

VOLUME 15 EDITION 6

# The *Winkler Morden* **Voice**

THURSDAY,  
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## Move It Monday



Luna and Kinsley were among the kids at the Meridian Exhibition Centre Monday to try their hand at the fun and games available on the facility's indoor turf. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

PHOTO  
BY RICK  
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## Get moving at the Meridian Exhibition Centre this winter

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Meridian Exhibition Centre is Winkler's best kept secret, but Meg Dias is trying to change that.

The city's recreational programmer is hoping the new Move It Mondays campaign will get Winklerites into the facility more over the next few months.

"Winter blues are a real thing, living in Manitoba," she says, noting this winter's lack of snow further complicates matters, as even the usual fun outdoor activities are a no-go. "So I thought what better time to be able to have some extra turf time here?"

Move It Mondays started this week and runs until April 15. The centre has added extra turf time availability in its fieldhouse every Monday morning to complement several other activities happening in the building that day.

Parent and Tot Turf runs from 9-10:30 a.m. Mondays followed by track walking sessions from 9-11:30 a.m. (though, technically, the walking track is open all day, every day of the

week for the public to use, barring special events), Parent & Tot Skate from 10:15-11:15 a.m., and then an Open Turf and Lawn Games slot from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

All these events are free, but there's also 18+ hockey running Mondays from 9-10 a.m. at \$5/person.

MEC has teamed up with Central Station Community Centre as well to provide weekly snacks for people who come out to enjoy the morning's activities.

Dias hopes people who perhaps have never set foot in the exhibition centre will take the opportunity to see what it all has to offer.

"We want to create a really welcoming environment for people to come in and try out the turf, try out the Parent & Tot skating," she says. "Just get people comfortable with our facility and feeling at home here."

The Parent & Tot programs are a great way for parents of young kids to get out of the house, Dias notes.

"I think a lot of people think that



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Meridian Exhibition Centre hosted its first Move It Monday this week. Left: Sarah watches over daughter Ezri on the indoor turf area. Above: Pat Wiebe walks the track overlooking the fieldhouse. Below: Iysha, Jaylen, Janessa, Cole, and Helen enjoy the Parent & Tot skating session.



maybe your kid has to be able to skate," she says, stressing that certainly isn't the case. "We had mums out there today with babes in strollers."

They also have skate trainers available for kids to use for balance, built by local high school welding students.

"And it's not just for tots to skate," Dias says of the program. "It's parents, grandparents ... we just want to get people moving."

"We know the importance of keeping our bodies moving, not just for physical health but for mental health, especially living in the climate that we do," she says.

"I'm pretty passionate about getting people out, but I'm also passionate about building communities and recreation," Dias adds. "For me, if we

can get people in the building and I can see new families chatting with each other and people just grabbing a muffin and a coffee that Central Station brought and taking the time to pause and have a conversation, I feel like there's some serious value to that."

While the focus on Mondays is to give people a taste of what all the facility has to offer, many of these programs, and others, are available on other days of the week as well.

There's skate and turf times for seniors and home school families, free public skating sessions, \$5 skate times, \$5 sticks and pucks sessions, and shinny hockey time slots.

You can check out the full schedule at [themeridianexhibitioncentre.ca](http://themeridianexhibitioncentre.ca).

## Morden chamber polling members as part of strategic planning

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden Chamber of Commerce members have an opportunity to help direct the organization's strategic planning.

The chamber is surveying its membership on its needs and priorities as part of the strategic planning process.

It is a requirement of the chamber receiving certification, but it is a valuable opportunity regardless, noted Susan Lee, who is the member services committee chairperson with the chamber executive.

"Because the chamber is a member driven thing, you definitely need the feedback from the members," Lee said. "We'll be able to look at what the needs are."

The survey touches on three areas: membership services and engagement, enabling organizational growth, and the voice of business.

There are questions about networking and capacity building opportunities and topics that members would like to see in upcoming educational events, as well as what aspects of

chamber membership are valued the most and how well they think the chamber is performing its core functions.

The final section of the survey then goes into how members would describe their business activity levels in the past year, what they expect their business activity levels to be in the next two years, and what are the greatest challenges facing their business.

Lee sees this kind of information being key to setting out priorities in

terms of its services and activities.

"This is an opportunity for us to see the big picture," said Lee, who noted they don't always hear that much feedback from members. "It informs us as to what the concerns are ... and do some of these things involve money? Then that involves budgeting, and maybe we need to do fundraising in order to make it happen."

The chamber has three committees assigned to address each of the key areas as it formulates a new action plan for the years ahead.



# Morden Physio donates \$5K to track project

By Lorne Stelmach

The fundraising drive for a track and soccer field as part of the École Discovery Trails school project in Morden got another financial boost last week.

Morden Physiotherapy presented a \$5,000 donation last Friday.

"It's a perfect fit for us," said physiotherapist Tim Shantz, noting the centre is celebrating 10 years in the community in 2024. "We were looking for a capital project, a larger scale project in the area that's going to be good for health and wellness and fitness, especially for the youth."

"It's kind of thinking about tomorrow, and we're hoping other businesses will follow suit and make donations as well."

"We're looking forward to having more businesses and organizations coming on board," said Western School Division trustee Darcy Wolfe, who is helping spearhead fundraising efforts.

"Every bit of support we get is super important. We've gotten a good response so far," he said. "We've got a little ways to go yet to finish off the project ... we're well along the way, and we've had really good support."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Representatives from Morden Physiotherapy met with Western School Division reps at the École Discovery Trails construction site last week to present a \$5,000 donation towards the school's track project. So far, about \$800,000 of the \$1 million needed has been raised through community donations and grants.

Wolfe estimated they've raised just over \$800,000 of their \$1 million goal. He feels people are really embracing the project and recognize what it could do for the community.

"We look forward to building a project that the whole community and surrounding area can use, and it will bring a lot of people to Morden."

The addition of the track and soccer field will be a major addition to École Discovery Trails. The K-8 school will open this fall.

The project became possible initially with the City of Morden handing over 2.6 acres of adjacent land that will al-

low the division to include a soccer field and a full-size running track on the school property.

You can support the effort and find more information online at [www.discoverytrack.ca](http://www.discoverytrack.ca) or [www.gofundme.com/f/discoverytrack](http://www.gofundme.com/f/discoverytrack).

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# Crochet-a-thon for Eden a success



By Ashleigh Viveiros

Last week's Warmth in Winter crochet-a-thon at the Winkler Library was a huge success.

Library clerk Linda Funk invited crocheters to drop by that day to spend some time assembling afghans

for patients at the Eden Health Care Centre.

"We had eight completed afghans donated to us and about 465 squares which we've put together or are in the process of putting together," Funk shared afterwards. "We're going to be needing people to help us with it, but



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Volunteers were at the Winkler library last Tuesday to contribute to the Warmth in Winter crochet-a-thon. Left: MaryAnne Plett and Mary Fehr at work creating afghan squares. Above: Library clerk Linda Funk looking over the results of the day's work as well as the hundreds of finished square donations they received.

we've got seven afghans laid out."

Funk notes she wasn't sure what to expect from this event. The library has had yarn and needles available in their reading nook for a few years now, allowing patrons to put together a square or two as time allows. But this is the first time they've held an organized drive like this, and the response was overwhelming.

"We had people who heard about this and thought, you know, I've got that bag of squares in the back of my closet I've been meaning to put together and I'm not, so I may as well donate them to you," Funk said. "So

we had a good number of donations and also some lovely people who showed up and said, okay, what do you need me to do?"

She figured they had about 16 or so people stop by throughout the day.

"We had somebody in our main area crocheting pretty much from start to finish," Funk said. "We are definitely doing this again, and we are going to continue accepting donations of squares and completed afghans."

"And we'll have the yarn basket out so people can drop by and do a square or part of a square any time the library's open."

## Police warn residents to beware of Grandparent Scam making the rounds

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Police are warning people to be vigilant in the wake of scammers victimizing several elderly individuals in recent weeks.

Chief Ryan Hunt says three Winkler residents lost significant amounts of money and a fourth was targeted in a grandparent scam in January.

He says the cases are believed to be connected and they also fit the description of a scam reported by RCMP in La Broquiere last month.

In all the cases, the victim receives a call from someone claiming to be their grandchild saying they're in trouble

with police.

They ask for a large sum of money to be released from custody and then arrange for someone to come pick it up at the victim's house.

"That's something new that we haven't really seen before," Hunt notes. "It's a bit of a new twist on the old grandparent scam where often it was all done over the phone and they would ask somebody to transfer money, a wire transfer or whatever the case may be."

"So this is a little more brazen in the fact that these people are willing to

Continued on page 5

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# Government announces public schools funding

## Local divisions crunching the numbers

By Lorne Stelmach

The announcement of provincial funding levels for education last week now has local school divisions assessing the impact on their budgets.

The Manitoba government is increasing base operating funding for public schools overall by 3.4 per cent, but another key part of the announcement is the NDP government is lifting the restriction on local school taxation.

"They are allowing school divisions to tax again ... it's going to be something the board will need to look at," said Dan Ward, superintendent of Garden Valley School Division. "I think every school division across the province will have to look at, financially, their bottom line, and determine what the needs are, recognizing that any time you look at local taxation, it's balancing the needs of the school division with the cost pressures that everybody in the community is facing."

"I'm not sure that our initial funding is going to allow us to do the things we need to do to grow next year and to open that new school next year without some taxation ... we're waiting for some answers to the questions we have," said Stephen Ross, superintendent of Western School Division.

Border Land School Division reps did not return requests for comment as of press time.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning minister Nello

Altomare trumpeted the provincial increase was higher than the provincial inflation rate as well as the new initiative supporting school divisions in rolling out a universal nutrition program.

"After years of feeling the pinch, schools and kids deserve a government that's ready to fund them at the level they deserve," said Altomare. "Funding will be stable and predictable for divisions while we develop a new funding model for the next fiscal year. For kids, this funding will ensure every student gets the support they need including a universal nutrition program to keep kids fed, healthy and ready for learning."

Garden Valley is receiving \$34.6 million in operating support, a 2.1 per cent increase.

It is a fairly modest increase that works out to an additional \$735,000 for operating support, so it doesn't necessarily go very far, noted Ward.

"We're looking at the numbers and looking at the increase," he said. "We're certainly not in as good a position as some [divisions], but definitely any increase is positive."

"It's definitely going to present some challenges as the board goes into budget deliberations," Ward added, noting inflation has been high and is putting a lot of pressure on a whole range of costs for a growing division that needs to keep up with programming and staffing.

In Western, operating support is increasing by 4.1 per cent to \$17 million.

Ross said they are still assessing the numbers and the potential budget implications.

"We've got lots of questions yet because next year, for us, we have, of course, many expenses with the new school coming online," he noted. "We have some questions we have posed to government in regards to funding there."

"Next year is very different for us with many new expenses," said Ross, while acknowledging also "the changes potentially with the ability for boards to tax again."

The division has posted a budget survey on its website for the community to have their input, and the division will also be holding its annual budget expo at Morden Collegiate the evening of Feb. 28.

Other school divisions in the region are also receiving varying levels of provincial support:

- Border Land: 0.7 per cent increase in operating support for \$20.2 million.
- Red River Valley: 0.8 per cent increase in operating support to \$15.7 million.
- Prairie Rose: 1.8 per cent increase in operating support to \$16.7 million.
- Prairie Spirit: 1.3 per cent increase in operating support to \$16.2 million.

Altomare maintained the 3.4 per cent overall operating funding increase addresses growing enrolment and supports classroom needs, and he noted it provides higher levels of funding to divisions with high enrolment growth and divisions with a smaller tax base to enable students across the province to receive the supports they need.

As announced earlier, the province is also investing \$30 million to deliver a universal nutrition program in schools and another \$3 million to lower early-years class sizes.

According to the province, the 2024-25 funding of schools is an overall increase of \$104.2 million that includes:

- \$51.5 million in operating costs for public schools;
- \$3 million toward smaller class sizes;
- \$27.5 million for nutrition programming, which builds on the 2023-24 current funding for a total of \$30 million;
- \$11.3 million for capital support, which includes principal and interest costs related to building schools; and
- \$10.9 million to independent schools as per their funding agreement.

## > GRANDPARENT SCAM, FROM PG. 4

take the risk to come right to the door and get the money."

Hunt says the fraudsters have been very convincing in pretending to be the victim's family member and in claiming to be in desperate need of their help. But he urges people to be skeptical if they find themselves on the receiving end of one of these calls.

"We're putting the message out there and hoping it gets to the elderly, but we're also asking people, if they have elderly parents or friends, to get the message across to them: police officers almost never request money so that somebody can be released from custody.

"So if somebody's phoning and asking you to provide money for them to get out of jail, that should be a red flag immediately."

If you get such a call and are concerned it may be legitimate, Hunt

urges you to hang up and call the family member in question directly to see if they're okay. If you can't reach the family member, call police to see if there's any truth to the claims being made.

Do not use any phone number the scammers have given you, Hunt stresses. Instead, look up the correct number for the police department (and your family member) yourself.

"Any phone number that they give you will just go back to the scammer again," he says. "If they're reporting to be from a police service, look up the phone number for that police service, whether it's online or through other avenues."

If you have elderly family members, Hunt encourages you to discuss this scam with them and ensure they have contact numbers readily available to phone if they need them.

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## PTM reports on a solid year, puts call out for vounteers

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year was one that saw the Pembina Threshermen's Museum get a couple more larger projects done and attract good attendance for its feature events.

Challenges also remained, though, including getting enough volunteers to make it all happen at the pioneer heritage museum in the Morden-Winkler highway corridor.

"We need to get new people," president Ike Elias said after the museum's recent annual meeting. "We have to keep getting other people involved to try and keep things going here.

"We especially need to connect with the younger generation," he added. "Almost all of the core volunteers are older. There's very few younger ones."

Elias felt there were a few highlights from the past year, including having good attendance at some of their events, including the Reunion Days and Heritage Days festivities.

"Our Heritage Days went well, despite the fact that we were somewhat short of volunteers," he said, noting their summer staff were restricted as far as how much time they could put into it. "That put a little bit too much on the rest of us as volunteers to get a hundred per cent of everything covered."

It always becomes a challenge when they rely so much on volunteers, reflected Elias, who noted he had that in mind in planning for the annual meeting.

"I put out a bit of a challenge to the rest of the board to all bring at least one friend who would be a potential volunteer. I think it was successful



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Pembina Threshermen's Museum is looking for volunteers to make events like Reunion Days and Heritage Days a success this summer.

because it was better attended than normal."

The museum completed three major projects this past year.

"The exterior of the seed plant elevator was redone from the outside. That was the big one," said Elias. "The building is 60 feet tall, so it takes the right group of people to do that job.

"We also built a picnic shelter, and we actually got both of those projects done before the museum opened up for the season, so it was nice that they were done early," he said, noting they also finished off the parking lot with more gravel.

"We had those three major projects, and we spent a fair bit of money," he said, explaining it contributed to

what ended up being a minor deficit for the year. "We fared alright ... we were short of where we were one year ago in terms of cash on hand, but we were ahead of where we were two years ago."

Looking ahead, Elias shared there isn't as much in the plans for this summer season, but he sees that as a good thing for the museum.

"There's only a couple of smaller projects in mind, but our planning meeting hasn't happened yet," he said. "This year's projects would be more catch-up on the smaller items like fixing up the storage sheds ... we did a few major ones last year, and the little ones sort of get left behind, so it's catch-up time."

## MFNPS investigating Roseau River death

By Voice staff

The Manitoba First Nations Police Service is investigating a death that occurred in Roseau River over the weekend.

Sunday morning at approximately 8:30 a.m., Roseau River officers re-

ceived a report of a male lying on the ground in a backyard in the community.

Emergency crews responded and a 39-year-old man was transported to De Salaberry District Hospital in St.Pierre-Jolys, where he was pronounced deceased.

The cause of death remains under investigation as police await autopsy results.

Anyone with any information in regards to this investigation is asked to call the MFNPS Roseau River Detachment at 204-427-3383 or the tip line at 1-833-978-0048 or Tips@mfnp.ca

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# Ice sculptures on display at Lake Minnewasta this weekend

**By Lorne Stelmach**

The art of ice sculpture will be on display this weekend at Lake Minnewasta.

The annual workshop of the Pembina Hills Arts Council has been well received in its first three years, and organizers anticipate that will be the case again this Saturday.

"I think it's going to continue to build, and I think with the connection to Winterfest the same day, that's how we're getting people to register," said director Lisa Isakov. "We've had a lot of people interested ... we're very excited about it."

The workshop is overseen by Peter Hargreaves from Sputnik Architecture in Winnipeg along with local volunteers Earl Dyck and James Friesen.

It brings together 10 registered teams of two or more people to participate.

"Early in the morning the day before, we're going to be harvesting the ice," noted Isakov. "On the 10th, when people come in, they will be in-

structing everyone on how to use all of the chisels and all of the equipment that's involved."

She noted there are some participants who have come back year after year to further hone their skills.

"It's a lot of people who have done it before and they have enjoyed it, so maybe they're bringing a friend or their family," she said. "I think it's very much a family friendly event for the community."

Isakov noted the workshop has also received good support from the community to help make it happen.

"There's been a lot of people in the community who have been offering free services to support it," she said. "I find that really inspiring."

It's fun to see that support."

People are invited to stop by throughout the day to see the sculptures taking shape out.

"It's quite incredible what they are able to do," Isakov says. "They really have an idea when they come in ... they've thought about this, and they know what they would like to be doing with it."

**"IT'S QUITE  
INCREDIBLE  
WHAT THEY  
ARE ABLE TO  
DO."**

**SUPPLIED PHOTO**

The Pembina Hills Arts Council is hosting an ice sculpture workshop at Lake Minnewasta this Saturday. Ten teams have signed up to take part, and their work will be on display through the weekend.



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# Ten facing charges in regional drug investigation

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The Voice



By Voice staff

Ten people are facing a litany of charges in the wake of a joint drug investigation between the Altona, Morden, and Winkler police departments.

Project Hat Trick took place between Nov. 1 and Dec. 23 and resulted in arrests in all three communities and the seizure of illicit drugs, weapons, and drug trafficking paraphernalia.

Three drug search warrants were first executed in Morden and Winkler on Dec. 15 by members of the Regional Support Tactical Team, local K-9 units, and general patrol officers.

Nine people were arrested and cocaine, methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia, and weapons.

Then, on Dec. 23, an additional search warrant was executed in Altona which saw three people arrested and meth, drug parapher-

nal, and proceeds of crime seized.

As a result of this joint investigation, police were able to seize 44 grams of meth, cocaine, and pills; five firearms, one being a sawed-off rifle; a stun gun, bear spray, and a collapsible baton; and drug paraphernalia, including scales, safe, and packaging.

"The results of this Joint Force Operation would not have been possible without the partnerships between these three police services along with the support of Manitoba Justice and the Manitoba Criminal Intelligence Centre," the three departments said in a statement. "This is an example of what can be achieved through regional policing collaborations."

## Grab a mug

What better way to enjoy National Hot Chocolate Day by not only sampling some but also creating your own special mug for it? Pembina Hills Arts Council and Clay Owl Studio & Boutique hosted a mug painting workshop last Wednesday, welcoming about a dozen participants.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



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- 3. Use the debt avalanche method.** This method involves paying off your debts with the highest interest rates first, regardless of the balance size. This can save you money in the long run, as you'll pay less interest overall.
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# Mordenites weigh in at public forum

By Lorne Stelmach

An open house to get public input into the City of Morden's strategic plan covered a lot of ground last Tuesday.

The planning process started with an initial working session with council and then with eight external stakeholders, such as Western School Division. It continued with a public survey that as of the open house had received 185 responses.

The public forum led by consultant Scott Fielding of KPMG in Winnipeg was a vital next step for council, said Mayor Nancy Penner.

"I was very pleased with the turnout by the public," she said. "We had a full house."

"The questions were all really good. The people were very engaged with it," Penner observed. "They had some very good questions, and they had some very good input as to where the community was and where we are going moving forward."

The planning process so far had identified seven key themes: focus on bold city vision and leadership, improve on communications and relationships, expand regional collaboration and integration, focus on economic development and growth, address critical infrastructure and ser-

vice delivery, strengthen health care and education resources, and enhance cultural and recreational activities.

The initial discussion touched on a number of areas, with one resident questioning having a skilled labour pool as a strength when they see it as more of a threat or a challenge given there is a need for more of it.

Another resident cited a need for more of a focus on the regional outlook, while one specifically saw housing as a key challenge, not only in terms of affordability but also in considering how key it is to building a sense of community and contributing to the quality of life.

The next speaker focused on what he saw as bigger aspirational goals, including making Morden the most open and diverse community in the province and making it the most green and sustainable centre as well.

A lot of focus came around the area of communication, including a perceived need for more diverse ways of getting information out to the community, as not everyone goes online or uses social media, for example. Another resident noted that residents need to take better advantage of the opportunities available to them, such as the meet and greets held last summer at the Suncatch plaza.

Here are some of the other high-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The City of Morden's public forum to gain input on its strategic plan was well attended last week.

lights of the discussion, according to the key themes.

## *Regional collaboration and integration*

There was discussion about an indoor pool and recreation complex for the region as well as wastewater treatment and water supply. One council member observed, though, that the latter especially requires there to be three willing partners in the region.

Public transportation was also cited as an issue that needs to be addressed regionally along with active transportation, including the proposed pathway to link Morden and Winkler.

## *Economic development and growth*

One resident noted the need to have all of the services and amenities needed to support growth, such as child care.

Affordable housing was also cited as another key, including the need to

consider different models for public and affordable housing.

Another speaker touched on building a sustainable community with a focus on attracting green industries.

## *Critical infrastructure and service delivery*

Sustainable and green infrastructure was again cited here, along with the need for more active transportation with the suggestion that it should be incorporated into all development as part of a goal to make the city more walkable.

Another resident noted there are a couple areas of the city where there are no sidewalks, and it was also suggested there is a need for better lighting and amenities like public washrooms.

The sustainability of the city's water supply also came up for discussion, as did wastewater and water, with the suggestion that a solution is needed where the council in place 20 years from now will not need to address it again.

## *Health care and education*

One resident suggested there is a need for more intentional and ongoing dialogue with the local health care sector, and another speaker suggested a focus also on the amenities that will support and attract professionals, like child care.

In addition, there was the suggestion that there is a need as well for more focused education and training that will better address the local needs.

## *Cultural and recreational activities*

Some discussion centred on the challenges around an indoor pool and that it is not financially sustainable without taxpayer support.

A question was raised about a YMCA facility and whether the region is large enough to support it (it was noted a population of at least

## Thoughts on the city's needs and wants

The open house last Tuesday that welcomed public input into the City of Morden's strategic planning process presented the community with a number of key points for discussion.

Here are some more highlights of what had been looked at so far in the planning process at the council level, as well as in consultation with key stakeholders:

### *Economic development and growth*

- need for more diverse entertainment, grocery and dining options.
- more support for local businesses by leveraging tourism opportunities such as with the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre and Corn and Apple Festival.
- build on the success of Morden's immigration program.

### *Critical infrastructure and service delivery*

- addressing water supply and wastewater treatment.
- more consideration of future transportation options and potential service options.

### *Health care and education*

- more focus on doctor and nurse recruitment and retention.
- expansion of health care service options within the region.
- more diverse post secondary educational programming especially to support industrial development and employment.

### *Cultural and recreational opportunities*

- enhance pathways and recreational activities around Lake Min-

newasta.

- more recreational facilities such as an overall wellness centre or YMCA type of facility.
- taking on a more active role in identifying and promoting local cultural institutions.

### *Regional collaboration and integration*

- more regional collaboration in areas such as water, wastewater, roads and health care.
- more integration in areas where it makes sense such as the Boundary Trails Health Centre.
- find opportunities to collaborate with regional partners on economic development.



# Grads get a helping hand at Evening of Elegance

By Lorne Stelmach

Members of this year's graduating class had an opportunity last week to find that special outfit for their celebration.

The Evening of Elegance Jan. 31 gave students and their families the chance to select from an array of donated gently used or new formalwear and accessories.

Organizers love being able to help create a memorable graduation experience for successful graduates from Morden Collegiate and the Morden Adult Education Centre.

"I'm happy to see the smiles on their faces," said Tyler Sloan, guidance counsellor at Morden Collegiate. "We know how hard these students have worked ... so being able to help them celebrate their achievement is just a really great feeling. We love seeing the kids come and how excited they get for the opportunity for a new suit or a new dress."

The Evening of Elegance is in its

13th year as a co-operative effort between the Western School Division home school liaison worker, Morden Caring and Sharing, and Morden Youth for Christ, which offers the use of its space.

"We had a bit of a gap due to COVID, but last year we got back at it and we were excited to host it for another year," said Sloan.

"The support of the community has been absolutely fantastic," he said, noting for example that Saban donated a number of new dress shirts, while Shear Bliss and Fringe donated prizes for a raffle.

"We put the call out for any unused items that people were willing to part with, and it was tremendous. The amount of dresses and suits that were dropped off early in the new year was fantastic, and we've had great support from local businesses as well," said Sloan.

"It varies each year, but I think we outfitted 25 graduates and family members last year, which I think was



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Ev Thiessen from Morden Youth for Christ with Tyler Sloan and Tammy Hendrickx from Morden Collegiate at last week's Evening of Elegance, in which students got the chance to pick out their graduation formalwear free of charge.

typical to years previous, and we're always hoping that trend continues and we can help even more graduates."

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# Rustic Oracle to screen at Central Stn. Feb. 20



By Ashleigh Viveiros

Genesis House is teaming up with the Pembina Valley Truth and Action Working Group to bring the movie *Rustic Oracle* to Winkler this month.

It follows up on the successful screening of the film in Altona in November, explains Sophie Gerbrandt of Genesis House.

"We did it then for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and it was awesome," she says, explaining they partnered with Altona's Steps Toward Reconciliation group to put on the event. "We had some members from the Pembina Valley Truth and Action Working Group in attendance and they really encouraged us to screen it again, either in Morden or Winkler."

*Rustic Oracle* is about Ivy, an eight-year-old girl trying to understand what happened to her big sister, Heather, who has vanished from their small Indigenous community.

"It's a fictional story, but it's something that many people in Canada have experienced," Gerbrandt says. "It follows a daughter and mother pair ... it's their quest to find her and all the obstacles they face along the way."

Seeing the story unfold on the screen and then hearing from Indigenous community members after the film is an impactful experience, Gerbrandt says.

"I think in southern Manitoba, and especially in the Pembina Valley, we like to ignore Indigenous issues, pretend it's not really our problem. But it's just as real of an issue here in the Pembina Valley as it is across our country. We see that in the shelter; we see that with the clientele that we serve.

"So we feel like one of our roles is to spread awareness and hopefully increase some activism in this area," Gerbrandt says. "I think this is a great starting place for people to understand this is a real issue and to have some compassion and empathy for people who are experiencing it firsthand."

The Winkler showing takes place at the Central Station Community Centre on Tuesday, Feb. 20 starting at 7 p.m. The movie will be followed with a sharing circle at 8:45 p.m.

Admission is free and advance registration is not required. Everyone is welcome to attend.



## Reading with raptors



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden elementary school students got a chance to see a great horned owl and a rabbit as part of a special I Love To Read Month activity last Thursday. The presentation, dubbed Reading with Raptors and Friends, by the Prairie Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre also included reading two children's books: *Over and Under the Snow* and *River Rescue*. The visit was made possible with the support of Gallery Wealth Management and the City of Morden.

### > PUBLIC FORUM, FROM PG. 10

90,000 would be needed to make it feasible). A city official pointed out the extended catchment area here now is already at 70,000 people, so it is close.

The discussion then turned to focus on a pool being part of a larger multiplex project that brings various health, wellness, and recreational needs together.

### A HEALTHY, GREEN COMMUNITY

Following the open house, Penner touched on a number of discussion points that stood out to her.

"There were the comments about we needed to be a green community, we need to be a healthy living community, so invest in our pathways and recreation and opportunities that way," she said.

"We also realize we don't really have any input to health care and education, but we can be supporters and helpers and collaborate with the education system and the health care system to ensure we have those components in our community to be there for our community."

Penner also commented on "increasing our economic development because economic growth brings in the jobs, brings in the people, and with that, the restaurants are going to come and the small businesses are going to grow."

She also acknowledged the need to address the amenities like day care that will be factors as well in drawing people.

"It was just encouraging. There were some good ideas that are important to our community," she continued. "Sustainable living was important to people. Healthy living was important."

Finally, Penner touched on hearing much about keeping the community better informed.

"Communication was a big issue addressed tonight. As council, we hear that message about communication, and we're trying to deal with that and trying to find the most economical way."

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# sports&recreation

## Local teams in Ottawa for 2024 Canadian Curling championships

Hayward, Campbell, and Sugden on the national stage

By Lana Meier

Manitoba's next generation of curling stars headed off to Ottawa last Friday morning to compete with some of Canada's best curlers in the 2024 Canadian Under-18 Curling Championships.

Team Hayward representing Manitoba and the Carman Curling Club of Shaela Hayward, Keira Krahn, India Young and Rylie Cox played their first game Sunday defeating Quebec #1 (Fortin) 8-4. The girls then defeated British Columbia #2 (Rempel) 9-1 Monday morning before beating Newfoundland and Labrador #2 (Connolly) Monday night by 9-4.

Representing Manitoba on the Men's side are Manitoba #1, Team Campbell of the Altona Curling Club including Rylan Graham, Nick Senff, Logan Zacharias, and Rylan Campbell.

After two days of competition Team Campbell had one win and one loss, defeating Yukon #1 (Snider) 8-2 but lost 3-5 to Alberta #2 (Hiebert) on Tuesday.

Manitoba #2 Team Sugden of Morden Curling Club including Ryan

Thiessen, Tanner Treichel, Tyler Fehr and Nash Sugden has had a rough start and conceded 2-6 to Alberta #1 (Hlushak) and 3-5 to Newfoundland and Labrador #1 (Perry).

A total of 42 teams — 21 female and 21 male entries — will be competing for the national championships, which will be decided on Saturday, Feb. 10 in the medal-round games that will take place at the RA Centre.

The 21 teams were distributed to all 14 Member Associations, with additional spots awarded based on a two-year ranking of results from the Canadian Under-18 Championships. If any province or territory declined an entry, additional teams were accepted from the next highest ranked Member Association.

As a result, many provinces will be represented by two teams.

Teams are separated into three pools of seven teams and will play a round-robin schedule within each pool. 12 teams — the top four in each pool — advance to the playoffs for an opportunity to win a gold medal on Feb. 10.

Live-streaming coverage of selected games at the 2024 Canadian Under-18 Curling Championships will be available on Curling Canada +, Curling Canada's streaming platform.

Schedules, team lineups and other information are available on the official event website: [www.curling.ca/2024u18](http://www.curling.ca/2024u18).

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# Female Hawks have three more games to go

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks were looking to halt a three-game losing streak as they came into the final week of the regular season this weekend.

Their lone game of the past week saw the Hawks blanked 3-0 by the Avros in Winnipeg Saturday.

It was a 31-save shutout for Winnipeg netminder Adriana Almeida, while Pembina Valley goalie Kasia Rakowski kept it close for the Hawks in stopping 38 of 41 shots on goal.

Pembina Valley now sits at 6-15-4 for 16 points, and they seem destined to finish in seventh place, as they are eight up on Central Plains and five back of Interlake.

With three games remaining, it leaves them with an outside shot at reaching sixth place, but they would need to win all three of their games and need Interlake to lose their final three match-ups.

Based on the current standings, the Hawks would face then second-place Westman Wildcats in the first round of the playoffs, but the upper tier of

the standings could still shift in this final week.

Pembina Valley is on the road this weekend to play Central Plains in

Portage Friday, continues with Eastman Saturday in Niverville, then Interlake Sunday in Arborg.

# Male Hawks down Thistles twice

By Lorne Stelmach

A weekend sweep has positioned the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks to possibly make a move in the standings in the stretch run.

They travelled east to Kenora this past weekend and took both games of the doubleheader with 4-0 and 6-2 wins over the last-place Thistles.

Bryson Yaschyshyn got the 28-save shutout in game one Saturday, while Pembina Valley blasted 42 shots at the Kenora net.

The Hawks could not connect until the final period, but they then scored four unanswered goals by Cohen Pilk-

ington, Lane Apperley, Sam Delaquis, and Haiden Friesen.

In game two, the Hawks took period leads of 1-0 and 3-0 before outscoring Kenora 3-2 in the final frame.

Scoring for the Hawks were Friesen as well as Liam Goertzen, Ryder Wolfe, Cade McCallum, Adrien McIntosh, and Acoyen Fehr, while Ryler Gates made 40 saves with Pembina Valley holding a 45-42 edge in shots on goal.

The Hawks improved to a .500 record at 15-15-3-4 for 37 points, and it has them sitting in eighth place. They are four ahead of Eastman and just one back of Norman and six behind

Interlake and the Winnipeg Thrashers.

A doubleheader this week with Interlake could go a long way in determining their fate, with the Hawks visiting Teulon Wednesday then hosting the Lightning in Morden Saturday followed by a Sunday matchup with Eastman.

The schedule could prove to be favorable for the Hawks as they then have a road doubleheader with 11th-place Yellowhead the following weekend, and they wrap up the regular season with a home doubleheader with 12th-place Kenora.

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Thank You,

Kevin Hildebrand Executive director



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# SEMHL regular season wraps up

## Ste Anne Aces in first place

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Red River Wild will play the SEMHL's final regular season game of the year this week.

The Wild headed to Notre Dame Tuesday to take on the Hawks. Results were not available at press time, but the outcome will decide whether it's Warren or Red River in the number two spot in the standings.

Ste. Anne finished the season in first place with a 15-3 record and 30 points. Two points behind them at the start of the week were the Mercs at 14-4 and 28 points. Red River was in third at 12-3-0-2 and 26 points.

Further down the list is Morden in fifth place (8-7-1-2, 19 points), Winkler in sixth (8-8-1-1, 18 points), and Altona in 10th and last place (3-14-0-1, seven points).

The final week of games saw Morden fall to Portage 5-4 and Winkler beat Ile des Chenes 5-2 last Wednesday night. On Thursday, Warren beat Altona 7-3.

Over the weekend, Red River downed Warren 6-4 Friday, Winkler beat Notre Dame 5-4 Saturday and then battled their way to a 4-3 overtime win against Portage Sunday to close out their season on a high note, while Red River lost a 1-0 shootout against Portage Saturday.

The final standings and playoff schedule will be released this week. Head to semhl.net for details.

In other league news, Mark Friesen of the Red River Wild was named the SEMHL's Goaltender of the Year. Friesen leads the league in goals against average, save percentage, and shutouts.

Altona's Adam Henry was named



ABOVE PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Jayne Janzen stops a close-in scoring attempt by Braeden Binda as the Winkler Royals defeated the visiting Ile des Chenes Northstars 5-2 Wednesday.



the Defenceman of the Year for the third year in a row.

And Dexter Kuczek of the Warren

Merces was selected as the Rookie of the Year. He contributed 21 goals and 25 assists in his 18 games with Warren



PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Above: Altona Maroons Adam Henry was selected as the SEMHL's Defenceman of the Year. Altona GM Ryan Kehler presented him with the trophy last week. Left: Red River goaltender Mark Friesen made 36 saves in his team's 1-0 shoot-out loss against the Portage Islands in SEMHL action Saturday night. On Feb. 3, Friesen was announced as the SEMHL's Goaltender of the Year.

this season.

The season's other awards have not yet been announced.

# Vintage sled races coming back to Miami

By Ty Dilello

The upcoming Miami Power Toboggan Vintage Sled Races, hosted by the Miami Power Tobogganing Club, are scheduled for Feb. 24 at noon at the Miami Fairgrounds.

The Miami Power Tobogganing Club promotes trails and looks after their snowmobile shack in the Pembina Valley Escarpment.

The Vintage Sled Races are a family fun event with free admission for everybody. Food and drinks will be made available.

The cost to enter is \$10 per class entry fee, with a 100 per cent payout of the entry fees going towards the racers. Trophies will be awarded.

"We are expecting upwards of sixty snow machines aged 1985 and older," said organizer John Friesen. "Last

year's event was an amazing success, and this year seems to be gearing up to surpass it."

Friesen notes that competitors are lined up to be coming from all over Manitoba, Ontario, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Saskatchewan.

Registration ends Feb. 24 at 11:00 a.m., so get your entries in as soon as possible.

"This is one of our biggest events we put on during the year," said Friesen. "This is a nonprofit event from a nonprofit organization passionate about snowmobiling. We also host a truck and tractor pull with the famous mud bog on June 1 that we are looking forward to down the road."

More info on the event can be found on the website: <https://miamipowertoboggan.com>.



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When submitting an offer, please note:

1. The highest, or any, offer will not necessarily be accepted.
2. Offers may be for both or either parcel.
3. The date of closing will be thirty days following the receipt of a Grant of Probate from the Court of King's Bench.
4. The date of possession will be March 15, 2024.
5. The date of adjustments will be January 1, 2024.
6. You must provide a certified check or bank draft in the amount of \$10,000.00 payable to Cole & Mace Law Office. The cheques accompanying unsuccessful tenders will be returned.
7. You must rely on your own research of the property.
8. Tenders are binding upon acceptance and not subject to any conditions precedent.
9. Tenders may only be submitted in the form provided by Cole & Mace Law Office; a form of tender may be requested from Cole & Mace Law Office in person at the address below, or by emailing: [adam@colemacelaw.com](mailto:adam@colemacelaw.com).
10. The Vendor will be responsible for the taxes on the property up to the date of adjustments.
11. The Purchaser will be required to pay GST unless the Purchaser is registered for GST and agrees to self-assess.
12. Title to the land will be transferred free and clear of all encumbrances and liens, excepting Caveat No. 3614190/1 and a right-of-way respecting a shared driveway to be registered prior to, or on, the date of closing.

*Signed and sealed Tenders will be received up to 4:00 p.m. on February 27, 2024 at:*

**Cole & Mace Law Office**  
26 Centre Ave. East, Box 2039,  
Altona, Manitoba, R0G 0B0  
Attn: Adam Mace



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## TENDER

### INVITATION TO TENDER

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PARCEL I: THE SLY 412.5 FEET OF THE NLY 825 FEET OF THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 7-1-2 WPM

Title No. 3047365/4 Roll No. 0080700 (approximately 25.00 acres)  
PARCEL II: LOT 2 PLAN 1867 MLTO EXC PLAN 2357 MLTO IN SE ¼ 7-1-2 WPM

Title No. 3047369/4 Roll No. 0081500 (approximately 79.75 acres)

Tenders may be submitted for each individual Parcel.

A cheque for \$10,000.00 must accompany the tender as a down payment. Written tenders must be received by 2:00 p.m. on February 15, 2024. Down payment will be returned if tender not accepted. Closing date for the sale shall be March 15, 2024, by cash or approved loan proceeds. Any loan advances paid after closing date are subject to payment of interest at loan rate during reasonable delay for registration of security. Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of all 2024 property taxes and GST or shall self-assess for GST. Fertilizer has been pre-applied to the land and any successful buyer shall be responsible for payment in the amount of \$6,350.00, in addition to the purchase price.

The highest or any Tender may not necessarily be accepted.

**ADDRESS:** DOELL LAW OFFICE  
P.O. Box 1150  
1-655 Main Street, Winkler, MB R6W 4B2  
Ph. (204) 325-8807

To the attention of Scott C. Doell

For more information on the tender email: [info@doelllaw.com](mailto:info@doelllaw.com)

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A job description for this position can be found online on the Bunge website: <https://obs.bunge.com/>. enter "Altona" in the field "Search by Location". Click on "Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright" to read the description. Applications should be made online with an attached resume.

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## EMPLOYMENT

### SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES Pembina Valley Watershed District

**TERM:** early May – end of August 2024 (40 hours per week)

#### • PROGRAM ASSISTANT

**DUTIES:** The position requires water testing, computer work for watershed planning, project monitoring and compliance checks, shelterbelt maintenance, trail maintenance, participating in educational events and tours, newspaper article writing and assisting with water and soil projects within the district. **This position is based out of Manitou, MB, but involves travel throughout the entire district.** A district vehicle will be provided.

#### • TECHNICIAN ASSISTANT

**DUTIES:** assisting with water and soil projects within the district; including surveying, construction, hauling supplies and materials to job sites, water testing, computer work for watershed planning, shelterbelt maintenance, trail maintenance, participating in educational events and tours. This position requires you to work in wooded areas, swampy lands, and inclement weather. You will likely come into contact with insects, snakes and other outdoor rodents, so you must be comfortable in this setting. **This position is based out of Manitou, MB, but involves travel throughout the entire district.** A district vehicle will be provided.

*Applicants must meet the requirements of the Canada Summer Jobs and Green Team eligibility criteria (be between the ages of 15 – 29), have a valid drivers license, be physically fit and able to work outdoors in all weather, be self-motivated, have the ability to work independently, experience with operation of quad, various mowers, trimmers an asset and good oral communication skills.*

Please submit resumes with 3 references and cover letter to:

Pembina Valley Watershed District, Attn: Lexine LeBlanc

Box 659, 261 Main Street, Manitou, MB R0G 1G0

Phone: 204-242-3267 Fax: 204-242-3281

E-mail: [administrator@pvwd.ca](mailto:administrator@pvwd.ca)

**Application Deadline: Wednesday February 21, 2024**

PVWD would like to thank all applicants, however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

8	9	8	7	6	4	2	1	5
6	7	5	1	2	8	4	9	3
1	2	4	3	9	5	8	6	7
9	1	7	5	4	3	6	2	8
5	4	6	9	8	2	7	3	1
8	3	2	6	1	7	9	4	5
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## Manitoba Government Job Opportunities

### Assessment Officer (Developmental Opportunity) - Open until filled Assessment Officer 3 (Underfilled at AS2 Assessment Officer 2)

Regular/full-time; Term/full-time  
Municipal and Northern Relations  
Various locations: Minnedosa, Selkirk, Morden, Portage La Prairie, MB  
Advertisement Number: 42257; 42258; 42259; 42261  
Closing Date: March 31st, 2024  
Salary Range: \$55,983.00 - \$67,066.00 per year

The Manitoba government recognizes the importance of building an exemplary public service reflective of the citizens it serves, where diverse abilities, backgrounds, cultures, identities, languages and perspectives drives a high standard of service and innovation. The Manitoba government supports equitable employment practices and promotes representation of designated groups (women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, visible minorities).

Employment Equity is a factor in selection for this competition. Consideration will be given to women, Indigenous people, visible minorities and persons with disabilities.

Candidates who do not meet all essential criteria may be considered on an underfill basis at a commensurate rate of pay.

Please note, Assessment Officers will be hired at the Assessment Officer 2 (AS2) level (\$48,210 - \$57,004) unless the incumbent completed a Certificate in Real Property Assessment, IAAO designation or equivalent and have experience valuing and/or inspecting a wide range of residential, farm, and/or small to medium sized commercial buildings. Upon successful certification, incumbents are eligible for appointment to the AS3 Classification.

#### Introduction

The Department of Municipal and Northern Relations is seeking highly motivated individuals to fill several Assessment Officer positions throughout the province.

If you have a background or interest in building construction, industrial sales/financing, agriculture, land survey systems, municipal government, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), real estate or appraisal, we encourage you to consider this new career opportunity. Assessment Officers are provided on-the-job training and financial assistance to complete required education.

#### Duties:

This developmental opportunity will allow you to learn the necessary skills to be an Assessment Officer while completing the required education and training. As an Assessment Officer you will: inspect residential, farm and commercial property; record land and building characteristics for valuation, classification and assignment of liability to taxation; update property and ownership characteristics using computer software and determine value, class and liability; and attend boards of revision and defend assessments.

In addition, you may respond to assessment enquiries from the public and municipal government councils, prepare and present defense of residential and non-residential assessments at Boards of Revision and Municipal Board hearings.

For complete description of the conditions of employment and qualifications please visit the Manitoba website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/govjobs/>.

#### Apply to:

Advertisement #42257; 42258; 42259; 42261  
Talent Acquisition Branch  
Human Resource Services  
6th Floor - 259 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3P4  
Phone: 204-945-7518  
Fax: 204-945-0601  
Email: [govjobs@gov.mb.ca](mailto:govjobs@gov.mb.ca)

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

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Alternate formats available upon request

### OBITUARY

#### Rebecca Jane McGavin



Rebecca (Becky) Jane McGavin died on January 31, 2024, at the age of 75, in the arms of her family at home in Ottawa, Ontario.

Becky is survived by her husband, Michael Siddons, their son Jay Alexander and daughter Sarah Elizabeth. She is survived by her sister, Marilyn Wardrop, and her brothers and sisters-in-law, Ruth-Anne, Jay and Christine, Kim and Lisa, and John Strobele. She is further survived by her many nieces and nephews in Canada, Australia, and Europe.

Becky was predeceased by her parents, Elizabeth and Hugh James McGavin, her sisters Joan McGuire and Ida Strobele, and her brother Brian McGavin.

Becky's paternal grandfather was Dr. Hugh McGavin (1871-1958) who practised medicine in Plum Coulee from 1902 to 1952.

Her paternal grandmother was Emily Christine Bryans of Morden (1883-1918). Becky's father, Hugh James McGavin (1908-1976), was a lawyer who practiced law in the Gretna and Altona Area until he joined the Federal Department of Justice in 1961. Becky's mother, Elizabeth Fedronka, was born in Gretna, Manitoba and died in 1989.

Born on March 23, 1948 in Altona, Manitoba, Becky was raised in southern Manitoba and moved to Ottawa with her family in 1961. After attending Rideau High School and Hillcrest High School, she graduated from Carleton University in 1972. Becky had a career in the federal civil service, notably at the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as well as Health Canada.

Becky and her husband Michael loved and adored each other and had a loving and supportive marriage for over 50 years. Becky deeply loved her children Jay and Sarah and wholeheartedly supported their dreams and endeavours.

Known for her incredible kindness and infectious smile, Becky was a joy to her friends and family throughout her life, welcoming everyone with her warm and genuine nature. Becky loved to socialize and travel, having enjoyed many memorable dinner parties and vacations with her family and loved ones. Becky's companionship and her joyful approach to life will be deeply missed, and her memory will be forever cherished.

take a break  
> GAME

## SUDOKU

9			6			3		
					8		9	2
	5	6						
						2		
1	3							5
8		9		4			1	
	9		5					
3				2				9
5			4				6	

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Level: Intermediate

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# Winkler Flyers down Kings, Stampeders

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers added two more to the win column over the weekend.

Friday night's home game against the Dauphin Kings ended 3-2 for Winkler. That was followed by a 7-0 rout of the visiting Swan Valley Stampeders on Sunday.

In the game against the Kings, Winkler had a 3-0 lead over Dauphin heading into the final period. Dalton Andrew did the only scoring of the first period five minutes in and then added his second of the night near the end of the second. In between, Avery Anderson scored early in middle frame.

The Kings finally got themselves on the board in the final few minutes, scoring right at the 15:00 mark and then closing the gap, though not enough, with another at 18:46.

Shots on goal were a close 40-39 in favour of the home team. Malachi Klassen made 37 saves for Winkler.

The Stampeders, who are currently in last place in the MGEU West Division, proved to be no challenge for the Flyers two night later.

Winkler outshot the visitors 60-13, with Andrew, Trent Penner, and Isaiah Peters all scoring twice. Marek Miller contributed a single. Liam Ernst won the shutout in net.

With that, the Flyers have 68 points



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Swan Valley goalie Kyle Abrahamson couldn't quite his stick on the puck, and so Winkler's Marek Miller scored the Flyers' fourth goal of the game on a wide open net Sunday. It was a 7-0 win for the home team.

on a record of 32-6-2-2, good for second place in the MGEU East Division behind the Steinbach Pistons (71 points) and ahead of the Portage Ter-

riers (64 points).

This week the Flyers hit the road to play OCN Friday and Swan Valley Saturday.

# Hockey teams raise \$22K for CancerCare Manitoba

By Sean Conway

Annually, the Pembina Valley Twisters Manitoba Major Junior hockey club hosts a fundraiser to support CancerCare Manitoba. The fundraiser started in 2012 as a tribute to Dale Rempel after his passing.

Dale loved hockey. He was a player and later became an owner of the Twisters hockey club. Dale and the Rempel family received support from CancerCare Manitoba when he was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2008.

Rempel Insurance and the Twisters wanted to acknowledge the support CancerCare Manitoba provided to the

Rempels by teaming up in hockey to raise awareness and donations for the cause.

Scheduling their regular season games for Feb. 3, the Twisters, South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League's Red River Wild, and the Morris School Mavericks put their skates to ice for the day-long fundraiser for CancerCare. The team partnership also included the Town of Morris Winter Carnival and the Morris Curling club.

The Mavericks welcomed Brody Gobel to centre ice for a ceremonial puck drop. In 2017, when Gobel was seven years old, his family was told he had an Ependymoma, a rare brain

tumour.

Since then, Gobel has endured several surgeries, two rounds of radiation chemo, and many trips to CancerCare and the Winnipeg Children's Hospital.

Besides gate sales, the Morris Mavericks hosted a chuck-a-puck contest. Participants purchased a numbered puck and got to throw it onto the ice between the second and third period. Closest to the dot at centre ice won a prize.

The annual fundraiser holds special meaning for players on the Red River Wild.

Captain Brendan Heppner held his hand to his heart as spoke of his relationship to Dale.

"He recruited me to play for the Twisters when I was younger. In 2007, after a practice, Dale just said, 'Hey you want to come work for me in my business.' He was a mentor to me."

Wild players Jonah Wasylask and Gavin Froese pledged to shave their heads if the team could raise \$2,000. The clippers were in action after the game to deliver on the promise.

Cancer has of course touched many others in the local hockey community. Corey Mazinke, who played 136 games with 143 points as a forward for the Twisters from 2013 to 2017, lost his grandfather to cancer.

Since 2020, Katherin Enns, mother to the Twisters' Logan Enns, has been battling the disease.

"During my 2021-2022 season, my mom had surgery in her battle with

cancer," Logan Enns says.

The 20-year-old netminder is in his fifth season with the club. Enns and his younger sister live in Winkler with their mom.

"I don't like to talk about it, but my mom had chemo on Wednesday," he shares. "She goes every two weeks. It is working well every round. It is shrinking."

The plumber's apprentice was MMJHL's player of the month in December, helping the Twisters earn a 13-game winning run, one win short of tying the club's record of 14 consecutive wins.

The Twisters organized a silent auction for CancerCare featuring a hockey stick signed by Bobby Hull alongside other sports memorabilia.

The day's 50/50 ticket sales generated a prize of \$1,062.50 won by Nelson Norris

Pat Schmitke, part owner of the Twisters, sat in the dunk tank earlier in the afternoon. He promised that if \$500 was raised he would match the amount and take a dunk.

While seated over the water, the event coordinator sold the chance to pull the lever that put the shirtless owner in the water for an additional \$40 donation.

The Pembina Valley Twisters players and team staff also pledged to have their heads shaved if fundraising efforts for the day reached \$20,000.

The hair clippers came out after their game, as the final total came to \$22,008.



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Pembina Valley Twisters players braved the razor in support of CancerCare Manitoba in Morris on Saturday.



# February is HEART MONTH

Stay Young at Heart



## How sleep affects your heart health

According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), nearly 70 million people suffer from a sleeping disorder. Did you know that getting a good night's rest is critical for maintaining a healthy heart? This February, join the NHLBI in celebrating Heart Month by learning about the importance of adopting healthy sleep habits.

### SLEEP AND HEART HEALTH

Getting a good night's rest helps you stay healthy by giving your body the time it needs to restore, recharge and recuperate. Consequently, chronic sleep deprivation has been linked to numerous heart problems including high blood pressure, heart attacks, obesity, diabetes and strokes. In addition, people who don't get enough sleep are more likely to develop calcium deposits in their coronary arteries,

increasing their risk of developing heart disease.

### 5 TIPS FOR GETTING BETTER SLEEP

Experts recommend that adults between 18 and 65 get at least seven to eight hours of sleep each night. Here are five tips for getting a good night's rest:

1. Be physically active during the day
2. Avoid cellphones, tablets and computers the hour before bedtime
3. Avoid drinking alcohol and caffeinated beverages before going to bed
4. Sleep in a cool, dark and quiet room
5. Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day



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