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# Striking a pose

Dress and dance from all over the world were on display at Morden's Multicultural Winterfest Saturday. For more photos, check out Pg. 12.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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# Winkler Newcomer Welcome Evenings puts call out to all

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It's billed as an evening of connection, and that's exactly what the Newcomer Welcome Evenings at Winkler Arts and Culture (WAC) have shaped up to be.

Once a month, the Park St. art gallery invites long-time Winkler residents and newcomers alike to stop by for a couple hours of community-building.

The program is a partnership between WAC and Regional Connections Immigrant Services, explains WAC executive director Jered Hildebrand.

"It was definitely a joint idea" that came about "through conversations and our passion for supporting newcomers as they are settling into our city, and just a sense of wanting to build community," he says, explaining both he and the previous gallery director had worked at Regional Con-

nections prior to their tenure at the art gallery. "Building community is definitely a part of what we want to do here, and so that just ignited the idea.

"We also saw the success that Morden has had with their Newcomer Welcome evenings, and the benefits that citizens get from it," Hildebrand noted. Morden's events have been taking place for several years now, to great success. "We wanted to bring that here to Winkler."

Yelena Rochshina, settlement lead at Regional Connections' Winkler offices, says the get-togethers—which take place the third Wednesday of the month—draws, on average, a dozen or so people. They'd like to see those numbers increase in 2025, and so are working hard on getting the word out about the program.

"It's about building community together to create a kind and welcoming and inclusive environment," Rochshi-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Each month, new and longtime Winkler residents are invited to the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre to learn and share more about the community. The Newcomer Welcome Evenings are meant to be a place to connect, say organizers.

na says, adding that they've received good feedback from everyone who's taken part "because the atmosphere is so friendly and welcoming. Moreover, they receive a lot of useful resources about the community ... they get to meet new people, share information, get to know about local businesses, organizations, and services in the area."

The typical evening features representatives from a variety of different service groups and agencies, and sometimes a guest speaker presenting on topics designed to help people navigate and settle into the Winkler area—covering everything from school and health card registration to recreational programming.

"We want them to feel more connected, supported, and informed," Rochshina says.

"In August, let's say, we'll have someone from Garden Valley School Division come down and talk to us about what it is like to register for school, which is really helpful for people coming from other countries to learn about the process of doing that," Hildebrand says. "It's also a great time for them to ask questions ... those discussions lead in all kinds of directions."

But those presentations, while important, are just one small part of the night.

"The main thing is that people have time to just chat, connect with each other," Hildebrand says. "If you're a newcomer and you've got a question and you don't know even where to begin to ask it, that would be a great thing to bring up here."

They're hoping to bring in more community organizations in the months ahead, and also welcome businesses who would like to reach out to get in touch about setting up table.

"We're very open that if businesses want to come here and make sure that people who are brand new to Winkler know about their business or their service, they're welcome to do that ...

and then stay and enjoy just getting to know people," Hildebrand says.

One of the businesses involved right now is Gardenland Co-op, which provides refreshments and has staff on hand to talk about what it means to be a Co-op member.

Shepherd Chiwandire, Co-op's marketing and community events coordinator, says the event lines up well with the company's "You're at home here" motto.

"That's the reason we exist ... we want to connect with people to make them feel as welcome as they can," he says.

"It's not always about the business side—it's also about the community side of things," Chiwandire adds, noting the company prides itself on sponsoring local organizations like WAC, and supporting programming that brings people together. The Newcomer Welcome Evenings certainly fit the bill on that front, he says, creating "a welcoming environment and a sense of belonging."

Chiwandire moved to Canada from Zimbabwe over a decade ago, so he knows what it's like to find oneself making a home in an unfamiliar country.

"When I moved here in 2015, if I had know there was a newcomer welcome evening, definitely it would have made a huge difference," he says. "It gets people out of their homes ... out into the community."

## EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Everyone is welcome to attend these gatherings, stresses Hildebrand, and in fact they would love to see more longtime residents come out to greet newcomers.

"I think there's a little misconception that some people have: a lot of people think this is just for newcomers, but this event is for everyone, whether you've lived here forever, for 10 years, for five years, or for one week."

Continued on page 11

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# Central Station report brings poverty to light

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Central Station Community Centre kicked off its Poverty Awareness Month last week with a report meant to shine a spotlight on some of the challenges those living in poverty in our community grapple with every day.

The information gathered in the Bringing Poverty to Light Social Impact Report is meant to provide some context for Central Station's work, said board chair Phillip Vallely.

"For many, Central Station is a place of refuge: a warm shelter on cold days, a hot cup of coffee, a food hamper, and above all, a space where people feel supported, guided, trusted, and loved," he said. "Yet for others, Central Station has sometimes been misunderstood as enabling dependency, providing resources that might discourage self-reliance."

The agency itself takes a long-term view of its work and the people they serve, Vallely explained, working day-to-day to meet urgent needs while also offering support for sustainable change.

"Transformation takes a long time. Changing communities takes a long time. Changing the lives of individual people can take a lifetime," he said.

"Using the data that we're learning to collect and we're learning to use properly in its context, we're responding with greater efficiency, we're able to build sustainable systems and prioritize relationships, all with the goal of transformation," Vallely continued. "Jesus demonstrated this same approach, offering tangible help, but also investing in people's long-term growth and dignity."

Executive director Anita Wiebe shared some sobering statistics driving the need for Central Station's services.

"When we look at Winkler, we've got a population of approximately

13,745," she said. "Our unemployment rate is at 4.2 per cent, which, when compared to the provincial average of 6.2 and the national average of 6.7, it doesn't look so bad. But 16.8 per cent of our population, including 18 per cent of women, live in low income households. Often this is because of part-time work or low-wage jobs.

"When we look at the child poverty rate, with 23 per cent of the population under age 14, it highlights the importance and the necessity of addressing child poverty as well," Wiebe continued.

Thirty-six per cent of Winklerites have no advanced education.

"We know that education remains a barrier here," Wiebe said.

Winkler is also facing a major housing crisis, with a 0.3 per cent vacancy rate.

"All of these things make it hard for some of our most vulnerable groups in our city to be in a position where basic needs are met, where they're able to find safe and affordable housing, and where they can thrive mentally, physically and spiritually," Wiebe stressed.

One of Central Station's strategies to help focuses on building a sense of community by offering programs and services that bring people together.

"Our desire is for healthy relationships, that they would be connected and engaged with community networks, and that they would just feel part of things," Wiebe said, pointing in example to the community suppers which feed hundreds of people every Monday night. "It's not just a place for people to come who need a warm meal or could save on groceries ... we want it to be a place to connect."

Other initiatives like the Community Care Program walk alongside struggling families to help them get the supports they need to thrive.

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Central Station social impact director Krista Rempel with images of poverty from the developing world. Poverty in Winkler may not look quite the same, but "it is here, and it is devastating," she says.

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> **IMPACT REPORT, FROM PG. 3**

Wiebe shared the story of a single mother who had fled an abusive relationship in another country to settle in Canada. Through Community Care, she was able to find accessible housing, get financial counselling, access medical care, and find other supports available to her and her children.

“When I look at that, the services

offered to support clients in a really holistic way, and bringing everybody around to the table, that’s what we want to do,” Wiebe said.

Central Station’s final strategy revolves around affecting change at the broader level by way of policy and systems advocacy.

“Our hope is to affect the social in-

frastructure,” Wiebe explained, noting a great example of this is Central Station’s partnership with Central Community Homes, which purchased all of Winkler’s social housing units years ago. Today, Central Station oversees the upkeep and management of those properties, working closely with tenants.

Like Valletly, Wiebe noted the agency has many big, long-term plans for the community.

“We want to move from alleviating poverty to reducing it,” she said. “We need to create a long-term sustainable change that helps lift individuals and families out of poverty for good.”

That’s where the social impact report data comes into play, as it provides a tangible accounting of what the agency is doing and what still needs to be done.

“It allows us to measure growth and success of programs and policies that we’re advocating for,” Wiebe said.

“And we’re able to show facts, know-

ing where we started and how far we’ve moved the needle.

“And with collecting and analyzing this data, we can ensure that the policies that we’re advocating for are based on real needs here in the community.”

**“POVERTY IS HERE”**

Social impact director Krista Rempel provided an overview of the data in the report, stressing that while it’s easy to get lost in the numbers, it’s important to remember they represent real people who are struggling.

“Many people who I discuss poverty with, even homelessness, often aren’t aware that it even exists here in Winkler,” she said. “Poverty isn’t always obvious, but if you were to work just one shift here at Central Station you would see a very different reality.”

“You would meet people struggling

Continued on page 9



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Central Station board president Phillip Valletly with the community centre’s Bringing Poverty to Light Social Impact Report, which breaks down the services they provide as well as the challenges faced by struggling families in Winkler.

**FIND THE HIDDEN CUPIDS CONTEST**

Find the 6 hidden Cupids in this week’s edition and enter to win a Valentine’s prize. There are tiny cupids hidden deep within the paper... so search with all your heart!

Email us with the page numbers you found the cupids on and be entered to win one of 5 prizes. [gdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:gdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca)

Find the cupids that look like this  P.S it’s not the cupid on this page, and they won’t be in any ad!

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**CENTRAL STATION, BY THE NUMBERS FOR 2023-2024**

- Over 56,050 client interactions—that’s four times the population of Winkler.
- Over \$1 million returned to the community in calculable economic benefit.
- 324 donors, funders, and supporters.
- 98 partnerships and collaborations.
- 153 volunteers working 8,467 hours, an estimated value of \$169,340.
- 9,100 breakfasts served, a value of \$63,000.
- 4,126 transportation requests filled to help people get to medical appointments, court dates, and grocery shopping.
- 14,089 Café 545 meals served, a \$109,000 value. The weekly meal feeds on average 300 people in just an hour and a half.
- 2,534 Easy Eats meal kits distributed to provide families with affordable meals, a \$25,442 value.
- 1,025 technologies services, a \$9,100 value. An average of four or five people a day come to Central Station to use the computers, fax machines, printers, and scanners.
- 230 advocacy office visits, a value of \$5,750. Staff and volunteers assist people with EIA, Legal Aid, CPP, Manitoba Health applications, and more.
- 910 freezer meals handed out for urgent hunger needs, a value of \$6,370.
- 7,488 muffins, free to anyone who visits. A value of \$14,976.
- Eight naloxone kits handed out for free to help save the lives of those suffering from a drug overdose. These kits are valued at up to \$150 each.
- 267 facility rentals by partners, earning the agency over \$14,000 that goes back into its programs and services
- 9,360 food cupboard visits—a number that has doubled in recent years.
- The agency, thanks to its partnerships with numerous other groups, donors, and businesses, has also facilitated showers for those living without facilities, diapers and wipes to families with young children, and countless cups of coffee to anyone who needs a warm drink.
- The Community Care Program fielded 11 referrals, did 73 short-term interventions, and worked with 23 partner agencies in 2023-2024. Seventy-three per cent of families in crisis in the program lowered their risk factors.
- The housing program worked with 90 households, 45 of which are in case management regularly. Workers made 359 home visits, 30 group programs were held, 300 information and referrals were given out, 134 interventions were done to support people at risk of being homeless, and 275 interventions to connect people to income, employment, education, and job training. Fifty-seven social housing units were renovated, 28 new ones are under construction, and 33 renovations are still to be completed.

# “This is my passion”

Speaker at PVLIP celebration encourages people to live life to the fullest

By Lorne Stelmach

An annual event that highlights and celebrates the region’s diversity featured a guest speaker who both offered inspiration through her own journey and aimed to spark discussion about what can happen if we remain open to all possibilities.

The fifth annual Connecting Cultures and Communities celebration of the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) last Wednesday in Morden heard from Linh Huynh, who was the seventh of eight children in a family who fled from Vietnam after the war.

Having grown up mostly in Canada, where she calls Calgary home, Huynh’s message is that people don’t need a special talent to live an extraordinary life—amazing things can happen when people live with passion and curiosity. Huynh believes wonder is the spark that asks each of us: Where do we go now?

“This is my passion,” Huynh said in addressing the audience at St. Paul’s United Church. “When I have an opportunity to speak to newcomers and when I have the opportunity to speak to service providers and community members ... it is my absolute honour.”

Huynh and her family first arrived at a refugee camp and stayed there for a year before getting sponsored to move to Canada, where a church congregation had to demonstrate that it would support the entire family for 12 months.

“We came from a third world, war-torn country,” she said. “The church provided us with a mentor, and she was by mom’s side for the entire first year ... she took my mom everywhere.”

She recalled such moments as when the family arrived on a Greyhound bus not even closely dressed for a Canadian winter.

Today, Huynh is a professional speaker, author, educator and extreme “non-athlete.” She has completed the Antarctic Ice Marathon, the North Pole Marathoh, and a series of desert ultra-marathons.

Her journey as a child opened her eyes to what is possible if one lives intently and fearlessly. She says that surviving a harrowing journey at such a young age instilled a deep sense of gratitude for the life that was gifted to her.

Huynh’s driving philosophy is to

explore everything that life has to offer, and she is on a mission to inspire people to face challenges and create an extraordinary life full of courage, joy, and wonder.

Huynh used her story as a launching point for table discussions that were aimed at helping generate ideas on how PVLIP and the communities it serves can launch further change in the region.

She asked how many people in the room were newcomers, had moved to a new place to live, or had started anew in some other way and asked them to stand—this led to the whole room standing.

“This is so beautiful,” she said, noting how the definition of a newcomer can be any person that is in a new situation, any person that has faced new challenges, or anyone that has had to adapt to a new setting or situation.

“With every person that is added into a new community, the dynamic changes,” she said.

PVLIP co-ordinator Elaine Burton Saindon noted they went in a different direction with the event this year to feature a keynote speaker, and she thought it went over very well.

“[Huynh] has a remarkable story with the successes that she has been able to accomplish in her life,” she said. “And she uses that to kind of inspire others on their journey, whether they’re a newcomer from another country or if you just curious about stepping out of your comfort zone and trying something new.”

Burton-Saindon said Connecting Cultures and Communities is an event they host to engage community members and help them understand what their work is all about.

“We don’t have a lot of public presence just because we are mostly dealing with helping community members or leaders mostly and decision makers kind of understand from their perspective what’s the impact of immigration in their community or in a workplace,” she said. “For that, we need to collaborate with multiple people across 15 municipalities ... so we need to move throughout the region a lot.”

Their hope is to not only bring awareness to the organization but also celebrate the diversity of the region.

“We want to highlight what we’ve done over the last five years and launch into our next five years of



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE  
PVLIP’s annual Connecting Cultures and Communities celebration took place in Morden last week. Right: Guest speaker Linh Huynh shared her family’s immigrant experience and the impact it had on her life.



planning,” she said. “It’s also kind of to get the communities’ involvement and hear what they have to say about different themes when it comes to diversity and inclusion.

“We really want to celebrate our diversity, celebrate our cultures in the area,” she continued. “It would be wonderful if people would find inspiration and would want to join PVLIP. We really function mostly with volunteers. We have multiple committees that focus on different priorities that we have established.

“We want to encourage each com-

munity to have an action team ... [considering] how to foster inclusion or how to improve belonging or how to improve services for newcomers.”



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## What about MB community newspapers? They're more than good fire-starters

### Province supports American tech elites for buy-local advertising campaign

By Patricia Barrett

The provincial government announced last week it was launching an advertising campaign to encourage Manitobans to “buy local” in the wake of U.S. president Donald Trump’s threatened tariff war against and annexation of Canada.

Manitoba premier Wab Kinew added his voice to a chorus of Canadian premiers and prime minister Justin Trudeau’s buy Canadian messaging.

Yet the province is using taxpayers’ dollars to pay for part of its buy-local advertising campaign to appear on American social media sites, thereby supporting tech elites like Meta’s Mark Zuckerberg, a multi-billionaire who has aligned himself with Trump and announced in January he’s ending fact-checking, a move that has critics concerned about the intensification of hate speech and misinformation on Zuckerberg’s platforms.

American tariffs against all Canadian products – and Canada’s countervailing tariffs – are currently on hold until March 4 or thereabouts. Trump had signed an executive order on Feb. 1 imposing a 25 per cent tariff on all Canadian products sent to the U.S. and a 10 per cent tariff on Canadian energy. The tariffs were slated to begin on Feb. 4, but Trump put them on hold, allegedly in response to American markets taking a tumble.

With the U.S. having become an unstable trading partner in the span of three weeks since Trump became president, and with Trump’s economically damaging tariffs seen as a precursor to the annexation of Canada – Trump said he’d use “economic force” to make Canada America’s 51st state and Trudeau said Trump’s annexation threat is “real” – Canadian political leaders, businesses and everyday Canadians have risen united against the existential threat from

the south.

With the U.S. seemingly on a trajectory to autocracy and Trump on Day 18 (on Feb. 6) of his “coup d’etat,” according to American documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, the scene down south is giving Canadians considerable pause for thought as to what products they should be spending their money on and what e-commerce platforms they should be supporting.

With a nudge from various Canadian premiers, the federal government and some opposition parties, Canadians have embarked on a mission to buy Canadian-made products over U.S. goods in order to insulate Canada’s economy and jobs from the crater-sized blows tariffs will surely wrought. Tariffs will drive up the cost of food, fuel and other products and services, and hurt both American and Canadian consumers.

Continued on page 7

# Letters

### TOO MANY CLOSE CALLS

I am writing because we have had many close calls at a particular intersection, and have witnessed many others, and we believe it is just a matter of time until there is a serious collision.

The center lanes on PTH 14 at Eastview Dr. (Winkler) are for left turns only, but the eastbound traffic has no sign to indicate that.

As a result, drivers heading east often mistakenly use the center lane to bypass a vehicle slowing down to turn right. This is extremely danger-

ous as this puts them on a collision course with westbound vehicles that are preparing to turn left onto Eastview from their left-turn lane.

My wife and I have seen this happen over and over, and have even had to suddenly abandon our left turn and move out of our left-turn lane to avoid a head-on collision. (On one occasion, we couldn’t move to the right lane because a truck was just then passing us; we were just lucky that the oncoming vehicle was able to swerve back into his lane in time.) And the offending drivers,

having had no warning of the intersection, seem unalarmed, probably because they are unaware that they have done anything wrong or dangerous.

(It doesn’t help that the right lane veers off to the right as though it is a right-turn lane, which may lead drivers to assume that therefore the other lane must be for through traffic. Nor does it help that only a few miles to the east, there is another intersection that looks somewhat

Continued on page 7

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> LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

similar, and its left lane actually does allow for through traffic.)

I first brought this to the attention of the minister responsible almost two years ago. I sent pictures and a map, and even a design for a very explicit sign.

Unfortunately, the department's response claimed that the intersection already had signage to indicate that the center lane is for left hand turns only. But, in fact, there was no such sign for eastbound traffic, and indeed there still is not. The same letter also promised that arrows would be painted on the pavement that summer, but this also never happened. (Besides, when the road is snow-covered and driving conditions are at their worst, road paintings are no substitute for clear signage.)

Over the following months, I wrote several follow-up emails, but none of them were answered.

So now I am appealing to drivers in the area to be aware of the hazard that exists at the intersection of PTH

14 and Eastview Dr. The center lanes are NOT FOR THROUGH TRAFFIC; they are FOR LEFT TURNS ONLY. And if you are approaching this intersection from the east and are planning to use your left-turn lane, please be aware that oncoming traffic may assume that it belongs to them.

Anthony Bergen, Winkler

A RESPONSE TO MP BRANDEN LESLIE

The issues you raised are serious and relevant to Canadians [*Liberals are putting their interests ahead of Canadians, Pg. 6, Jan. 16 edition*]. Let us be honest here though, all federal governments have struggled with them. (Including Conservative led ones.) So, blaming the present government for "everything" is just the "easy way out"—not a constructive solution.

Your party has spent a lot of its time criticizing and attacking the government but has been somewhat vague about solutions. To be fair though, the

Liberals would have used the same approach if they were the opposition. What is lacking in parliament is co-operation between parties. Here lies the real problem we face.

Our party system of governing is what needs to change. Too often the party puts its own interests ahead of voters and even the country at times. The focus is to get elected, win enough seats to form the government, and to stay in power. (At all costs?) If this means lying, being arrogant, breaking "promises", and not being accountable for one's actions - then

so be it. (Let us be clear here, all parties act in this manner.) Politicians seem "intentionally blind" to all this though. We as voters are not, as we recognize these behaviors and do not accept the excuses.

So, to politicians, I challenge you to make some real changes to our "political landscape." I invite all to look me up in Winkler and hear my ideas.

Truth be known; I expect ZERO responses.

Jody Tauro, Winkler

## Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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

> BARRETT, FROM PG. 6

That's why Kinew is encouraging Manitobans to focus on buying local products and supporting local businesses. The new advertising campaign called "Support Manitoba. Buy Local" was launched on Feb. 5, and an accompanying news release says it will appear on "digital platforms" then expand to radio and billboards.

"Manitobans are united in their resolve to support each other and how we as consumers chose to spend our money can make a big impact," said the premier. "These past few weeks have made it clear that we need to diversify our economy and trading partners and buying Manitoban or Canadian will help create strong businesses and jobs here in Manitoba."

The news release doesn't mention advertising in local print media, which serves small and rural communities across Manitoba, and does not state how much money the campaign will cost nor how long it will last.

The Canadian Press reported last week that Kinew wouldn't directly answer questions about whether some of the purported \$140,000 for the purportedly four-week advertising campaign would be spent on "non-local media platforms such as Facebook," but that ads were "popping up on Facebook and Instagram."

Community newspapers are local businesses that employ Canadians,

support democratic inquiry and debate rather than promote hatred and discrimination, provide sponsorship or in-kind support to rural community events and act as advertising conduits to help drive dollars to local businesses.

A spokesperson for AdCanada Media, an agency that places ads in over 900 newspapers across Canada, told the Express Weekly News that as of Feb. 7, it had no "bookings" last week – and none for this week – from the Manitoba government for its buy local advertising campaign.

There were 49 print titles in Manitoba in 2023, according to AdCanada. Manitoba's titles include the *Express Weekly News* and its five sister papers (the *Stonewall Teulon Tribune*, *Selkirk Record*, *Winkler Morden Voice*, *Altona Morris Voice* and the *Carman Dufferin Standard* reaching about 132,000 readers weekly), along with other community newspapers and cultural newspapers such as the *Icelandic Logberg-Heimskringla*.

The *Express* asked the province why print media was excluded from its buy local advertising campaign, what digital platforms the province is using for the campaign and how much money the province is spending. The province acknowledged receiving the questions but did not provide answers.

With the Trump administration's threat to take down American public broadcasting, Trump's well-known disdain for fact-checking, liberal

media outlets and his close alignment with billionaire tech bros, the Manitoba government's decision to support Meta, which also owns Instagram and other platforms, over Manitoba community newspapers is being questioned by some critics.

Factor in the years of American tech giants such as Meta and Google siphoning away advertising dollars that might have gone to local news outlets, and their recalcitrant attitude to compensating Canadian broadcasters and local print newspaper outlets for using their news stories as bait to bring advertisers and users to them, the decision by the province to overlook community newspapers is troubling.

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson said he's disappointed the province is financially supporting American social media over Manitoba newspapers in light of the tariff threat from the U.S.

"I'm absolutely disappointed that our provincial government is spending money on American-owned social media sites to promote local shopping in response to potential Trump tariffs. It just doesn't sit right with me. We should be keeping our dollars here in Manitoba and Canada, supporting our own businesses and platforms that actually benefit our communities," said Johnson in a statement to the *Express*.

"I am concerned that these advertising dollars are not being spent on local media. These local papers are vital; they keep our communities

connected and give local businesses a voice. We need to put our money where it counts, supporting our local media and making sure our community gets the spotlight it deserves. The NDP say that they want to create a committee to look into supporting local media but when given the opportunity to do something tangible, they send Manitoban money to the U.S."

Nearly two-thirds of Canadians (65 per cent) want Canada's federal government to commit a percentage of its advertising budget to Canadian news media, according to a survey conducted in December 2024 and January 2025 by Totum Research on behalf of News Media Canada.

The federal government used to advertise on Meta but put a hold on that in 2023 after the social media company blocked all news on its platforms in Canada rather than compensate Canadian media outlets for using their content. The federal government, however, lifted its boycott on Meta last week.

"The Government of Canada's decision to resume advertising with Meta is a real kick in the shins to independent publishers across Canada," said News Media Canada chair Dave Adsett in a Feb. 6 release on CommunityWire. "Disinformation travels faster than the truth, and it sends the wrong signal to local advertisers when the government is rewarding a company that is unwilling to fact-check information on its own platforms."

# Many Hands cooking program returns, new soup kitchen added as well

By Lorne Stelmach

Many Hands Resource Centre is bringing back a popular cooking program as well as introducing a new initiative to complement its food bank service.

The agency's community kitchen program is returning starting at the end of the month. The classes will resume Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the kitchen space in the Morden Alliance Church. The ongoing schedule will be every second and last Tuesday of the month.

The program teaches participants how to prepare a variety of budget-friendly meals, and Many Hands saw a need for it again.

"It's something that has become even more essential with the rising grocery prices," said executive director Mariyam Tsygankova.

"I always say that this program is about more than just cooking, it's about connection," she added. "That's one of my favorite things about the program. People share so much more

## Jane Curtis steps down as Southern Health CEO

By Voice staff

Southern Health-Santé Sud is on the hunt for a new CEO.

The regional health authority announced last week that Jane Curtis has left the role effective immediately. Curtis has accepted the interim role of CEO for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

"Over the past eight years, Jane has led our organization with unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and a commitment to excellence in healthcare, all values that will serve Manitobans greatly in her new role," the RHA said in a statement. "During her tenure, Jane has overseen significant advancements in our services, expanded our reach to more families, patients and communities, and fostered a culture of innovation and compassion.

"We are grateful for Jane's contributions and the positive impact she has had on our organization and the communities we serve."

As the board of directors prepares to search for someone to take Curtis' place on a permanent basis, Dana Human, regional lead of community and continuity care, will serve as acting CEO.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Many Hands Resource Centre is serving up soup every Wednesday to anyone who could use a warm meal.

than just recipes here. They share their experiences, challenges, their hopes.

"I remember one newcomer who had just arrived asking another newcomer, who had been in the area for a while, questions like when does it get better? When will I feel more settled? They cried together; they loved and supported each other," recalled Tsygankova.

"So moments like that show how powerful a shared meal can be. It always brings people together. Food always brings people together ... it created a sense of belonging and reminds them that they are not alone.

"You also meet people who are ex-

perienced in cooking, so we can share knowledge and learn from each other," Tsygankova added.

Many Hands also recently started a weekly soup kitchen, which was an idea that arose during one of the monthly community meals where there was discussion about the need for more support.

It started about a month ago, and Tsygankova feels like the initiative has really been appreciated.

She noted people can only come for a food bank hamper twice a month, so those in need are now able to come for a warm bowl of soup when it's not their turn for a food hamper.

"People seem appreciative, and I think it's a wonderful initiative, and we are so thankful for the help that has made it happen," said Tsygankova. "We reached out to local churches with commercial kitchens to see if we could offer a weekly soup meal on food bank days, and several churches agreed to help.

"The response has been incredible," she added. "We have partnered with Westside Church, whose volunteers have been absolutely wonderful, but we are also looking for any additional partnerships or organization that has a commercial kitchen and would be willing to support this initiative.

"It's a simple but meaningful way to provide warm nourishment and a sense of community to those who need it, especially in the winter months."

The soup kitchen takes place at the 500 Stephen community centre every Wednesday from noon to four p.m.

**"IT'S A SIMPLE BUT MEANINGFUL WAY TO PROVIDE WARM NOURISHMENT AND A SENSE OF COMMUNITY ..."**

### > BARRETT, FROM PG. 7

The *Express* reached out to the federal government, asking if it will commit to supporting Canadian news media, including rural print newspapers, and whether it has made any decision as yet – something promised recently by the government in response to Trump's tariffs – about changing its procurement policies, which can include advertising. The government acknowledged the questions but did not provide answers.

Media plays an "outsized" role in Canadian democracy according to a report titled, "The lost estate: how to put the local back in local news," which was released Feb. 12 by the Public Policy Forum, Rideau Hall Foundation and the Michener Awards Foundation.

The report highlights a crisis in local news in Canada after decades of news outlet closures and lost revenues, and recommends rebuilding

local news and small community outlets. Contributing to the crisis are the failure of non-local, corporate ownership models and the collapse of traditional advertising revenues.

"Local news is an undervalued player in the media ecosystem," said Public Policy Forum president and CEO Inez Jabalpurwala in a news release. "It helps create civic spaces that are needed now more than ever, while also underpinning the very foundation of healthy democracies."

The report includes an Ipsos poll that was commissioned by the report's authors and conducted last month. The poll found 87 per cent of Canadians believe local news is "important to a well-functioning democracy."

Respondents agreed on a range of serious implications as local news diminishes, including less knowledge about local government, schools and hospitals (61 per cent), fewer ties to the community and decreased participation in local events (57 per

cent), a loss of a sense of caring for each other (54 per cent), and less demand for local small businesses (36 per cent), states the release.

Some ways to preserve local media include tax credits for local businesses that spend advertising dollars with locally-owned, independent media, the allocation of a portion of government advertising dollars to local publishers and broadcasters, and the encouragement of community foundations to provide funding support for reporters in local newsrooms on a short-term basis, states the release.

Note: On his way to the Super Bowl on Feb. 9, Trump said he would be imposing 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum, starting Feb 10.

*Patricia Barrett is a reporter with the Express Weekly News, the Voice's sister paper*



# get informed

## Calling all knipsbrat players

Salem Home hosting fundraising crokinole tournament Thursday, March 6

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Salem Ladies Auxiliary and the Salem Foundation are teaming up for their first-ever—and perhaps first annual—fundraising Crokinole Tournament next month.

Everyone is invited to the Winkler personal care home (165 15th St.) on Thursday, March 6 starting at 6:30 p.m. to vie for crokinole supremacy.

The inspiration for this event came from the residents themselves, shares foundation executive coordinator Susan Hildebrand.

“They so enjoy crokinole. It’s something that they grew up doing,” she says.

The Ladies Auxiliary’s purpose is to enhance the lives of Salem’s residents, so an event like this where many of them can participate—whether by playing or cheering on participants—seemed a perfect fit, Hildebrand says.

“Everyone can get involved. Families that come in, people from the churches, and just regular community members too.”

If you’re unfamiliar with the game, crokinole (knipsbrat in Low German) is game where players take turns shooting discs across a round playing board, trying to land them in high scoring areas, particularly the centre, while also knocking out their opponents’ discs. It’s a hugely popular pastime in the Mennonite culture.

It’s an incredibly accessible game for all skill levels and abilities, and players of all ages are most welcome at the Salem tournament, Hildebrand says.

“Teaming up different ages, it really bridges the gap between generations,” she says. “There are tournaments where they have anywhere from four years old to 94 playing. Everyone is welcome.”

To take part, contact organizers at salemfoundation@salemhome.ca or 204-325-4316 by Wednesday, Feb. 26 to sign-up. It costs \$5 per player. You can come solo or register as part of a two-person team. There will be a prize for the winning team.

In addition to the registration fee,



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Funds raised from next month’s inaugural Salem Home Crokinole Tournament will go towards buying benches for the pathway they’re planning on installing on the personal care home’s grounds this summer.

participants are also asked to collect pledges. All proceeds from the tournament will go towards the purchase of benches for the Salem Park walkway slated to be built around the building this summer.

“It’s going to be a safe path for residents to go out around the grounds, a really pleasant area for residents and the community to enjoy,” explains Hildebrand. “The Ladies Auxiliary are building on that plan by trying

to raise money towards benches and different areas that will make it more comfortable and inviting for people as they’re walking the path.”

If you aren’t a crokinole player, you’re still welcome to stop by the tournament to cheer on the teams. Snacks and beverages will be available by donation, and there will also be raffle tickets on sale for a quilt handmade by Salem residents.

## “We all together have the power to build a future where poverty is not a reality”

From Pg. 4

... to find food, secure a place to sleep, get to the grocery store, to afford their prescriptions, to find a job, to get out of bed, to build friendships, to overcome addictions, or even just silence those relentless thoughts of suicide.

“Poverty here doesn’t look like the images we expect, but it is here, and it is devastating. Seventeen per cent of our residents live in poverty. That means nearly one in six of our neighbors and our friends and our family are struggling to make ends meet, or at some level of poverty. Nearly one in four children experience food insecurity.”

A person relying on Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) receives just \$276 a month for their basic needs—not nearly enough.

“That leaves them with about \$9 a day to purchase things like medication, transportation, food, all the things that some of us take for granted.

“The [national] poverty line is around \$25,000 per year. EIA rates for a single person annually is around \$11,000,” Rempel shared. “So how do we expect people to thrive in that situation and to improve their mental health so they can actually lift themselves out of poverty?”

“Our goal today is not to bring light

to our work, but rather to highlight the struggles that created these needs that we work to fill,” she said. “We want to shine a light on the quiet, invisible battles that are happening every day in our community.”

Rempel urges people to reach out to Central Station to learn how they can get involved to help change lives.

“There’s lots of opportunities, even if it’s just a listening ear,” she said. “You can volunteer, whether it’s helping out in a community meal or mentoring someone.

“You can donate. Every contribution goes towards some of these programs that we’ve mentioned. And they do take quite a bit of support to keep

them running.

“Or you can advocate. You can advocate for the people, your neighbours, your friends, your family ... advocate for the policies and changes that are required to support people in a meaningful way.

“Most importantly, you can choose to support people. Not just their struggles, but their potential. We can extend compassion instead of judgment and hope instead of indifference.

“Winkler is a community of resilience and generosity and faith. We all together have the power to build a future where poverty is not a reality.”

The **Voice**

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Advertising inquiries to: [ads@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:ads@winklermordenvoice.ca)

# Gospel Mission Church Morden celebrates 75 years of worship

By Lorne Stelmach

A church that has a 75-year history in Morden celebrated the milestone this past weekend while also looking ahead to the future.

The anniversary offered an opportunity to celebrate the Morden congregation that was until recent years known as the Morden Evangelical Mennonite Mission Church (EMMC) but is now under the umbrella of the Gospel Mission Church.

"We're a longtime church in this community," said campus pastor Brad Driedger, who emphasized they

were both looking back and looking forward during this anniversary year.

"In this whole celebration, our focus is both on what has God done in the past 75 years in this congregation but also what is He doing now and how He was been faithful as we are looking forward. He's still using this congregation to reach the community with His love and to be a place of worship and connection and community."

The church held a special service last Sunday in recognition of the anniversary with guest speakers, a slide-show featuring photos to highlight

the history of the congregation, and a celebratory lunch.

The church had been in different locations over the years before settling into its current location at the far north end of First Street in



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Gospel Mission Church Morden (formerly the Morden EMMC) celebrated its 75th anniversary in the community last weekend.

Morden in 1986. They underwent another big change just a few years ago.

"The congregation was in a place where they realized that change needed to happen ... they were looking for new beginnings," said Driedger. "They reached out to Gospel Mission Church in Winkler ... they started a journey of talking about what it might look like for Morden EMMC to kind of come under the leadership of Gos-

pel Mission Church Winkler.

"It is a big milestone for our congregation," he said. "It's kind of a unique story. Most of those years it was Morden EMMC ... now we're kind of a new church in a lot of ways but not a new congregation ... there's so much newness, new life, new beginnings, new leadership."

He noted it is interesting to think that the congregation has now included three generations of many families in the community, and he feels privileged to be part of it.

"My journey here as a campus pastor is relatively new," he said. "My story with this congregation begins about two years ago ... God led us, my wife and family and I, to come here."

"It is important to be really plugged in here," he added. "It's been a really amazing journey of just connecting into this church family and just getting to know people and building trust ... it's just been very beautiful, and we are very much at home here ... that's a privilege for us."

Driedger noted the church has continued to have a good size congregation.

"We are a very healthy congregation in that way," he said. "It's encouraging to see it healthy in a way that when I look at the unity of our church, it's in a good place ... I see the growth and the discipleship and the presence of God."

And he concluded with the thought that the sense of community and belonging that their church provides to the congregation is vital.

"That's a huge part of it ... scripture is clear that we are called to meet together. We know that we are built for community," he said. "We are better together ... there's a journey with God that each of us are on, but to be able to do that as part of a community is a very key piece as well."



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# Public health officials warn of measles cases in southern MB

By Voice staff

Public health officials are notifying the public of five confirmed cases of measles in southern Manitoba, all connected to an outbreak in Ontario.

These cases involve five individuals living within the same household, all of whom were contacts of lab-confirmed cases while recently traveling in Ontario. The individuals have been asked to isolate at home.

People who were at the following locations are being notified of the possibility of having been exposed to measles virus:

- Reinland Mennonite Church, 200 Redhawk Tr., Winkler - Sunday school and main service on Jan. 26 from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Advised to monitor for symptoms until Feb. 16.
- Health Sciences Centre, Winnipeg - first floor children's laboratory and waiting rooms of Clinic X and Clinic W on Jan. 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Feb. 21.
- Health Sciences Centre, Winnipeg - Orange Bison Zone Level 1 in and around Guildy's Eatery and adjacent corridors on Jan. 31 from noon to 3 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Feb. 21
- Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg - fourth floor cardiology clinic and

waiting room in Children's Hospital, Jan. 31 from 1-4 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Feb. Feb. 21

The public health investigation is ongoing and additional exposure locations may be added. As more contacts are identified, individuals may be asked to isolate and consider vaccination.

Public health is asking anyone who was in these locations during these times to check their immunization records and ensure they are up to date with a measles vaccine, either measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) or measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMRV).

It is unlikely people born before 1970 or who have ever received a measles vaccine will get the disease. However, as a precaution, watch for symptoms of measles until the date indicated above. Initial symptoms may include fever, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes. Small white spots may also develop on the inside of the mouth or throat.

Several days after the initial symptoms, a red blotchy rash appears on the face and progresses down the body. Measles can lead to complications including ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia (lung infection) and

encephalitis (brain inflammation).

To learn more about the symptoms of measles and what to do, visit [gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html](http://gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html).

People exposed in these locations who were born in 1970 or later, have never received a measles vaccine, and

never had a measles infection should:

- Reduce exposures with others, especially anyone who has a weakened immune system or is unimmunized, from the fifth day after exposure to the 21st day after the latest exposure.

Continued on page 23

## > NEWCOMER WELCOME NIGHT, FROM PG. 2

The definition of "newcomer" is also much broader than just those immigrants who are brand new to Canada, Hildebrand adds.

"We want to welcome people that are moving here from another country, but also another province, or maybe even just another city or town in Manitoba.

"We just want to connect people within our city to create new relationships," he says. "The more people that come who have lived here for a longer time, the more information is available, and the more connections

that can be made."

"And also, maybe, even if you've been around here for a long time, you might feel that you don't have the connections that you'd like to have," Hildebrand adds. "This is a great place to create new friendships."

The next Newcomer Welcome Evening is coming up on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

"We promise newcomers and long-time residents a warm welcome," Rochshina says, "and we would like to see them come out."

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**Manitoba**



# Celebrating diversity at Morden's Multicultural Winterfest

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden's annual celebration of the community's cultural diversity marked its 15th year Saturday with a variety of pavilions that featured cultural entertainment, food, and educational displays, among other activities. The Canadian pavilion at Lake Minnewasta featured an ice sculpture workshop and various winter sports. Otherwise, the east Asian pavilion was at the Access Event Centre, the south Asian pavilion filled Westside Community Church, the African pavilion was at the Morden Activity Centre, and the Europe and Latin American pavilion was in École Discovery Trails.



A new addition this year was the inclusion of an Indigenous cultural showcase put on by the local Truth and Action Working Group at the 500 Stephen community centre.



# Maurice Butler to receive his third royal medal for community service

By Ashleigh Viveiros

For Maurice Butler, receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal from Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie this weekend will be a special honour.

"This one really caps it off for me, because I have the Queen's medals," shares the lifelong monarchist and English transplant, who has called Morden home for nearly 50 years.

Butler was previously honoured with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, both in recognition of his tireless dedication to community involvement and volunteerism.

"I'm still very much a Brit at heart," shares Butler, which makes this honour all the more exciting, he says, "because it's the King's medal"—the first new monarch for the British Commonwealth in over 70 years.

Butler's interest in to the royal family stretches back to his years growing up in post-war London. His father would take him to watch the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace every Sunday, instilling in him a respect for tradition and an admiration for the sense of duty the monarchy represents.

"In 1952, I was one of the schoolkids that got to go to the Queen's coronation," he recalls. "And now here's someone nominating me for the King's coronation medal. It's a distinct honour."

One his late wife Linda would have been thrilled about, Butler muses.

"I lived with one of the most ardent sort of monarchist. The royal family meant everything to her," he says. "I know she'll be there with me this weekend. She'll be right

there beside me, it goes without saying."

Butler is being recognized for a lifetime of community service.

He served as Morden's chief of police and later as Ste. Anne's police chief, and also spent 12 years on Morden city council, where he headed up many different portfolios and championed numerous projects for the betterment of Morden.

As a volunteer, Butler's efforts through the years were extensive, including, to name just a few, roles with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the South Central Committee for Family Violence (he was one of the founding members of the organization that would go on to open the Genesis House shelter), Habitat for Humanity Winkler (during its first stint in the area in the '80s), youth soccer as a referee, coach, and coordinator, community theatre as a prop master, set-builder, and actor, the Corn and Apple Festival on its Main Stage crew and Queen Pageant organizing committee, leadership roles with the Morden branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, and playing Santa Claus at innumerable events for generations of Morden-Winkler kids.

Getting involved in the community is a calling Butler has always answered.

"It's about the people," he says, simply. Interacting with people, helping to build them up, and working together for a stronger community—that's what kept him so active for so many years. "For me, this [medal] is just the icing on the cake."

Though he doesn't know who nominated him for this honour, he's grateful and humbled that they did.

"I want to acknowledge and thank my nominator, be-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Maurice Butler says its the people that kept him so involved in his community through the years.

cause this is important to me. It tells me, as a volunteer in the community, I have made an impression."

When Butler proudly stands to receive the medal on Saturday, he already knows what he's going to say:

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**MANITOBA**

# Neil Schmidt honoured for a lifetime of service

By Lorne Stelmach

Neil Schmidt's reward for his service to Winkler is seeing what it has become as a vibrant economic hub in southern Manitoba.

During his time serving as a councillor and two terms as mayor, Schmidt helped oversee many key developments in the growing community.

There was the development of the industrial park as well as several important community facilities, including the new library and medical centre as well as the re-development of the former Winkler Mennonite Church into the PW Enns Centennial Concert Hall

It was all rooted in a desire to give back to the community for Schmidt, who is among the recipients of the new King Charles III Coronation Medals being handed out to outstanding Portage-Lisgar residents this weekend.

"I had the time, and I was able to give back, so I had good opportunities

to give back, so I did," said Schmidt, who added he was quite taken off guard to receive the honour.

"I was completely blown away by that ... I was totally surprised. I had no idea, and I certainly didn't expect it," he said. "It was a shock really, and it was quite humbling to be considered for it ... it is nice, and it's certainly an honour."

Schmidt takes pride in his time with council, as it was a time of significant development and advancement for Winkler.

"There's all kinds of things that stand out," he shared. "One of my favorite ones, though not one of the biggest ones, was probably the concert hall ... it was near the end of my tenure, but nevertheless we opened it before I was done."

He recalled going to a concert when the up-for-sale building was still a church and making note of the beautiful acoustics. His wife was the one who suggested the city should buy it and turn it into a concert hall. It's

been serving the community in that capacity since 2006.

"It gets so much use now ... it's good to see. It's been such a good venue for the city to have that concert hall," Schmidt said. "I certainly wasn't the only one involved in it—there was councillor Dave Penner who really was doing the work behind the renovations, so a lot of the credit goes to him in terms of how it turned out."

Schmidt also cited the importance of the development of the industrial park that came with the purchase of 130 acres of land in the RM of Stanley.

"We were chastised for buying property in the RM of Stanley," he recalled. "That proved to be a very good move to buy that land because otherwise we would have run out of land. Even today, that 130 acres is getting filled up."

In addition to his municipal service, Schmidt was also cited for his time as a volunteer firefighter and school board trustee, serving on countless committees and boards, church and



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Former Winkler mayor Neil Schmidt is being honoured with the King Charles III Coronation Medal this weekend.

ministry involvement, and as a volunteer with numerous other local causes through the years in his drive to give back.

# Voice columnist receives King Charles III Coronation Medal

By Lorne Stelmach

Peter Cantelon hopes receiving a King Charles III Coronation Medal may be less about an honour for him and more about encouraging others to get involved in some way.

"In many ways, it's not so much about the person who is receiving the award as trying to try to encourage the kind of work that is being done by that person," said Cantelon, who was cited for a

number of roles he has played in the community, including being a longtime columnist for the *Winkler Morden Voice*.

Cantelon is among 20 Portage-Lisgar residents slated to receive the medal honouring outstanding community contributions from MP Branden Leslie at a ceremony in Carman this weekend.

Cantelon served as executive director of the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre and founded the Diversitas speaker series which has brought numerous experts to the Pembina Valley to offer lectures on subjects residents might otherwise not have access to, ranging from different religions and cultures to LGBTQ+ awareness.

He has been a member of numerous boards and was also a founding member of the Morden Historical Archives. He also started the Vintage Morden social media group as a celebration of Morden history, which today has a following of more than 700 members.

"I've heard some of the names of other people who are getting awarded ... just based on some of the names ... it's cool to be a part of that group," said Cantelon in reflecting on the honour. "It's hard to describe the feeling ... it's pretty amazing and exciting. It's affirming. It's nice to get recognition like this.

"I hope it encourages other people," he added. "Nobody is doing the stuff that they're doing for recognition, but recogni-

tion helps encourage other people, I think, when they see it ... it sort of brings a profile on the work itself, and maybe that will encourage other people to do the same things."

Cantelon said his work as a writer has been especially meaningful to him.

"I would like to see more columnists. I'd like to see some more journalists," he said. "In our region, there's not a lot of trained columnists and writers, and I would certainly like to see some more people doing that kind of work."

He also cited the importance of doing non-profit work.

"I think it is important as well ... it's all things anybody could be doing," he suggested.

"At first, I didn't know it was going to go past that first event," Cantelon said of the positive response to Diversitas.

"I just sort of stumbled into it. I hope somebody else sees something like this and thinks, 'I could do that in my area or for the thing that I'm passionate about,'" he said.

"It's about looking at the work that is being done. In my case, you can write, you can train, you can express your opinions as a journalist. You can create your own lecture series and communicate valuable educational opportunities ... that's the kind of thing that I hope people might get from this."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie (right) presented Peter Cantelon with his King Charles III Coronation Medal last week, as he won't be able to attend this weekend's formal ceremony.

> STAY TUNED FOR MORE STORIES OF LOCAL CORONATION MEDAL WINNERS

# Morden Police launch neighbourhood camera registry

By Lorne Stelmach

Home security cameras are a resource that can be a benefit to police, and the Morden service now has a system in place that will help the department make use of them.

The Morden Police Service has launched a Safe Neighbourhood Camera Registry that will allow residents and businesses to voluntarily register their doorbell and outward-facing security cameras with police.

"It took probably a year or so to get this off the ground," said Inspector Sean Aune, noting the idea came up while dealing with a company in connection with the online criminal record check system. "They were asking police services what are you guys looking for and what are some good ideas? This is one of them that had come up because we could see a need for it.

"We are seeing more and more of these cameras at homes as well as businesses ... and the quality of the pictures is just fantastic," Aune noted.

He sees the registry as a great way that residents can play an active role in protecting their neighbourhoods.

If an incident or crime occurs in a

specific area, police will be able to see who may have a camera there and quickly see who to contact to request to review the footage.

"Essentially, we will be able to look at a map, and there will be pins on it that will show us there's cameras in the area," Aune explained. "It just ensures that we have the most recent contact information."

The resident or business can then voluntarily offer to share the video or images with police in an effort to solve the crime or incident. It could save officers valuable time in canvassing neighbourhoods looking for cameras and speaking with residents.

Anyone who wishes to participate will register a limited amount of information with police, Aune stressed, and only police officers in the City of Morden will be able to access that information.

At no time are any residents/businesses obligated to provide the footage, as this works strictly on a voluntary basis. It is also important to note that at no point do the police have access to any cameras or video footage without the owners' permission.

"That's a nice part about this system, that at no point do any police have

access to anyone's security systems ... any of their footage or any of their cameras," Aune stressed. "It's strictly a volunteer system where a resident would volunteer their information."

Aune noted they were pleased to see

there were already about a dozen locations who registered the same day the initiative was announced.

You can register online at [mordenpolice.com/safe-neighbourhood-camera-registry](http://mordenpolice.com/safe-neighbourhood-camera-registry).

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## 9 ways to pay off your credit cards faster

Credit card debt can trap you in a cycle of financial stress as high interest rates compound your balance, making repayment challenging. Paying it off demands financial discipline and smart planning. Here are 9 ways to tackle credit card debt.

**1. Create a budget.** Establish a comprehensive budget that maps out your income, expenses and debt obligations. This transparency helps you identify areas where you can trim unnecessary spending, freeing up more funds for debt repayment.

**2. Use the debt snowball method.** This method involves paying off your debts with the smallest balances first, regardless of the interest rates. This can help you build momentum and motivation

as you see your debts disappear one by one.

**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.

**4. Consolidate your debt or transfer your balance.** Consider debt consolidation, whereby you secure a bank loan at a lower interest than your credit cards and pay off all your cards at once. Alternatively, get a credit card with a temporary zero per cent or low introductory rate and transfer your balances to that card, allowing you to make significant headway during the interest-free period.

**5. Increase your payments.** Whenever feasible, contribute more than the minimum required amount. Even a small extra payment can significantly reduce the interest that accumulates over time.

**6. Negotiate lower interest rates.** Negotiate lower interest rates with your credit card companies. A history of punctual payments and a good credit score can strengthen your position in these discussions.

**7. Avoid new charges.** Temporarily stop using your credit cards until your existing debt is under control. Adding to your outstanding balance will only make matters worse.

**8. Supplement your income.** Explore ways to increase your income, such as taking up a part-time job, freelancing or selling items you no longer need. Dedicate the extra funds to debt repayment.

**9. Get professional help.** Working with a debt professional, like a financial advisor or credit counsellor can help you develop a debt reduction strategy that works best for you. They may even be able to reach out to your creditors to negotiate a better deal for you.

Look for a financial advisor or credit counselling service in your community to prevent your credit card debt from getting out of hand.



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If you have questions, reach out and together we can help guide you to the best decision.

# sports & recreation

## Flyers 2-2, hang on to first place

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers made short work of the MJHL's Winnipeg teams last week, but then stumbled in going up against Steinbach and Dauphin over the weekend.

The Feb. 4 game against the Winnipeg Blues here at home saw goalie Leif Ekblad get a shutout with 14 saves, while goals from Isaac Deveau, Brody Beauchemin (with two), Jacob Michelson, Blake Matheson, Isaiah Peters, and Marcus Hughes gave the Flyers the win 7-0.

It was déjà vu all over again three nights later against the Winnipeg Freeze, again in front of a hometown crowd.

This time around Ekblad made 13 saves in the 7-0 victory. Winkler's offensive lines fired 60 shots the other way. Owen Wallace had a two-goal night, while singles came in from Kam Thomas, Nicholas Mckee, Isaiah Peters, Brady Craik, and Jared Grenier.

Saturday's game against the Pistons in Steinbach wasn't so cut and dry. Craik scored in the first to tie the game after 20 minutes, but the Pistons scored the second period's lone goal to pull ahead 2-1.

In the final frame, Steinbach managed one more, sandwiched between goals from Beauchemin and Michelson, with the latter's being the Flyers' ticket to overtime.

After the extra minutes solved nothing,



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Midway through the third period last Tuesday, during a 5-on-3 Blues powerplay, Winkler's Leif Ekblad makes a save off the Winnipeg Blues' Campbell Epp to preserve his shutout bid. The Flyers won it 7-0 and then repeated the feat with a 7-0 win against the Winnipeg Freeze a few nights later.

ing, the resulting shootout went the Pistons' way as two of their shooters to one of Winkler's (Thomas) found the mark to take the win 4-3.

Liam Ernst was between the posts for the Flyers this game. He made 40 saves as Steinbach outshot Winkler 43-28.

Sunday's home game against the Dauphin Kings was another close af-

fair, but one that once again didn't go Winkler's way.

Lagaarden scored in the 2-1 loss. Ernst made 28 saves off 30 shots. His teammates sent 35 the other way.

The losses didn't put too much of a dent on the Flyers' lead in the East Division. They remain in first place with a 33-7-3-1 record and 70 points—three ahead of the Pistons with a game in

hand and five up on the third-place Portage Terriers.

This week the Flyers were in Winnipeg to play the Freeze Tuesday (results were not available at press time) and they host Waywayseecappoo Friday night. They then they play in Viriden Monday. ✦

## SEMHL regular season wraps up, playoff series are set

By Lorne Stelmach

The matchups are set for the first round of the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League playoffs after the conclusion of the regular season last week.

The game schedule had not been released as of Monday, but first-place

Ste Anne will take on eighth-place Ile des Chenes while second-place Springfield faces seventh-place Winkler. The other series will pit third-place Red River against Warren and fourth-place Morden against fifth-place Notre Dame.

Morden ended the regular season

with mixed results as the Bombers edged Notre Dame 5-3 last Thursday but then were blanked 6-0 by Ste. Anne Saturday.

Mike Rey had two goals and a five-point night to lead Morden over Notre Dame. Collin Shirley also had a pair as the Bombers took a 3-2 lead after 40

minutes then extended it with a pair of goals earlier in the third. Jay Fehr contributed a goal and three points.

Travis Bosch got the 19-save shutout to lead Ste. Anne to victory over Morden. Adam Hughesman had a pair of goals and a three-point night for the

Continued on page 17



# Male PV Hawks in ninth

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks remain in ninth place after a weekend which saw them earn three of a possible four points.

The Hawks beat Central Plains 5-2 last Friday then battled hard with the Winnipeg Thrashers before falling 4-3 in overtime Sunday.

Pembina Valley held period leads of 2-1 and 3-2 on Central Plains Friday in Morden, and the Hawks vastly outshot the Capitals 41-18.

The Hawks got goals from Ragnar Gillis, Eli Jones, Cohen Pilkington, Tyson Pethybridge, and Haiden Friesen. In net, Karsen Dyck got the win with 16 saves.

Carson Hiebert's second goal of the

game at 11:05 of the third period got the Hawks to overtime against the Thrashers, but Ryden Duchon's second of the game got Winnipeg the win just 49 seconds into overtime.

Friesen also scored for Pembina Valley, while Dyck made 30 saves as the Hawks outshot the Thrashers 42-34.

Pembina Valley remains in ninth place at 18-17-5-2 for 43 points, which has them even in points with Interlake and just two behind Eastman while comfortably nine ahead of Norman.

It sets up the Hawks for a couple key games against Eastman this week starting in Beausejour Thursday and in Morden Sunday. In between, Pembina Valley hosts Central Plains Friday night.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley Hawks points and goal leader Haiden Friesen almost scores another on Capitals' Everett Winters. Friesen would however score later in the third period in the 5-2 Hawks win.

# Pembina Valley Twisters remain in last place in MMJHL

## Fall 7-1 to visiting St. Boniface Riels

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters junior hockey club continues to struggle, suffering another disappointing loss over the weekend. The Morris-based MMJHL team now has a record of

3-32-2, placing them at the bottom of the league standings.

On Feb. 7, the Twisters lost 7-1 at home to the St. Boniface Riels in a game where they were never competitive after the Riels scored early. Kete-ma Wall scored the only goal for Pembina Valley, while Jordan Armstrong made 36 saves in a losing effort.

"We've played well in spurts, so we're making some progress," said

Twisters' head coach Braeden Beer-naerts. "We just need to maintain consistency for a full 60 minutes. We learned the hard way what happens when we don't compete for the entire game against a top team like St. Boniface."

The Twisters will be back in action on Feb. 11 with a home game against the River East Royal Knights at 8 p.m. They also have a road game on Feb-

ruary 14 against the Transcona Railer Express at 8 p.m.

Additionally, the 2024-25 MMJHL All-Star Game is scheduled for Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Terry Sawchuk Arena in Winnipeg. Austin Spicer, Darby Olson, and Josh Guilford have been selected from the Twisters to participate in the upcoming All-Star Game.

# Charity sledge hockey game in Winkler Monday

By Voice staff

An exhibition game this Louis Riel Day will not only promote the sport of sledge hockey but also support a good cause.

A group of sledge hockey athletes will face off against

members of the U17 AAA Pembina Valley Hawks as a fundraising event this Monday at 1 p.m. at the Meridian Exhibition Center in Winkler. The event will also include a silent auction and 50/50 draw.

Admission is \$5 for adults, free for kids under 18.

The funds raised will go to help individuals with spina bifida with medical supply needs, assisted funding for recreational activities, and financial support to families and individuals while they are in the hospital.

It's also a great opportunity for the community to come out and support and see what is available for individuals with disabilities, say organizers.

Spina bifida is a condition that occurs when the spine and spinal cord don't form properly. Its impact can range from being mild to causing serious disabilities.

Sledge hockey, also known as sled hockey or para ice hockey in international competition, is an adaptation of ice hockey for players who have a physical disability.

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The Voice

## > SEMHL, FROM PG. 16

Aces, while Brenden Walker also contributed a goal and had a three-point night.

The Winkler Royals wrapped up their regular season Saturday with a 7-2 loss to Springfield.

The Winterhawks took period leads of 2-1 and 5-2, with seven different players contributing a goal, while the Royals only got goals from Lucas Enns and Cameron McNabb.

Red River's final game of the season was a

3-2 overtime loss to Springfield. Colin Baudry and Justin Baudry kept the Wild in the game, but it was the Winterhawks who got the-winner goal in overtime.

Ste. Anne won the regular season crown by finishing atop the standings at 16-2-0-0 for 32 points. Red River finished in third place (11-5-2, 24 points), Morden in fourth (11-7-0-0 for 22 points), and Winkler in seventh (8-8-1-1 for 18 points).

# Female Hawks to face Winnipeg Ice in playoffs

By Lorne Stelmach

The playoffs now await for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks after they closed out their regular season last weekend.

The Hawks picked up a 5-4 shootout win Saturday in Stonewall over the Interlake Lightning, but they then ended things with a 4-0 shutout loss Sunday in Winnipeg to the Avros.

The playoffs kick off this week with a best-of-three series between eighth-place Interlake and last-place Central Plains to determine who will be the eighth seed for the post season.

The playoff schedule otherwise had not been finalized as of Monday, but what is known is that the sixth-place Hawks will face the third-place Winnipeg Ice. The tentative schedule had game one of the best of five quarter-fi-

nals going Feb. 18 or 19, with game two potentially Feb. 21 and game three perhaps Feb. 22 or 23.

The Hawks and Ice split their four regular season games, with Pembina Valley dropping the first two and then edging Winnipeg for a pair of 3-2 wins.

The Hawks overall finished the season at 14-18 with one overtime loss.

Against Interlake, the Hawks held a 4-1 lead in the third period before the Lightning connected for three goals in a span of just over two minutes, including the tying goal with just 39 seconds left.

After overtime solved nothing, the shootout went to a sixth shooter for Interlake before the save by Madison Froese won it for the Hawks.

Hayden Arkle, Rory Perrin, Chase



PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTOR/VOICE

Pembina Valley Hawks Rory Perrin battles in front of the net before scoring the go ahead goal in her team's 5-4 shootout victory over the Interlake Lightning in Stonewall on Feb. 8.

Braun, and Delaney Darby scored in regulation for Pembina Valley, and Casey O'Brien and Emma Durand scored in the shootout. Shots on goal were 37-30 in favour of the Hawks.

Kasia Rakowski worked hard in goal to keep it close against the second-place Avros, stopping 39 of 43 shots. Her teammates managed 22 shots on goal.



## Curling champs

The Winkler Curling Club had 20 teams come out to compete in its Men's Bonspiel last weekend, with a purse of \$1,980 on the line. Clockwise from left: Jesse Klassen, Louis Tanguay, Devon Loewen, and Hank Klassen. defeated Marcus Titchkosky's rink in the First Event; Doug Jackson, Justin Groening, Jeremy Hildebrand, and Jason Manns defeated Team Matt Fehr in the Second Event; Vic Klassen, Keith Stoesz, Hank Sawatzky, and Al Friesen defeated Rylan Hiebert's team in the C2 Event; and Jay Fehr, Joey Mutcheson, Bryson Reimer, and Chris Reimer beat the Harold Sawatzky foursome in the C1 Event. The club sends thanks out to all of its event sponsors.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



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### PUBLIC NOTICE



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES MUNICIPALITY OF EMERSON-FRANKLIN

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **19th day of March, 2025**, at the hour of **1:00 PM**, at Municipality of Emerson-Franklin, 115 Waddell Ave East, Dominion City, MB, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
116800	LOT 7 BLOCK 31 PLAN 18410 WLTO IN N 1/2 OF SECTION 20-2-3 EPM - FRANKLIN ST, DOMINION CITY	L -\$3,100	\$4,886.18
137300	THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 15-2-4 EPM EXC FIRSTLY: ROAD, PLAN 7129 WLTO AND SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AND OTHER MATTERS AS SET FORTH IN THE CROWN LANDS ACT - 21060 9N, FRANKLIN	L -\$136,100 B -\$189,800	\$9,077.07
210600	ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SW 1/4 12-3-4 EPM CONTAINED WITHIN THE FOLLOWING LIMITS: COMMENCING AT THE SW CORNER OF SAID SECTION, THENCE NLY ALONG THE WESTERN LIMIT OF SAID SECTION TO THE CENTRE OF THE ROSEAU RIVER, THENCE ELY FOLLOWING THE SAID CENTRE OF THE ROSEAU RIVER UPSTREAM TO THE EASTERN LIMIT OF SAID QUARTER SECTION, THENCE SLY ALONG THE SAID EASTERN LIMIT TO THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SAID SECTION, THENCE WLY ALONG THE SAID SOUTHERN LIMIT TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT EXC PLAN 44897 WLTO - 23031 13N, FRANKLIN	L -\$102,400 B -\$273,000	\$15,200.11
341500	LOT 4 BLOCK 'F' PLAN 2 WLTO (MN DIV) EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT IN RL 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 AND 16 PARISH OF STE AGATHE - 4-F-2, EMERSON	L -\$7,000	\$4,571.79

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- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any unpaid municipal utilities and any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the MUNICIPALITY OF EMERSON-FRANKLIN as follows:
  - The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
  - If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
  - A fee in the amount \$500.85 (\$477 + GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
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Dated this 29th day of January, 2025.

Managed by:



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- The successful bidder may have possession of the property for the purpose of completing fall work once the 2025 crop has been removed.
- 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.
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**CAREERS**



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mcsherryttd@gmail.com

**take a break** > GAMES

**SUDOKU**

	9		2	7				
	8			3				
	6				2			
			4					7
7				5		3		
	2				8		6	
					9	6	3	
	1	4						8
3					9			

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

**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!

1	2	4	6	8	5	9	7	3
8	9	7	6	2	3	4	1	5
3	9	6	4	7	1	2	5	8
9	4	8	1	3	7	9	2	5
2	3	1	5	6	9	8	7	4
7	9	6	5	2	4	8	1	3
5	7	2	8	1	9	3	6	4
6	1	9	3	5	4	7	8	2
4	8	3	7	2	6	5	1	9

Sudoku Answer

R	H	O				S	S	H
C	R			T	E	E	S	
T	U	B	V		G	N	I	D
S	O	M	A	D	E	S	R	E
E	R	A	V		R	I	M	O
N	S	I	G	N	O	O	W	L
				L	D		B	I
				A	R		V	
				S	I		T	I
				D	V	T	S	U
				R	E	N	O	I
				D	L	D	E	
				L	O		L	A
				O	O		G	
				O	R		T	

Crossword Answer

**X CROSSWORD**

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Racquet sport group (abbr.)
4. Norse god of thunder
8. Russian industrial city
10. What's good for the \_\_\_
11. Round-ish shape
12. Baltimore MLBer
13. French modernist painter
15. Burned with water
16. Intestinal issue
17. Take the lead
18. Prove oneself worthy
21. None
22. Tax collector
23. Swiss river
24. Gymnast Raisman
25. Baby's dining accessory
26. Canadian beer distributor
27. Iconic American tourist destination
34. More expansive
35. Alert
36. Popular boots Doc \_\_\_
37. Showings
38. Conclusion
39. Share a common boundary
40. Shooting sport
41. Popular side dish
42. Global energy firm
43. Chronicles (abbr.)

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Type of bomb

1	2	3					4	5	6	7
8			9				10			
11							12			
13				14			15			
16							17			
18					19	20				
					21			22		
					23			24		
					25			26		
					27			28		29
					34				35	36
36									37	
38									39	
40									41	
42									43	

2. Polynesian island country
3. Heavenly body
4. Hard workers
5. Covered
6. Johns Hopkins Hospital founder
7. Plant of the grass family
9. Island person of the Bering Sea
10. Storehouse
12. Scarlet-flowered desert shrub
14. A pituitary hormone
15. Female sibling
17. Monetary unit of

19. Empowering
20. Space station
23. Disorder
24. State of fuss
25. Footwear for babies
26. Nuclear reactor (abbr.)
27. Drove
28. Affirmative
29. Male parent
30. Utter obscenities
31. Type of verse
32. Unpleasant person
33. One who settles down
34. Founder of source-based history
36. A way to snarl

SERVICES

**ROSEISLE**  
**Backhoe**  
**Service Ltd.**

Roseisle Backhoe Service Ltd. has extended their services and are now able to offer manure spreading services with 4 truck mount spreaders. Wheel loader and excavator are both available for loading, feedlot cleaning, and stockpiling. Booking now for spring of 2025. **Call/text Jason Klassen at 204-750-0172 or email: jasonklassen.rbs@gmail.com**

CAREERS



**Assiniboine College**  
We are hiring!

Assiniboine College  
1430 Victoria Ave E.  
Brandon, MB R7A 2A9

**Shift Power Engineer**

Facilities  
Full-Time, Regular  
Brandon, MB  
Comp #69-24/25  
Salary: \$69,108.99 to \$83,824 annually  
(\$33.23 to \$40.30 hourly)  
Classification: O2E Power Engineer 2nd Class Plant  
(3rd class certificate)

The Shift Power Engineer will operate and maintain a Steam Plant at Assiniboine College in compliance with the Power Engineer Act, Provincial Codes and acceptable best trade practices, as well as Workplace Health and Safety regulations. In the absence of the Chief Power Engineer and/or Facility Manager, the incumbent may be responsible for the entire physical plant operation. The Shift Power Engineer may be the initial contact in service requests under the guidance of the Chief Power Engineer and/or Facility Manager.

**How to Apply:**  
If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to this competition to careers@assiniboine.net. We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

COMING EVENTS

Candlewick Players Present  
the Romantic Comedy



By Samuel Taylor

**Valentine's Dinner Theatre**

Manitou Opera House  
Friday, Feb 14 - 6:30 PM  
Saturday, Feb 15 - 6:30 PM

**Valentine's Theatre**

Kenmor Theatre, Morden  
Friday, Feb 21 - 7 PM  
Saturday, Feb 22 - 7 PM  
Sunday, Feb 23 - 3 PM

www.candlewick.ca // 204-822-7469

CAREERS



**Assiniboine College**  
We are hiring!

Assiniboine College  
1430 Victoria Ave E.  
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**Instructor, Practical Nursing**

School of Nursing  
2x Full-Time, Term (Aug 18/25 to May 28/27)  
Part-Time & casual (Aug 18/25 to May 28/27)  
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Comp #72-24/25  
Salary: \$63,431 to \$97,078 annually (\$33.65 to \$51.50 hourly)  
(Educational Supplement: Masters \$1.52/hour; PhD \$3.03/hour)

As an Instructor in our Practical Nursing program, you will play a vital role in shaping the future of nursing education. Reporting to the Chairperson or Program Coordinator, you will develop and deliver curricula, evaluate student performance, and engage in various administrative functions. You will also support college promotion, student recruitment, student placement, and industry liaison.

**\*We are open to secondment opportunities\***

**How to Apply:**  
If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to this competition to careers@assiniboine.net. We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2025-001 and By-law No. 2335-25, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2335-25, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

**268 Albert St, legally described as Lot 4, Plan 46139 MLT0.**

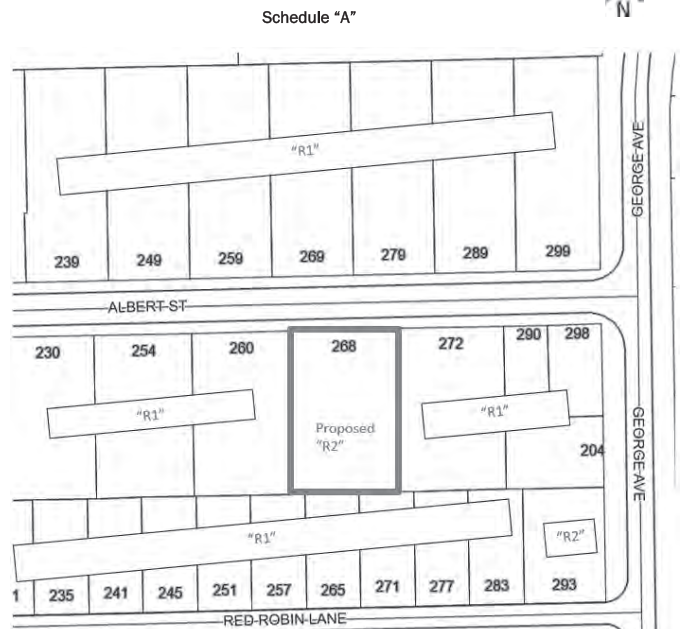
as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

**FROM:** "R1" RESIDENTIAL LOWER DENSITY  
**TO:** "R2" RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2335-25 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

**Date of Hearing:** February 25, 2025  
**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.  
Designated Officer, City of Winkler



185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4  
204-325-9524 | permits@cityofwinkler.ca WWW.WINKLER.CA

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Altona Senior Centre  
will be holding the  
**ANNUAL GENERAL**  
**MEETING**

At the Senior Centre  
**Thurs., Feb. 27**  
**at 7:00 p.m.**  
*Coffee and Dainties will be served.*

PUBLIC NOTICE



**Call for Nominations to**  
**the Board of Directors**

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**Please, submit expressions of interest**  
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Winkler-Morden

## ENGAGEMENT



**Congratulations**  
**Sierra Peters and Coby Enns**  
**on your engagement!**  
**Look at those smiles!**  
Proud parents are  
**Adam Peters and Xavy Peters,**  
**Nicole (Enns) and Ray Reidle.**  
A fall wedding is being planned.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Harold Bollenbach**  
**1943 – 2023**  
**In Loving Memory**  
The world may change from year to year,  
And friends from day to day;  
But never will the one we loved,  
From memory pass away.  
-Dearly missed by your sister,  
Bollenbach nieces and nephews  
and families

## OBITUARY



### Obituary of Jacob Hildebrandt (1928 – 2025)

Jakob Hildebrandt was born October 12, 1928 in New Chortitza, Ukraine, U.S.S.R. In World War II. Jakob and his mother became refugees in Germany, when at age 14 he acted as interpreter for the army. At age 17, he surrendered his life to God and vowed to serve him for the rest of his life.

Thanks to MCC and sponsoring relatives he and his mother emigrated to Canada in 1948. After working as a cabinet maker he attended Winkler Bible School, Winkler High School, Teachers' College and University of Manitoba in preparation for his service to his Lord.

In 1970 he married Tina Thiessen, the love of his life. Jakob taught in various rural and urban communities in Manitoba; the highlight of his career was Govt. College, Nigeria (West Africa)

where he assisted several students to attain graduate studies in America. Jake served as lay minister in the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church for 12 years. In their retirement he and Tina did short-term mission assignments in the U.S.A., Mexico (Campus Crusade), Lithuania and Ukraine.

Jakob was always grateful for God's grace these 96 years. He is survived by his loving wife Tina.

Sincere thanks to all involved in the celebration of the life of Jakob Hildebrandt.

To God be the glory.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to MCC, 325 4 St, Winkler, MB R6W 0M5.

Funeral Service was held on Sunday, February 2nd, 2025, at 2 PM at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
in care of arrangements  
www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



## CAREERS

# BUNGE

## MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

Bunge Altona has an opening for a Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright. Work involves process equipment installation, maintenance and repair, lubrication, steel fabrication and welding.

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible.

Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
- Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
- Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
- Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience

This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

Starting Wages:

- Mechanic \$32.70/hour
- Red Seal Millwright: \$38.08/hour

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.

**Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.**

## PUBLIC NOTICE



The Winkler Centennial Golf Course  
intends to conduct its  
**Pesticide Control Program**  
from April 1, 2025 to Nov 15, 2025.

The Program is to control Turf Diseases, and Noxious Weeds within the property.

The Control Products include:

Chlorothalonil, Fludioxonil, Propiconazole, Fluxapyroxad, Polyoxin, Tebuconazole, Trifloxystrobin, Glyphosate, 2,4-D Mecoprop-P, dicamba, Mefentrifluconazole, Carfentrazone-ethyl, Polyoxind Zin Salt, Triticonazole, fluxastrobin, trinexapac-ethyl, hydrogen peroxide, pyraclostrobin

The public may send written submissions or objections within 15 days of publication of the notice to the department below.

**Environment and Climate Change  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard  
Winnipeg, MB, R3Y 0L6**

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# Officials highlight border security at Emerson Port of Entry

By Lori Penner

Federal Public Safety Minister David McGuinty, Minister Responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada Terry Duguid, and Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew visited the Emerson Port of Entry on Feb. 4 to review recently enhanced border security measures.

Their visit follows U.S. President Donald Trump's administration's decision to pause a proposed 25 per cent import tariff on Canadian goods, a move Canadian officials hope will become permanent.

During their visit, the officials emphasized the importance of security at one of Canada's busiest border crossings and outlined new investments aimed at further strengthening protections.

McGuinty addressed a slew of media from Canada and the U.S., underlining the significance of the Emerson crossing.

"We know this is one of the busiest ports along the Canada-U.S. border west of the Great Lakes," he said. "It operates 24/7, serving as a vital link for tourism and trade between the prairies, the U.S., and Mexico. Over 50 border services officers work here, and their American counterparts are just as committed to ensuring security and smooth trade operations."

He highlighted the economic stakes at the border, noting that nearly \$3.6 billion worth of trade and approximately 400,000 people cross the Canada-U.S. border daily. He also stressed the critical role played by Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officers and law enforcement in patrolling and safeguarding these crossings. There are now nearly 10,000 frontline personnel working to protect the border.

Following discussions between Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Trump, Canada announced significant security investments, including an additional \$200 million to combat organized crime, the appointment of a "fentanyl czar," and the classification of Mexican cartels as terrorist organizations.

"The border is already strong," McGuinty said. "But the investments we're making are making it stronger. Our goal is to prevent tariffs from being imposed while ensuring the security of Canadians and Americans alike."

He also acknowledged growing concerns among Canadians regarding the potential economic fallout from tariffs.

"We have constituents calling our offices, some in tears, worried about what might happen if tariffs go through. This is real for us, and we are making that very clear in Washington, D.C., and at the White House."

Canada's security strategy is part of a broader \$1.3 billion border plan, McGuinty said.

"We have to keep moving forward as Team Canada, managing this relationship with our largest trading partner, our closest geographical neighbor, and our strongest ally."

The premier echoed McGuinty's sentiments, emphasizing the importance of collaboration.

"The work you do here at the border is integral to strengthening our relationship with the United States," Kinew said, addressing CBSA officers at the Emerson facility. "As the Province of Manitoba, we're proud to step up and partner with law enforcement, conservation officers, and emergency measures organizations to support a strong and secure border."

He highlighted the importance of continuous vigilance.

"We need 24/7 eyes on the border, and the only way to achieve that is by working together. The investments we're making now not only strengthen our border but also protect Manitobans and all Canadians from threats like fentanyl and organized crime."

During their visit, the officials observed a demonstration of the Designated Safe Examination Area (DSEA), a new initiative that allows CBSA officers to detect and handle fentanyl and other toxic substances more effectively.

They were also supposed to witness a demonstration of the Emerson crossing's new Black Hawk helicop-



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE  
Right: Premier Wab Kinew addressed the press during a visit to the Emerson Port of Entry to review recently enhanced border security measures. Above: A border official demonstrates how a fentanyl screener works.



ter, but an RCMP spokesperson said it was unavailable that day due to reasons "out of our control."

The new federal money will also be used to purchase drones, mobile surveillance towers, more personnel and canine teams.

Minister Duguid provided key statistics highlighting the economic impact of the Emerson border crossing.

"Every day, 1,200 trucks pass through the Emerson port of entry, carrying \$30 million worth of goods. That's \$14 billion annually in trade moving south and \$17 billion coming in from the U.S.," he explained. "We are at the heart of what we call the Mid-Continent Corridor, stretching from Churchill to Monterey, Mexico. This corridor fuels prosperity and employment, and many of our goods - from grain and livestock to energy products - move through it."

Duguid acknowledged concerns over border security but emphasized that recent investments will help mitigate risks.

"We believe in our border, and we believe we can make it stronger. That's why we take these issues so seriously, and that's why this \$1.3 billion plan is so critical."

Throughout the visit, officials expressed gratitude for the individuals working on the front lines to keep the border safe.

"The work you do every day makes our country safer," Kinew told CBSA officers. "It makes our First Nations communities, our towns, our cities,

and our neighborhoods safer. It also makes us proud as Canadians and as neighbors to the U.S."

He reiterated that security efforts must align with economic priorities.

"Let's be clear: the reason we're doing this is because it's good for Manitobans. Manitobans want to see fentanyl taken off the streets. Manitobans want secure borders. If we can make these investments while also strengthening our relationship with the U.S. and helping our economy, then it's all the better."

As the visit concluded, officials reinforced their commitment to ongoing collaboration between Canadian and U.S. security agencies. McGuinty emphasized that Canada and the U.S. share the longest and most secure border in the world.

"Our objective yesterday was no tariffs. Today, no tariffs. Tomorrow, no tariffs," McGuinty said. "We will continue to work closely with our American counterparts to uphold the 150-year legacy of security and cooperation between our countries."

## > MEASLES, FROM PG. 11

Individuals are not contagious in the first four days following the first exposure.

- Get vaccinated. The measles vaccine is recommended.
- Watch for symptoms of measles until the date that corresponds with

their situation as indicated above.

If symptoms develop, people are advised to isolate at home and contact their health-care provider and advise them of the potential exposure to measles. It is best to call ahead so health-care staff can take steps to re-

duce the exposure of other people to the virus.

Measles is a highly infectious communicable disease that is spread through droplets in the air formed when coughing or sneezing. An infected person can spread the virus from four days before the rash ap-

pears until four days after. The disease tends to be more severe in infants and young children and can be life-threatening.

Immunization is the only means of protecting people from contracting measles.

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STOCK #198223  
160,000 KMS



LOCAL, ONE OWNER, NO  
ACCIDENTS, REMOTE START,  
HEATED SEATS

**CONTACT  
FOR PRICE**



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\*Honda Loyalty Program, \*\*Lease Rate, \*\*\*Vehicles not exactly as pictured.