainage, weed control, and more.

And there is a need for a significantly larger infrastructure project looming in the region's future.

"One of the most pressing issues we

## "THIS IS PROBABLY THE BIGGEST KEY TO THE FUTURE GROWTH OF OUR REGION LONG-TERM."

face is the joint wastewater project for our area, which requires working with Morden and Winkler to make this happen," said Olafson. "This is probably the biggest key to the future growth of our region long-term."

Olafson said much of the credit for the RM's continued success goes to the hard work of their greatest assets: 16 full-time and seven seasonal employees working alongside the six council members.

"Their vision, determination, strong work ethic and pride of workmanship are evident throughout our municipality," he said.

#### **OVERCOMING CHALLENGES**

Olafson said the municipality poses a range of challenges in managing its growth.

Within its 46 square kilometres are about 9,000 people in an area that includes 12 villages.

Also vital to Stanley is working closely with the two growing and progressive cities of Winkler and Morden, "whom we consider both neighbors and friends," he said.

He feels the three municipalities

Continued on page 9

#### > HARDER, FROM PG. 3

Council put out a call for proposals for the expansion last month. Once those proposals come in they'll have a clearer idea of where to go next.

"We're looking forward to the possibility of these types of facilities being included in the scope of federal and provincial funding, because otherwise it makes it very difficult for a community to do everything on their own," Harder said. "So we're looking into what we qualify for there ... we will cer-

tainly aggressively pursue that."

Even as that project slowly moves forward—expect construction to begin in earnest more likely in 2017 than 2016—right across the street from the city's main recreation hub is a brand new spoke by way of the Winkler Arts and Cultural Centre, which should open by this summer.

Over half a million dollars in donations have poured in to transform the former Park St. water treatment plant into a cultural meeting space, and Harder says the city is so confident in the project that it will provide interim financing for the remaining \$100,000 or so needed for phase one so that the renovation work can begin immediately.

"We're looking forward to the completion of that," he said, stressing it will provide a long overdue space for the city's artistic community.

Also crossing the finish line this coming year is the Buhler Active Living Centre. The downtown senior housing complex will see its first tenants move in this spring.

"That building is going to be a tremendous asset to the city," Harder said. "And not only seniors—we have a few of the units spoken for by people with mobility issues, as well."

These bigger projects can often overshadow the smaller undertakings that are no less vital to a thriving community.

Harder points out the city made a great deal of headway when it came to improving infrastructure in 2015.

"We had the completion of Roblin and Circle K, we has the extension into the Cougar Creek industrial park, we had the completion of 3rd St. South ... the 3rd St. South one to me has got to be the number one because it has been a very long time coming and now finally it's completed."

In the same vein, the city also extended its walkway system and improved crosswalks in several areas.

"It was a huge, huge year for infrastructure," Harder said, also adding to the lengthy list sewer relining, manhole restorations, and lift station upgrades. "Those are all projects that were all lumped into 2015. It just seemed like we never ran out of projects

"And when we proceeded with these projects, the amazing thing was the government support that we had in a lot of these. It was a record year for grants for us ... we would never have been able to do all these had we not had some of those grants. We're very grateful for that."

Infrastructure remains high on the to-do list for 2016, as well, Harder said, though with so many big projects completed this year council can turn more of its attention to other areas, such as recreation and the ongoing push for a regional wastewater management facility.

"The key for us as a city is that there's always a moving target ... I think that's where we find ourselves at the end of this year," Harder said. "It's a good opportunity to refocus and say, 'What are we priorities as we move forward into 2016?'"

All in all, the mayor is feeling pretty confident about the health of Winkler moving forward.

"We have a low debt rate, we have significant reserves, we have a moving target as far as recreation is concerned, we have added culture and exhibition to our mix, we have had a tremendous investment in recreation, we've had huge infrastructure projects ... we are in good shape."



"IT'S GOING TO BE A MIX

BE ARRIVING."

OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

REPRESENTED IN WHO WILL

# Regional groups sponsoring refugee families

By Lorne Stelmach

A number of community groups across the south central region are working to sponsor refugees families looking to settle in Canada.

When they arrive next year, it is the staff and programs offered through Regional Connections that will likely step in to help these newcomers adjust to their new lives here.

There has been a lot of discussions and planning going on behind the scenes to prepare for it, said executive director Laurie Sawatzky.

She said they welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsorship groups to help ease the transition.

"We'll walk along side the sponsorship groups for wherever they need help. For the families, it depends what their needs are going to be ... their language capacity ... how quickly they'll be able to adjust to life here.

"Our work is helping people get settled. So we would work with the sponsorship groups to help them do what they need to do."

There are several community and church-based groups working to bring refugees to this region.

One group of Winkler families, businesses, and a church have partnered to give 15 refugees a new life in Can-

The group is looking to sponsor two families from Myanmar (formerly Burma) as well as a woman in a refugee camp in Ethiopia through the Mennonite Central Committee.

It is anticipated the two families may arrive in Winkler by next March.

A Carman group is also making an application to sponsor a family from either Iraq or Syria, another five families are looking at coming to Altona, and Sawatzky says there are discussions about families also coming to Morden.

"Some will be coming from Syria, but some will be coming from other countries as well," she said. "There are other families who have been in the queue ... it's going to be a mix of different countries represented in who will be arriving."

She suggested it is uncertain exactly how soon some of them will arrive in the region.

"That would be great to know. We know that the airlift has started, and we know that the federal government planned to bring 25,000 before the end of December, but that had changed to 10,000," she noted. "And of those 10,000, I understand the bulk of those will be privately sponsored people who will be coming. They will be dispersed throughout destinations across Canada."

The remainder of the 15,000 will be coming in January or February, and those will be government-assisted refugees, Sawatzky explained.

Sawatzky suggested the community-based sponsorship groups usually would commit to being involved for up to a year, but "our services can start at any time. There's no limit to our services, no finite length of time that people can access the services.

"So, long after the sponsorship is over, we're still around."

She noted they do a wide range of group information sessions that help address basic areas like health care and education.

Regional Con-

nections were also doing information sessions before Christmas with some of the sponsorship groups in the area. As well, they have been hosting open house events throughout the region for people who want to know how they can help the newcomers.

Sawatzky has been involved as well through her role as president of the Manitoba Immigrant and Refugee

Settlement Association.

"I have been lucky to be part of some of the discussions around how refugees are going to be settled here in Manitoba," she said. "The plan is for the bulk of the people who will be coming to Manitoba will likely end up

in Winnipeg."

In terms of their work with refugees once they have settled here, Sawatzky said their priorities start initially with things like ensuring they have all of their necessary doc-

uments like health cards and social insurance numbers.

"They get a language assessment if they need to get into language classes. And that's really where the settlement process starts," she said.

"With any newcomer who arrives, our focus is on doing the needs as-

Continued on page 9

#### > WIEBE, FROM PG. 5

and it was responding to concerns about the program, such as offering flexibility with issues like the size of the bins.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

Wiebe said he was pleased to see new development coming to Morden, such as new buildings downtown and in the city's industrial park.

A significant one coming in the new year will be the Co-op gas bar and convenience store at First St. and Thornhill, he noted.

Wiebe said there will also be a lot of planning underway in 2016 leading up to Morden hosting the 2017 Esso Cup national girls hockey champion-

"The big push will come in the fall of 2016 so that we can get everything set to go," he said.

Important to the mayor as well is continuing to support the arts community as well as events like the Corn and Apple Festival and facilities like the Canadian Fossil Discovery Cen-

"It's all part of who we are ... Morden is on the map in many areas because of them."

Another significant step in longer term planning is a new strategic plan for the Morden Police Service that will guide the department's growth.

"We can see their projections and their requirements over the long term. Now we can work with them financially ... so they can grow with the population."

Wiebe also said they want to keep empowering community organizations like the Morden Community Development Corporation to do their

"You don't need council's involvement in everything, in all the decision making," he said.

In the end, Wiebe said he sees council overseeing it all with controlled tax increases to support the growth.

"I think modest growth in taxes is manageable, not only for the ratepayer but for the city."



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#### > OLAFSON, FROM PG. 6

continue to value the importance of regional growth, pointing out that's evident in facilities like the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

"And we feel the new Katie Cares respite home coming in 2016 will really add to our regional presence in the province," he added.

Looking back at the year that was, Olafson said he's thankful for a major milestone that was marked last June with Stanley's 125th anniversary celebration.

"The day went from sunny skies to hail and strong winds back to sunny skies ... in the end, we had a great day at Stanley Park with over 1,200 people attending," he said."We celebrated with great local food, entertainment and fellowship. What a fantastic celebration all around."

Olafson also said the municipality made great strides in meeting its infrastructure needs this past year.

There were 37 new water connections, five kilometres of new water main lines installed, and the commissioning of the expansion of an upgraded Massey water treatment plant.

As well, there were eight kilometres of road rebuilds, five kilometres of new pavement, 48 kilometres of dust proofing, 2,500 semi-loads of gravel placed on 643 kilometres of road, 70 new culverts installed, and two kilometres of new sidewalk in the village of Reinland.

"Our bridge program was aggressive this year with three bridge replacements taking place ... one of which was a major replacement with a price tag of \$600,000 which we worked together on with the province to receive matching funds."

Olafson added the ability to move forward effectively continues to be largely dependent on good planning and design.

This is something he stressed council has taken seriously with the completion of the MSTW Development Plan, various infrastructure and development studies in regards to village growth, zoning bylaw review, and water and sewer infrastructure designs.

It's all in the interests of better serving Stanley's residents, who got the final word from Olafson.

"A big thank you to all the residents of our great RM for your help in making our area one of the best in Manitoba to work, live, and play," he said "It's 125 years as a municipality and still going strong."

#### > REFUGEES, FROM PG. 7

sessment and then doing a settlement plan with them, walking alongside people.

"They're making decisions for themselves, but we're helping them with the options," she said. "It's just to make sure they know that there's a welcoming place where they can come to with any questions.

"We have an intercultural and diversity trainer on staff who can do sessions and workshops on working with newcomers ... as an orientation ... what to expect.

"Another part of our focus is the volunteers who are interested in helping with newcomers," Sawatzky noted.

Overall, she suggested the entire settlement process will vary depending on individual needs, but she said it could be anywhere from a six month or one year commitment to five years or longer.

And the reality is that most refugees who come here likely will not stay, depending on a number of circumstances, like if they came from a large urban centre.

"Or if there isn't a large ethno-cultural group that you can connect to, you might feel isolated," said Sawatzky. "I think some of the sponsorship groups have expressed that ... it's fine if they don't stay. That's not the point, really. It's just providing a safe place for the transition."





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# Spotside > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

# Flyers on track for a top-of-the-pack season

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers have come a long way from their last-place finish of two seasons ago.

Midway through the 2015-2016 season, the team is rocking a 26-6-2 record and are tied with the Steinbach Pistons for the second place spot in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's standings, trailing the first place Portage Terriers by seven points with games in hand.

Coach and general manager Ken Pearson says the team's success is owed to the fact the inexperienced players of a few seasons ago have really come into their own this year.

"I think it started three years ago with guys like [Connor] Hamonic and [Zak] Hicks, [Nathan] Karlowsky, [Lawson] McDonald, [Tristan] Keck, [Scott] Gall. Those are the guys we decided to build this team around and you're seeing those guys lead this club this year," he said. "They kind of got a taste of things last year when they had bigger roles, but this year now they're the guys we really lean on.

"We're certainly seeing the seeds that were planted back then, we're seeing them come to fruition. As a coach and general manager, it's very nice to see."

Interviewed just a day after his team crushed the league-leading Terriers by 6-1, Pearson was optimistic in the Flyers' chances of holding on at the top of the standings and potentially even surpassing the Terriers in the remaining three months in the season.

"I think we have the same opportunity as anybody else ... it's a real tough league. We lost to Dauphin on the weekend and they're in ninth. Last night we beat Portage and they're in first.

"I like our chances to finish in the top. But I think that, for us, whether we finish at the top in the regular season isn't going to be the be-all and end-all," Pearson said. "It's going to be playing our best hockey come the end of February and the beginning of March. That's what we're going to focused on when we come back from the break."

Consistency remains the Flyers' greatest challenge.

"Getting off to good starts, just playing a whole 60 minute game. I think that's something that every team struggles with, but I think the teams

that figure it out the quickest—that you need to play that full 60 minutes—are the ones that have the success," said Pearson. "That's something we still need to work on every day in practice and every game."

Pearson said the team has several standout players this year, including Cam Whyte and Tristan Keck.

Whyte has scored more goals—25 in all—than any other MJHL player this season, while Keck is number three on the top points-earner list with 21 goals and 27 assists.

"Cam and Tristan had success here last year, but I think this year they've really taken it to the next level," Pearson said. "Last year Tristan was maybe more of a goal scorer and now they can't just key in on him—Cam's done a great job in being a guy that's a threat out there. So you got both of those guys they've got to worry about when that line goes out there, and then Kurt [Somme]

has done a good job since he's been put in that line ... dispersing the puck to both those guys and allowing them to use their speed."

Pearson's also feeling good about the goalie roster, which underwent a few changes in recent months.

The Flyers were had to trade for Connor Slipp after Ryan LaRochelle was injured at practice.

"WE'RE CERTAINLY
SEEING THE SEEDS
THAT WERE PLANTED
BACK THEN, WE'RE
SEEING THEM COME
TO FRUITION."

It proved to be a good move.

"He comes in and he goes undefeated in his first 10 or 11 starts," Pearson said, noting that, at the same time, fellow Winkler goalie Clarke Flegel also ended up on the injured list. "So when everything was said and done, Connor sort of took over as the number one goalie.

"But we still felt, with the group that we had, we wanted to add a veteran guy that we were really comfortable with. When Nathan [Warren] became available, it was a pretty easy decision to go after him."

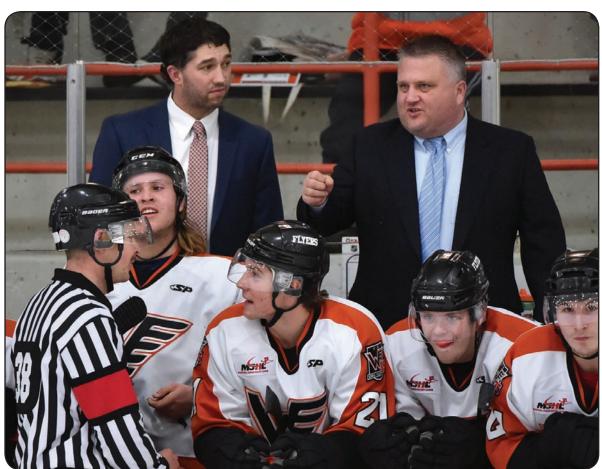
Since coming on board earlier this month, Warren has gone 3-1 guarding Winker's net.

"The two of them really gives us a solid one-two punch," Pearson said."They're both big goalies, cover a lot of the net."



Even as Pearson is focused on the season at hand, he also has an eye on the more distant future.

"We have 23 players right now and we'll be losing nine of them at the end of the season," he said, adding, however, that the coaching staff are continually grooming



of them at t

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Winkler Flyers head coach and general manager Ken Pearson (right) says the team's veteran junior hockey players have really come into their own this season, keeping the team at the top of the MJHL standings.

# Hawks showing dedication, drive to win: coach

By Lorne Stelmach

From one game to the next, there may be individual performances that stand out.

More often than not, though, coach Dana Bell would have a difficult time picking out one standout player from the roster of the Pembina Valley Hawks so far this year.

"It's pretty hard to single anybody out. Everybody is buying in and going hard," Bell commented in assessing his team at the midpoint of the Manitoba Female Midget Hockey League season.

"That's the thing—it takes a full team to win, and that's what it's been. It's been 17 girls showing up at the rink with the dedication and wanting to win," said Bell."That's the key with our team. It's 17 girls as a whole who are all going, so that makes it good."

Just prior to the Christmas break, the Hawks downed the Westman Wildcats 3-2 on Dec. 18 and then blanked the Central Plains Capitals 2-0 on Dec. 19.

Heading into those matches, Pembina Valley was riding high after a third straight win with a 4-2 victory over Yellowhead that handed the Chiefs their first regulation time loss of the season.

"It was a huge confidence builder for us," said Bell of the Hawks, who had climbed into third place at that point with an 11-3 record for 22 points. After the two wins that fol-



**VOICE FILE PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT** 

The Pembina Valley Hawks have been gaining momentum in recent weeks as the players continue to show dedication and a drive to win, says coach Dana Bell.

lowed, the team moved into second place, trailing the first-place Westman Wildcats by just three points and with games in hand.

The Hawks have been gaining momentum after a sluggish start that saw them lose two of their first three games before rattling off seven wins

They then lost a 1-0 heartbreaker to the Chiefs before starting their next winning streak.

Bell continues to place a lot of importance on their practice time.

"We get to work in practice and focus on some key points," he said. "When you're confidence is like where it is right now, I think that's a huge booster for us. I think the girls

Continued on page 13

# Midget Hawks struggling for consistency

By Lorne Stelmach

In the midst of what has been a difficult season for the defending Manitoba Midget Hockey League champs, it is the potential starting to emerge that is encouraging for the Pembina Valley Hawks.

It is a young team that has been forced to rebuild after last year's run to the AAA title, as much of the core group did not return this fall.

New coach Rylan Price—who took over partway into the season from Gerry Leiding—is convinced good things will come in the back half of the season, judging by the work being put in by his players.

"We like the level of effort," he said. "We've never had to tell the boys to give more effort, to go harder. They've come with a consistent 100 per cent effort all the time.

"Now it's just matter of making sure that everyone is on the same page, and we'll keep drilling our message into them.

"We'll see things happening more consistently, and that should turn into some more close games and hopefully some wins for us."

Going into the Christmas break, the Hawks were in 11th place among 12

Their record of 5-21-0-1 for 11 points includes some lopsided losses to the league elite, but also some close affairs that could have gone the other way with another break or two.

"There's definitely potential there," said Price. "Usually what coaches ask for is the effort, and that's what we're getting right now, so it's just a matter of making sure that we're doing everything for the team and sticking to our game plan.

"When we can get all of us working together with the same goal in mind, I think we can win some games, for

Individually, Caleb Unrau has been the team's top point earner at five goals and 16 assists for 21 points, while Everett Bestland leads in goals with nine and was second in scoring with 15 points.

Matthew Thiessen and Aaron Brunn have pretty well split goaltending duties so far this season, and their stats reflect the fact they have faced a lot of shots in some games.

Brunn had four of the wins with a 4.56 goals against average and .886 save percentage, while Thiessen had one win with a 5.33 goals against average and .883 save percentage.

Price noted another player who has particularly been standing out is Tye Turner. The Gr. 10 student from Carman had moved into third in scoring with five goals and 12 points.

"He's a very talented hockey player. He skates well, shoots the puck well, and he plays with his head up," said Price."He knows where everyone else on the ice is, and he's able to make some really good passes."

Price also said Nicholas Hatley, another Gr. 10 player, has also been taking his game up a notch.

"He's come out in the last few games and he's had some really good games for us," he said of Hatley, who has three goals and seven points so far.

Really, though, Price said every member of the team is trying to take their game to the next level.

"We've gotten some really good leadership from the guys that were there last year and the guys that are

Continued on page 13

# Agriculture COOL repealed, retaliatory tariffs avoided

By Harry Siemens

On Dec. 18, the United States Senate put forward a funding bill that, in part, officially repeals mandatory Country of Origin Labelling of meat, thus avoiding WTO-approved retaliatory tariffs from trade partners Canada and Mexico.

Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Pat Roberts had this to say:

"I might point out, since my first day as chairman of the agriculture committee in the Senate, I have worked to try to prevent trade retaliation due to COOL and I am glad these efforts will pay off."

Roberts says the Canadian and Mexican governments had said very clearly that if the U.S. did not repeal COOL, billions of dollars in tariffs would follow.

"That's not going to happen and I give a tremendous amount of, doing the right thing and working hard on our behalf and a very good relationship here lately with your trade rep," he says.

Roberts applauds Canada's trade minister and compliments those in the Canadian government who worked hard with U.S. lawmakers to help resolve this issue.

Just prior to Senate's decision, Canada's Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay had said the U.S. lawmakers were well aware of the consequences of failure to approve legislation that would repeal provisions of COOL for beef and pork.

"The bottom line in this country is that what it has to do is repeal COOL and when the legislation is evaluated totally and it repeals COOL, then we will be in a position to remove retaliation," he said, "but not until it has satisfactorily removed COOL from pork and beef in this country. That is the bottom line."

COOL harms Canadian and Mexican livestock producers as well U.S. processors and producers, MacAulay said.

"It also disrupts the highly integrated North American meat industry supply chain. We are cautiously optimistic that this will lead to a resolution restoring trade on beef and pork."

Minister of International Trade Chrystia Freeland says Canada and the U.S. have always had a close relationship, so sorting out the COOL issue was of paramount importance.

"Our trading relationship is the most important relationship for both of us ... we have so many shared goals and values and we are very hopeful, thanks to some of these developments, that this dispute will come to a successful conclusion."

Andrew Dickson, the general manager of Manitoba Pork, says the passed Senate amendment included in the U.S. funding bill will definitely resolve this dispute

"The wording that we saw would indicate that essentially the legislation would be gutted for this particular aspect of COOL and it meets the request that we've been making for many, many years now to try and get this legislation fixed," says Dickson.

"I should also point out that we're also encouraging the government of Canada to continue with the WTO process, complete it so that it does have the authority to impose retaliatory measures and, if the COOL legislation passes and the regulation gets changed, then there's no need to exercise that authority. But it's like holding an arrow in the quiver and we have encouraged them to retain that authority."

## Grain handling system continues to evolve

By Harry Siemens

The grain handling and transportation system in Canada keeps growing and growing.

Earlier this month, GrainCorp announced expansion of its grain origination footprint in Canada through the establishment of a joint venture with Zen-Noh Grain Corporation, a subsidiary of a major Japanese agricultural cooperative Zen-Noh (National Federation of Agricultural Co-

operative Associations).

GrainCorp will hold a 50 per cent share in the joint venture, based in Calgary, and plans to operate grain receiving sites across Alberta and Saskatchewan.

These sites will be part of a fully integrated supply chain for the origination, marketing, storage, handling, distribution and exporting of Canadian grain and oilseed.

To support the start-up phase, including construction and commis-

sioning of the sites, GrainCorp will contribute \$30 million over the next two years, while the joint venture will source additional funding from financial institutions of \$60 million.

Construction is expected to be staged progressively from the second half of 2016 through to the end of 2018.

"This is an exciting opportunity to partner with one of the world's most respected agricultural organizations

Continued on page 13



# Siemens This is a done deal

> HARRY SIEMENS

hen I spoke on a Winnipeg radio station back in the early 2000s about the effects of COOL, then only a vague threat, not even that, but a concept that would help everybody, the producers, processors, and the consumers.

In fact, I received some emails and

other flak that I didn't know what I was talking about.

As the U.S. slowly developed the legislation and discussed how they would use it to everyone's benefit, it looked like it would be okay and not really affect us in Canada.

Then the hammer dropped, and the groups who today are protesting vehemently how the consumer is going to lose out, then were able to convince the powers that be to include what then made it so damaging to livestock coming from Mexico and Canada into the U.S.

To make a long story short, with shortages of cattle and hogs going south because they couldn't process them, some plants shut down in the U.S., especially along the border.

Shutting down the option to go

south reduced the competition and dropped the prices along with some other factors, but for the most part the WTO got it right assessing damages, just short some billions.

However, the strategy and plan by the previous government under the direction of former Ag Minister Gerry Ritz and Trade Minister Ed Fast in taking it to the WTO and setting up the retaliation scheme paid off.

This is now a done deal. When Andrew Dickson, the GM for Manitoba Pork, says he likes the writing of the repeal of pork and beef, pigs and cattle from COOL, I'm confident too that it is a done deal.

Ironic that on Dec. 18—the very day the WTO had given Canada and

Continued on page 13

#### > GRAIN SYSTEM, FROM PG. 12

and deepen our relationships with our international customers by growing our grain origination capability," says CEO Mark Palmquist."The joint venture will leverage GrainCorp's existing Canadian footprint, including our Calgary Marketing office and Canadian Malting Company operations; plus Zen-Noh Group's significant experience and customer relationships in exporting agricultural commodities from North America to Japan and other Asian destinations."

Palmquist says the new business also benefits grain and oilseed growers in the Canadian Prairies by providing an independent and alternative pathway to market.

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association immediately jumped on the bandwagon saying how exciting this is to have Grain-Connect create a new fully integrated supply chain for Canadian farmers, including the construction of several new elevators in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

"It's great to see this new investment," says chair Jim Wickett. "Anything that increases competition for our grain is always welcome news."

Both of these companies are major players in the international market and should be in a position to provide excellent new market opportunities for western Canadian grain farmers.

"The Wheat Growers see plenty of growth opportunities in the prairie grain sector," says Wickett. "With investments by GrainsConnect and others, our industry will be well-positioned to meet increased global demand for our grain."

The Wheat Growers see this announcement as another positive result of winning grain marketing freedom in 2012, Wicket says.

The construction of new elevators on the prairies will allow farmers to move more grain off the farm at harvest time, and should strengthen grain bids.

It will also improve our export capacity, as grain will be that much closer to being in an export-ready position, whether that grain ultimately moves through Canadian or U.S. ports.

Increasing rail capacity will be important to ensuring farmers see the full benefits of this new investment.

In the same vein, the Ag Transport Coalition Grain Week 18 railway performance measurement report saw CN and CP supplying 7,766 (85%) of the 9,159 hopper cars ordered for delivery, resulting in 1,393 hopper car orders remaining outstanding.

Timeliness of car supply: CN supplied 91 per cent and CP 78 per cent of the hopper cars that the industry ordered. Non-bulk, USA/Mexico, Canadian domestic performance: CN supplied 100 per cent and CP 67 per cent of the hopper cars ordered for

Grain year to date figures show 88 per cent of hopper car orders have been delivered by CN and CP. While eight per cent of hopper car orders have arrived one week late, one per cent of hopper car orders arrived two weeks late, while three per cent of hopper car orders are outstanding.

Another interesting note: 2,425 cars supplied by railways rejected by shippers as unsuitable for loading due to mechanical or sanitary reasons.

#### > SIEMENS SAYS, FROM PG. 12

Mexico to start the retaliation process—that the U.S. government was able to undo COOL and avoid the entire retaliation scheme.

The decision hasn't sat well with evervone down south.

R-CALF USA's Bill Bullard, for example, issued this statement following the COOL repeal:

"In the most underhanded way, Congress is depriving all of us of our right to know where the beef or pork we feed ourselves, our children and our grandchildren was born, raised and slaughtered.

"In secret and without debate, congressional leaders added the repeal of COOL in a must-pass spending bill knowing they could accomplish their self-serving ends without the risk of public input or debate. In the spending bill, the provision that destroys our COOL law cannot be amended or removed.

"This is government at its worst. Congressional leaders are helping the politically powerful multinational meatpackers to hide the origins of the beef they are importing from Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and the other countries that are among the 14 countries from where the meatpackers source their beef for the U.S. market.

"Many consumers and cattle producers have been duped by the meatpackers. Consumers were told that beef from developing countries is just as safe as beef from the U.S., but the truth is that developing countries are no longer required to have food safety systems at least equal to those of the United States.

"Cattle producers were told that

labeling beef is an unnecessary expense, but the truth is that U.S. cattle producers cannot compete in the global marketplace if consumers cannot distinguish their beef from the beef imported by multinational meatpackers from the 14 countries that currently ship beef into the United States.

"Congress is forsaking consumers and producers by terminating the right of U.S. citizens to know the origins of their food."

Let me say that this had little to do with safety, but most everything to do with protectionism.

So now we're entering a new but old era in the North American cattle and

I say new/old because we're going back to the old way of doing things, but I hope with a renewed vigour.

#### > FEMALE HAWKS, FROM PG. 11

are prepared and they are ready

"Right now, I think we just keep building ... keep getting better and better as the year goes on," he said. "It's not only as a team but as coaches as well. We're all getting more familiar with each other, and that's a big factor.

"We're changing things up. We've got everybody going forward, so that's a good thing right

"The intensity levels at practice for the last month have been phenomenal. Everyone shows up, they work hard and, again, that's the key. You've got to start it in practice and the girls know that, it's what they've been doing.

"We're a pretty tight knit family, and things are just moving forward really nicely."

Bell also welcomed the help of

new assistant coach Shanley Peters, who played hockey for 14 years including four with the Hawks from 2007-2010, helping them win the league three years in a row and going to Westerns in 2010.

Peters went on to play Division III hockey for four years at the University of Wisconsin and was an assistant coach of the Australian national women's hockey team.

The Hawks resume play in the new year on the road against Parkland in Dauphin Jan. 9 and versus Yellowhead in Shoal Lake Jan. 10.

#### > HAWKS, FROM PG. 11

wearing the letters this year as well, too," he said. "The team aspect is really good, and the boys' heads are in a really good place right now."

The Hawks have a chance to open

up 2016 on a positive note with a pair of games against the Thistles in Kenora Jan. 2 and Jan. 3, continuing a run of 10 away games.

The road trip continues with the

Parkland Rangers in Dauphin Jan. 9 and the Yellowhead Chiefs in Shoal Lake Jan. 10.

#### > FLYERS, FROM PG. 10

younger players to take up leadership roles as the veterans age out of junior hockey. "That's what we've had to do the last three, four years is build up our protective list so that when we age guys out we've still got a good group returning. Plus we've got the

16, 17, and 18-year-old guys that are we feel are good enough to step up and contribute."

In their final game before the Christmas break, the Flyers doubled up on the Winnipeg Blues 6-3 on Dec. 19. Whyte contributed two while Jordan Wall, Zak Hicks, Thomas Mansbridge, and Jason Cohan scored singles. Slipp got the win net, making 35 saves as Winkler outshot Winnipeg 42-37.

The Flyers hit the ice tonight, Dec. 31, in Portage. They also travel to Selkirk to face the Steelers on Sunday.

# Festival of the Arts forms available Jan. 4

By Lorne Stelmach

It's an annual showcase of the tremendous artistic talent in the area.

And organizers see the 2016 Morden Festival of the Arts again attracting over 500 entries in the new year.

"Our numbers are high every year," said Erika Dyck, acting president of the festival. "It's a big event for us. We have a lot of interest."

Entering its 41st year, the festival provides a venue for student performance, instruction, and adjudication in band, strings, vocal and choral arts, French and English speech arts, and piano.

The aim is to foster and promote continued interest, growth and development within the arts.

The organizing committee is prepar-

ing for the next festival season with dates in place, adjudicators lined up, and venues booked.

It all comes together really well thanks to the volunteers, said Dyck.

"It does run really well and that's because we have a really, really good group of volunteers who are on the committee," she said.

"We need volunteers for every session of the festival as well," she added, noting the festival events happen over a few weeks in March and April.

"We need nine volunteers a day. And we generally don't have a problem finding them. We're really, really grateful for that."

The tentative schedule for 2016 has the band sessions running March 10, strings March 13-15, sacred evening March 20, piano March 21-23, vocal

April 13-14, speech arts April 26-27, and the Hi-Lites Concert wrapping everything up on May 1.

It may seem like a ways away, but registration gets underway in Janu-

Entry forms will be available at all local school offices, the South Central Regional Library, and on the festival's website starting Jan. 4. Piano, sacred and strings registrations are generally done through the music teachers.

Jan. 22 is the post-marked deadline for submission of entry forms by mail. Maple Leaf School in-school pick up will be Jan. 27 and École Morden Middle School will be Ian. 28. Minnewasta School entries can be submitted to Darlene Wirth at the school, while Morden Collegiate students can drop entries off at ÉMMS.

Jan. 28 is the final deadline for entries.

For information about the different class names and numbers for each discipline, the new edition of the Association of Manitoba Arts Festivals syllabus is available for viewing at each of the school libraries and at the Morden Library.

Copies of speech arts selections are available at each of the school librar-

Anyone interested in assisting at individual sessions should call volunteer co-ordinator Marlene Britton at

For general information about the festival, check out their website at www.mordenfestivalofthearts.cfsites. org or contact Dyck at 204-822-6825.

# take a break > GAMES

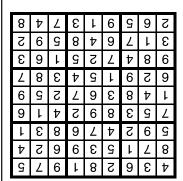
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#### Fun By The Numbers

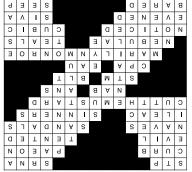
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku This mind-bendina puzzle will have . you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



Sudoku Answer



**Crossword Answer** 

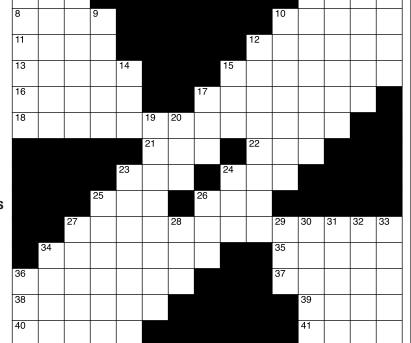
### **CROSSWORD**

#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Engine additive
- 4. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 8. Subdue
- 10. One long, three short
- 11. Morally bad
- 12. With collapsible shelter
- 13. Central church parts
- 15. Summer shoes
- 16. Intestinal
- 17. Transgressors
- 18. Meeting expectations
- 21. Clutch
- 22. Autonomic nervous system
- 23. What you can repeat immediately after perceiving it
- 24. Favorite summer sandwich
- 25. An accountant certified by the state
- 26. Cologne
- 27. Norma Jean Baker
- 34. Galaxies
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Detected
- 37. Having 3 dimensions
- 38. Made level
- 39. The destroyer (Hindu)
- 40. Uncovered
- 41. Ooze slowly
- 42. Aerie
- 43. Point midway between S and SE

#### **CLUES DOWN**

1. Having beautiful natural



#### views

42

- 2. Fanafuti is the capital
- 3. Shrub used for hedges
- 4. Polishing tools
- 5. Slow down
- 6. Christmas carols
- 7. & & &
- 9. Sound of sheep or goat
- 10. A long flag, often tapering
- 12. Atomic #73
- 14. Schilling (abbr.)
- 15. Female sibling
- 17. Long sandwich 19. In a way, necessitated
- 20. Mayan people of SW Guatemala

- 23. Cleaned up
- 24. Prohibit
- 25. Upright cupboard
- 26. Cyclone center
- 27. Metric linear units
- 28. Young male
- 29. Securities market
- 30. City across from **Dusseldorf**
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Mount of \_\_\_ east of Jerusalem
- 33. Get free
- 34. Variable stars
- 36. One point N of NE

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#### COMING EVENTS

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Fri., Jan. 8/16

Zion Lutheran Church 144 7th St., Morden, MB 11:30 am - 1:00 pm \$7.00 per person

Proceeds to missions

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Start Date: February 1, 2016

Please visit our website at www.gvsd.ca for additional Information regarding this employment opportunity or contact: Human Resources, Garden Valley School Division Box 1330, 750 Triple E Boulevard Winkler, MB R6W 4B3 Tel: (204) 325-8335; Fax: (204) 325-4132; E-mail: hr@gvsd.ca

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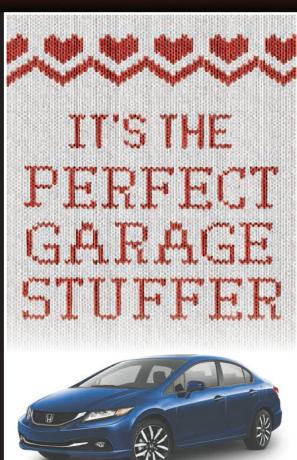


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