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Cooking up a bright future

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The unique consortium that is the Red River Technical Vocational Area was on display last Friday as Apprenticeship Manitoba representatives joined educators and senior administrators from across southern Manitoba to tour some of the organization's partner schools.

It was a whirlwind day that began at the auto body program at Morris School and ended with a tour of the Morden Collegiate welding shop, with stops at just about every RRTVA program school in between, including Northlands Parkway Collegiate, Garden Valley Collegiate, and GVC TEC in Winkler.

"We always want to show other people in the province what we do here," said Reg Toews, one of the RRTVA's High School Apprenticeship Program teachers. "Some divisions have a fairly limited program availability for their students, so this is something that they can come see and ask a lot of questions. It's a way for us to help them along, too, as they continue to grow their own programs."

RRTVA programs offer hands-on training in everything from culinary arts, hairstyling,



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

NPC baking and pastry arts students Emily Wiebe, Emily Friesen, and Cora Klassen with instructor Shelley Nikkel during a behind-the-scenes tour of RRTVA programs at local schools last week.

and child care to electrical technology, carpentry, and heavy duty equipment, to name just a few.

"We're on a good path here. We're always developing, evolving our programs," Toews said. "I think we position ourselves as leaders in the province."

Indeed, though technical vocational education is nothing new in Manitoba, the fact that the RRTVA provides over 20 programs across 12 different high schools and five divisions makes it stand apart from everything else offered in the province, says program services coordinator Lane Curry.

This partnership—easily the largest of its kind in

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Students honoured for overcoming challenges

By Lorne Stelmach

Three local students were among this year's recipients of an award that recognizes the achievements of youth with disabilities.

Yes I Can awards were presented Feb. 18 to Zachary Monster of Garden Valley Collegiate and Carly Staple and Cody Enns of Morden Collegiate.

The awards pay tribute to youth who have overcome the barriers of their disabilities.

"I feel very honoured. It's a very special privilege. I've never won anything like this," said Monster, a Gr. 12 student cited for his participation in class and particularly with the school's *Magical Mystery Tour* drama production.

Despite having no prior experience, he not only impressed with his audition but earned the colourful role of King Richard's squire.

"It's nice to receive an award, especially when it's for being involved in something that I really enjoy," he said.

"I was nervous about being on stage in front of hundreds of people," said Monster, adding that in the end it proved to be a great experience. "It really brightened my life, I have to admit. I wouldn't give this back for the world. It definitely boosts my motivation, confidence, and, most importantly, self-esteem. I really need all three of those.

"It's been one heck of a ride, and I'm glad to be where I am today."

Staple was recognized for her artistic accomplishments, earning praise in her citation for having "a unique and decisive ability to bring forth the subject of her art."

The Gr. 12 student was also honoured for involvement in the dramatic arts, including playing a bad girl who was transformed into a positive force as part of an anti-bullying play.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE Garden Valley Collegiate student Zachary Monster (right) and Morden Collegiate's Cody Enns and Carly Staple (above) received Yes I Can Awards at a special ceremony in Winnipeg last week.

"I felt happy and proud ... and my parents were thrilled when I won the award," said Staple, adding it felt especially good to be recognized for something that gives her so much satisfaction."I love art and I love to draw ... anything and everything."

Enns was recognized for being fully engaged and participating in activities in both his school and community.

His citation honoured him for accomplishments ranging from being involved with a school-based jobs crew to work experience at the local Co-op. He is also involved in Special Olympics and the drama/backstage theatre program at Morden Collegiate.

"It feels good to be honoured," said Enns, noting this was the first time he had received an award. "My family is quite proud of me."

The Yes I Can awards are presented

annually by the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children to help dispel public misconceptions, encourage youth with disabilities to realize their potential, and increase awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of people with disabilities Nominees may be recognized for



achievements in categories including academics, arts, athletics, technology, self-advocacy, school and community activities, and transition.

Some of the winners may also be selected as nominees for future International Yes I Can awards.









Clockwise from bottom left: During a RRTVA tour last week, Julien Simpson from Kleefield spoke about his time in the GVC TEC horticulture program;



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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JESUS CHRIST

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PEMBINA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH 120 Manitoba Road, Winkler, MB EVERYONE WELCOME! For more information call (204) 325-5670 students in electrical courses were hard at work at NPC; instructor Robin Mondor and students Matthew Froese and David Thiessen talked about the automotive program at GVC; and Kiera Driedger demonstrated some of the skills learned in the region's cosmetology program.

> RRTVA, FROM PG. 1

Manitoba—allows for a much wider variety of programming than any one of the divisions could offer on their own, he says.

"That's one of the things that surprises a lot of people: how well all these different divisions, principals from different schools are working together," Curry said.

Enrolled students spend a full semester in their RRTVA program schools, taking all their non-vocational courses in their home school the other semester.

"One thing we're trying to show is that in every program—whether it's located in Morris or Altona or Winkler or Morden or Dominion City—those students aren't all from there. And I think that's a really unique thing," said Curry. "Students are travelling to take these programs. They see the value."

There are currently 623 students registered in RRTVA courses, split across the school year's two semesters. That includes 132 students who are involved in courses that allow them to get a head start on their apprenticeship trades training certifications.

"Students are working in trades around the community and are able to tie that in with high school credits and also with Apprenticeship Manitoba," explained Toews. "So after they graduate they're able to continue on in that trade and those hours already count and they just continue on with their apprenticeship."

It's that real-life component that appeals to so many of the students, several of whom shared their stories with the tour group last week.

"I like that when you learn stuff, you actually apply it," said Matthew Froese, a student in the automotive technology course



at GVC.

Fellow automotive student David Thiessen pointed out that in-class book work is important, but agreed he was in the course because it let him get his hands dirty.

"You need the theory of the components, you need to know how they work before you can take them apart and put them back together," he said. "So obviously you need the theory, but it's much better when you can actually go into the shop and take stuff apart and actually see how it works.

"You can use pen and paper, but it's much better if you can actually see it ... that's the way I like to learn, anyway."

These comments were echoed time and again by many of the students across several programs.

They emphasized their excitement at being able to learn trades they're passionate about here and now rather than after graduation, giving them a head-start on their careers.

"We're always learning something new," said one student in the NPC cosmetology program. "Once I graduate I'll already be certified to do something, so I don't have to go pay for schooling afterwards." Even if they aren't planning on pursuing a career

in a given field, the skills they learn through the vocational courses will still hold them in good stead on whatever path they choose, noted Thiessen.

"Even if you don't go into the automotive industry, the things that you learn here, they'll help you forever,"he said.

You can learn more about the RRTVA online at www.rrtva.ca.

Biking for the critters

A canine companion helped encourage the volunteers on hand at the Fittwell Centre in Morden Saturday for a stationary bike Ride-A-Thon to raise money for the Kat's Kritters Rescue. Participants aimed to cycle 30, 50 or 100 kilometers, raising \$5 per 10 km for the non-profit rescue. The riders biked just over 963 km over a combined time of 27 hours and 42 minutes, raising \$850.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Chamber names business award winners

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Five Winkler businesses will be honoured for their contribution to the community this spring. The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the 2016 P.W. Enns Business Awards last week. The honourees include Chad's Auto Repair in Business Excellence, Charley B's Classic Grill and Ice Cream Parlour as a Business Builder (10 employees or less), Icon Technologies as a Business Builder (over 10 employees), Shoppers Drug Mart for Customer Service, and the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre in the Notfor-Profit category.

Chamber executive director Tanya Chateauneuf says

they received a lot of worthy nominees this year, but these five rose to the top.

"I have to say, we have a great group of winners this year," she said. "Winkler has such an amazing business community and as the chamber of commerce we're so excited and

AND PROUD TO CELEBRATE THESE BUSINESSES ..."

"WE'RE SO EXCITED

Alzheimer Society hosting Telehealth sessions

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The second of three Telehealth sessions for people affected by Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia takes place at the Boundary Trails Health Centre on March 1.

Hosted by the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba, these sessions are designed to give caregivers the tools to better handle their loved one's illness, says regional coordinator Kathy Fehr.

"These sessions are intended to help caregivers understand the progression of dementia and how best to care for a person suffering from it," she says. "They're very easy to understand, very straightforward, and yet full of lots of great information."

The speakers for these events are streamed from Winnipeg to Telehealth sites all over the province, including at the BTHC and the hospitals in Altona and Carman.

Telehealth is a two-way system, so local participants are able to ask questions of the speaker after the presentation.

"It's pretty phenomenal that we have this

technology right here, right close to our communities," Fehr says.

The first session held Feb. 2 went over the progression of dementia.

"It went very well. We had a pretty good turnout, though we could always have more," Fehr says, noting about a dozen people came out for the presentation.

The March session will focus on how and when to decide a person with dementia should no longer driving.

"It's going to be a very helpful session simply because there are a lot of people diagnosed with early-onset that are still driving, so this will be how to have that conversation, when to have that conversation," says Fehr."It can be a very difficult thing to do."

The final session will take place April 5 and talk about becoming a resilient caregiver: the importance of taking care of oneself while also taking care of someone with dementia.

All sessions are free to attend and run from 6:30-8 p.m. Pre-register online at Alzheimer. mb.ca, or phone the Alzheimer's Society office @ 204-325-5634. Drop-ins are also welcome. proud to celebrate these businesses for the simple fact that they are unique and each brings something special to what we have here in Winkler, what we have to offer."

Continued on page 7

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The vox populi is screaming

CEDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

t seems as if the divide between leaders and the "regular" folk the world over has never been wider these days.

No matter where you look you can find interesting (read: staggering) examples of the gulf between the people and its leadership.

In the United States the cabal of traditional Re-

AGRICULTURE REPORTER

Harry Siemens

PRODUCTION

nomination. "Why," they ask, "is such a person so popular?"

> Of course, he is popular because he has done something they have failed to do: he speaks with the vox populi, the voice of the people, and those who have traditionally held authority are shuddering at the thought that he represents what the average American is thinking right now. In fact they, like so many others, have intentionally blinded themselves to it in hopes

it would simply go away.

It is not only in the United States we see these things. In England right now there is a large and growing movement that seeks to leave the European community. The traditional leaders have largely operated under the perspective that "it will never happen" but with the recent support of popular London Mayor Boris Johnson, another"man of the people," suddenly it appears a real likelihood.

The reality in so many places, be they international, national, provincial or local, is that old guard leadership has been operating under a sense of entitlement.

While the faces may change from time to time, the belief continues that leadership's role is to make the decisions the average person cannot (or should not); that leadership is primarily there to shepherd the people toward the "right" goal—not necessarily the one they want, but, hey, apathy will ensure they will come around in time.

This is leadership people are used to but increasingly tired of—the leadership of people who would rather not do what the majority want, but rather what they believe the majority need.

Leadership that says to itself" if they want to communicate they should come to us. If they don't, too bad." It is elitist, patronizing, and, worst of all, undemocratic.

Feeling increasingly shunted aside and ignored, people are driven to the extremes. They shout to be heard and say shocking things because it seems to be the only way they can get anything done. They back the most radical of people in order to have an effect, any effect on their own world.

This is the most dangerous thing about a disconnected leadership that ignores its own electorate (or membership in the case of a board of directors, or employees in the case of a CEO or boss): disconnected leadership creates the conditions wherein radicals can grow and even thrive.

Leadership that is not listening to its base, that is not in regular and direct communication with the people they represent, is doomed to drift into a place where their constituents cannot or will not follow; a place where decisions are made without input; a place where phrases like "they don't know what they're talking about" or "why would they not like this" are heard increasingly often on both sides of the fence.

When this happens and the voice of the people is raw and hoarse from shouting, the shouting soon stops and leadership is turfed for something different, anything at all.

letters

Natural health products have long history of safe use: CHFA

We are writing in response to Dr. Dan Hunt's Feb. 4 column "Supplements: help or harm?"

The column draws inaccurate, misleading and unwarranted conclusions related to the safety, efficacy and evidence requirements of natural health products (NHPs) in

Canada.

It is important to acknowledge that NHPs have a long history of safe use. The evidence requirements for NHPs reflect this history and the low-risk nature of these products.

Contrary to Dr. Hunt's claims, the evidence requirements for NHPs

can include valid, high-quality scientific and/or traditional evidence to support the claims made on the label, and to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of the product. The Canadian Health Food Associ-

Continued on page 7

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to news@winklermordenvoice.ca. Please include your full name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.



By Peter y ask, Cantelon

Clint Malarchuk this year's keynote speaker

From Pg. 5

Chad Berg, owner of Chad's Auto Repair, says the call from the chamber notifying him of the award came as a shock.

"We were actually initially nominated for a Business Builder Award, so we had put something together for that ... and then all of a sudden Tanya calls me and says we're receiving the Business Excellence Award," he said. "So that was a complete surprise."

The repair shop has been operating in Winkler for over 20 years, starting as a one-man operation and growing to today include three full-time mechanics.

"We are all about customer service," Berg said. "Often those extra little things that you do, you do that because you want to do a good job, obviously, but for a group like the chamber to recognize the extra efforts that we put in, that is just amazing.

Berg and all the recipients will receive their awards and share a bit

> LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

ation (CHFA) believes that Canadians should be confident in Canadian NHPs, as our country has one of the most advanced regulatory frameworks for NHPs in the world. Canada is truly a global leader in the regulation of NHPs with a pre-market approval system that also respects traditional values from many different cultures and allows Canadians access to these important products.

With over 77 per cent of Canadians using NHPs, it is important to clarify that Health Canada reviews and approves each product before it is sold on store shelves. NHPs that have been assessed by Health Canada for safety, efficacy and quality have been issued a Natural Product Number (NPN) which can be found on the product label.

For more information on a specific product legally licenced for sale in Canada, consult Health Canada's Licenced Natural Health Products Database (LNHPD) online, which contains product-specific information on the NHPs that have been issued a product licence, or visit chfa.ca.

> Helen Long, president, Canadian Health Food Association

about their business at the chamber's annual gala on April 21.

This year's keynote speaker is former professional hockey player Clint Malarchuk.

The NHL netminder is best known for having survived a life-threatening injury during a game when another player's skate blade sliced his carotid artery and jugular vein.

Following the incident, Malarchuk grappled with PTSD, depression, and obsessive compulsive disorder. He is now an active mental health advocate

and his presentation will speak to overcoming challenges regardless of how big they seem.

Tickets to the gala are available by contacting the chamber at 204-325-9758 or online at winklerchamber. com.



Grain producers: Important changes to wheat classes and variety designations

AS OF AUGUST 1, 2016

- Two new wheat classes will come into effect: Canada Northern Hard Red and Canada Western Special Purpose.
- Three wheat classes will be eliminated: Canada Western Interim Wheat, Canada Western General Purpose, and Canada Western Feed.

AS OF AUGUST 1, 2016

Canada Western Interim Wheat varieties move to Canada Northern Hard Red class Faller Prosper Elgin ND

Canada Western General Purpose varieties move to Canada Western Special Purpose class

NRG010

Peregrine

Pasteur

Pintail

AAC Proclaim AAC Innova AAC NRG097 Accipiter Broadview

CDC Clair

CDC Falcon **CDC** Harrier CDC Kestrel CDC NRG003 **CDC** Primepurple **CDC** Ptarmigan

SY087 **CDC** Raptor Minnedosa

Sunrise Swainson WFT 603

AS OF AUGUST 1, 2018

Canada Western Red Spring varieties move to Canada Northern Hard Red class

| AC Abbey | Alikat | Katepwa | Pembina | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|--|--|--|
| AC Cora | CDC Makwa | Leader | Thatcher | | | |
| AC Eatonia | CDC Osler | Lillian | Unity | | | |
| AC Majestic | Columbus | McKenzie | 5603HR | | | |
| AC Michael | Conway | Neepawa | | | | |
| AC Minto | Harvest | Park | | | | |
| Alvena | Kane | Pasqua | | | | |
| Canada Prairie Spring Red varieties move to Canada Northern Hard Red class | | | | | | |

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All about bugs

A Rocha Nature Talk focuses in on the creepy crawlies of the world

By Lorne Stelmach

Insects are arguably the most successful animal group on the planet. It is estimated of the 1.5 to 1.8 million species that have been identified. over 750,000 are insects, and the majority of the species yet to be identified are probably insects as well.

In Canada alone there are about 30,000 species, estimated Luc Blanchette in ĥis A Rocha Nature Talk entitled *A Bug's Life: Insect Ecology* 101 Feb. 18 at the Morden Library.

"And there are still many more species being discovered," he added in launching into over an hour long presentation that took people through some of the main varieties found locally.

Blanchette, an entomologist, educator and naturalist, has long been involved with and a supporter of A Rocha.

His presentation not only introduced people to some of the main species of insects but also addressed the easily overlooked roles they play in the world at large.

Well known, of course, is the important role they play in pollination, which becomes increasingly vital when considering issues related to

our food supply. There would be a tremendous impact without insects, he stressed.

"We would be losing a lot of food diversity ... you would have less variety of food ... a lot less ... that would be what we would lose if there was no insect pollination."

A lot of insects also serve a role in dealing with our waste by assisting with decomposition.

As well, in many countries, insects are even a staple part of the diet for many people.

"And yes, if you are asking, I have eaten insects. I was curious enough. It doesn't taste like anything bad ... it's feasible," Blanchette said with a chuckle.

"You go into the market and you can buy crickets ... grasshoppers ... caterpillars by the pound," he later added, eliciting some laughs when he noted, "I love the meal worms when they are barbecue flavour."

He went on to note that some insects have even played a role in our health care through the development of medications.

"Some of the worst insects we can think of ... like mosquitoes, flies, midges ... lots of medications have come from those insects," he said.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Luc Blanchette, guest speaker at the Feb. 18 A Rocha Nature Talk, brought along a variety of samples of a few of the many species of insects he addressed in his A Bug's Life presentation.

"WE DON'T WANT TO

WE'RE GOING TO KEEP

GO BACKWARDS ...

GROWING THIS."

"Naturally, when a mosquito bites you, it doesn't want you to know ... so it sends a kind of anesthetic into your skin. Researchers have been able to find that anesthetic and isolate it.

"So if we had been able, say, a hundred years ago to eradicate all mosquitoes, we would have lost those medications."

Genetic research has also benefitted from fruit flies, Blanchette went on.

"They have 75 per cent of the same genetic diseases that humans do. So lots of the research ... it can all start with the fruit fly."

Blanchette also touched on the key

factors that define an insect, including having at least three body parts, six legs and an exo-skeleton.

"Ninety nine per cent of the insect species can fly," he estimated, also adding that their eyes and vision also make them unique.

"The eyes are very weird compared to our own ... multi-faceted eyes," he said. "Of course, their vision would be a bit different from ours ... it kind of looks like a badly pixelated image on a computer. They might lose a bit of precision in their sight, but those kind of eyes allow them to see light that we can't."

Organizers get ball rolling on Harvest Fest. planning

By Ashleigh Viveiros

August may be six months away, but the Winkler Harvest Festival and Exhibition committee is already getting the ball rolling on planning.

Organizers held their first meeting of the year for the 2016 festival last week. Director Deb Penner said the committee has plenty of familiar faces on it.

"Everybody came back again from last year. In fact, some of my volunteers are in their 10th year of helping with the festival," she said. "So everybody's back, the schedule is full, and we spent a lot of time yesterday just brainstorming, trying to come up with some new things."

Last year's 30th anniversary celebration set the bar high, but Penner is confident they won't have a problem doing the same again this summer.

"I think we have some momentum,

definitely, from last year and hopefully we'll continue to keep doing that and make the community proud of what the volunteers are accomplishing," she said.

The anniversary year was bolstered by extra funding from Triple E, which was also celebrating 30 years in the community in 2015. Penner said the company has come on board again this year as a major sponsor, and with additional funding from other businesses and the City of Winkler, the festival's finances couldn't be better.

"Where Triple E did that big amount last year, we'll probably get close to that again this year [with all the sponsorships]," she said."We don't want to go backwards ... we're going to keep growing this."

Many of the new proposed festival events are still very much in the early planning stages, but Penner noted one that's already confirmed is an expansion of the Strong Man event.

"It's always been just the men competing on the Saturday but this year we're adding a women's competition itself is pretty much set, Penner not-

for the Sunday, so we're super excited about that."

Beyond any new activities, all the festival favourites will also be back: the high school rodeo, the kid's activity tent, the midway, and, of course, a stellar line-up of stage entertainment.

"I truly believe we

consistently have the best entertainment, bar none, of any community festival in Manitoba," Penner said, noting they expect to make an announcement as to the festival's headliners within the next month.

The festival committee will meet

monthly through to August as the event starts to take shape.

Although the planning committee ed there's always

room for extra helping hands.

"If there's good people willing to do some work, I'm definitely always looking for volunteers," she pointing said, out that it takes upwards of 250 volunteers to pull

off the festival each year, and there are plenty of roles both during festival weekend and in advance of it that need to be filled.

Contact Penner at 204-325-5600 if you'd like to learn more about getting involved.

Local cyclists tackling 1,500 km Cycle of Hope

Morden bikers raising funds for Habitat for Humanity Manitoba

By Lorne Stelmach

Their goal is to cycle about 1,500 kilometres over a two week period.

So it's not exactly a holiday for Brent Gouthro and Ken Froese, but it is an adventure they are gladly taking on this summer.

The two Morden residents are joining the Cycle of Hope in support of Habitat for Humanity from July 1-16.

They will be part of a team of cyclists who will undertake the journey from Kansas City back to Manitoba to raise money in support of a Habitat for Humanity home to be built in Winnipeg.

The idea for this undertaking, which will take them through Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota, came from Gouthro's brother-in-law who likes to cycle and suggested they take on a different adventure. Gouthro then convinced Froese to join as well.

"Ken and I have done lots of fundraising bike rides in the past," said Gouthro.

"Those have almost always been one or two day rides, though, so this is stepping it up," added Froese.

The motivation was also to support an organization which Gouthro ad-

mires.

"It's just the importance of supporting people, and I like the idea of if you want a house with Habitat you put some sweat equity into it ... so you have some ownership of it," he said, noting a family member lives in Indiana right next to a row of Habitat houses for lower income families who wouldn't have a house otherwise.

"I like the idea of helping those people who, for whatever reason, have not been able to own a home, and this really gives them a chance to be part of it," agreed Froese.

The first Cycle of Hope was held in 1994 when 12 cyclists rode 1,000 kilometres to South Dakota and raised \$35,000.

Since that time, the event has grown steadily and raised over \$2.8 million to build 346 Habitat for Humanity Manitoba homes.

Gouthro said he believes there are about 25 riders signed up so far for this year's ride, with room for 40 in total.

Along the way they will be spending their nights in a variety of locations like local churches and community halls.

The journey usually includes two or three century rides where you aim for



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Brent Gouthro (left) and Ken Froese are training to take part in Habitat for Humanity's Cycle of Hope this summer. The duo will bike over 1,500 kilometres in just two weeks to raise funds and awareness for the charity that builds homes for families in need.

the 100 mile/160 km milestone along with shorter rides with an average target of about 100 kilometres a day.

"So that's not impossible. They suggest that typically people will cycle about 20 kilometres an hour," noted Froese. "So I've got my fingers crossed ... about five hours a day ... so if you can break that up, it's not huge. It's a big commitment though.

"I like the idea of using the bike for everything that you can," he added."I use it to commute to work as much as I can during the spring and summer. And I just think it's good use of a resource ... you don't have to use fuel to get everywhere."

"I think if more of us moved more and got out and enjoyed outdoor activities more, we would be healthier," agreed Gouthro."And Ken and I, both being nurses, we really believe in taking an active role in your health care." Gouthro said he was also inspired locally by the Donate Love organization when it helped renovate a rundown home for a local family in the area.

"I think that kind of thing is important. We should encourage that more," he said, noting perhaps a local Habitat for Humanity chapter could be started in the future. "If we were able to create a chapter here, the money that Ken and I raised would stay locally."

Aside from starting training come

Continued on page 10

Women's Giving Circle taking on \$10K challenge

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Area Foundation is calling on members of its Women's Giving Circle to take up a fundraising challenge.

The Winnipeg Foundation has issued a challenge to smaller foundations to raise \$10,000 by Sept. 30.

If the goal is achieved, the Women's Giving Circle will receive \$4,000 from the Winnipeg Foundation. From that amount, \$2,000 will go directly into the endowment fund and \$2,000 will be available immediately for grants.

The Morden Area Foundation aims to help the Giving Circle hit that target with an event Saturday, March 5. The Power of the Purse brunch will go from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Morden Friendship 55 Plus Activity Centre. Pre-registration is required, as space is limited.

The idea is to have 100 women each bring \$100 to donate. They will listen to three charities

make presentations on projects for which they require funding, then each woman will make a

personal decision as to which they want to help. MAF director Lynda MacLean said it is a different approach from having to agree on one charity to support. This process will empower each woman in attendance to give as they so choose to one or all three charities as they see fit.

"The women get to come in and they get to hear the stories from these charities," said MacLean, emphasizing that it makes giving more personal for the donors.

"They feel they are not only making a difference but making a choice. They get the power of the purse by putting it towards the one that they want to support."

Each of the charities, which are not revealed in advance, have projects ranging from about \$3,000 to \$8,100.

MacLean suggested the brunch has the po-

tential to raise the \$10,000 in one morning and reach the challenge goal instantly.

She added it is a win-win that provides immediate support and also builds the Women's Giving Circle endowment fund, which had stood at over \$51,000.

For more information or to sign-up for the brunch, contact the foundation by e-mail at info@mordenfoundation. ca or by calling 204-822-5614.



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By Ashleigh Viveiros

Northlands Parkway Collegiate's Youth in Philanthropy group is looking to do some good in the community this spring.

By May, the students hope to have raised \$1,000 for their annual grants, which will be matched by the Winkler Community Foundation for a total of \$2,000 to be distributed to nonprofit groups.

Group member Purity Heide says they're looking for smaller, local projects to support.

"There is no theme, really," she said, stressing it simply has to be a Winkler area non-profit organization that is having a positive impact.

Grants will be distributed at a school assembly in May.

Applications are due in by April 18. For an application form, contact YIP advisor Mandy Friesen at mandy.friesen@gvsd.ca or call the NPC office.

The students' fundraising efforts so far this year have included gift wrapping at Christmas, offering up a prime parking spot in the school's visitor parking zone in exchange for charitable donations, and hosting a few other in-school events.

The group will also be at the Winkler Co-op grocery store March 18 and 19 hosting a bake sale to further bolster their fundraising tally.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Northlands Parkway Collegiate's Youth in Philanthropy group is now accepting applications for their spring grants. The kids hope to have upwards of \$2,000 to hand out this year.

• STANLEY COUNCIL RM of Stanley talks police service, paving plans

WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

By Lorne Stelmach

Policing in the RM of Stanley will be up for discussion at an upcoming meeting with representatives of the RCMP.

Reeve Morris Olafson will participate in the annual meeting with the police in March.

It offers a chance to talk about services being provided and share any issues or concerns.

Olafson said it is always good to have an opportunity for dialogue. He generally sees the local detachment as doing a good job for the area with the resources that they have available.

"For the area that they have and the few people they have ... they are pretty efficient at what they do, so I give them credit.

"I consider us lucky in this area ... not to say that there aren't things going on all the time," he added. "We would always want more policing for sure ... but for the cost involved ..."

Although the idea of a regional police service has come up over the years, the discussion has not gone beyond talk and he doesn't see that changing in the near future.

"For us to go with a municipal police, the costs go way up," said Olafson. "It's a possibility in the future. As the years go by, with our growth ... it could quite easily be done with one force eventually.

"With a growing population, you are going to get more issues. You might think it would need more policing, but we've been pretty fortunate here," he noted. "We feel we have a good service, though we would still love to see more. I think we have a good service and a very well trained service."

PAVING IN REINFELD

Residents of the village of Reinfeld will be able to enjoy more smoother rides this year.

At its Feb. 11 meeting, Stanley council approved a village paving program for 2016 that will continue with more paving work after having completed some of the village last year.

Olafson noted a meeting in the village had over 80 per cent agree to the local improvement plan.

"Last year worked out very well ... and we have a very good percentage who want it," he said.

He estimated the local improvement cost to property owners will be around \$4,000 per lot, with a similar cost to the RM as well.

He said there is a clear benefit to the

> CYCLE OF HOPE, FROM PG. 9

spring, Gouthro and Froese are already working on their fundraising for the ride.

Each rider is challenged to raise at least \$3,000. Those funds go entirely to Habitat projects.

RM in the long term because it means reduced maintenance work.

"It's going to save us a lot of money in the end because the road will be better. We get an awful lot of complaints about soft roads," said Olafson. "This will make our snow clearing and street work so much easier."

He noted there will be one more year of paving needed in Reinfeld sometime in the future.

"We've got five or six other villages that require some paving as well. There's a piece to do in Schanzenfeld, Hochfeld and a few others as well."

Anyone who wants to support them can go to the Habitat for Humanity Manitoba website and go to Cycle of Hope to either donate to the project in general or to individual riders.

Cadets serve up breakfast





PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Members of the Royal Air Cadets 179 squadron along with other volunteers helped serve up a pancake breakfast Feb. 20 at the Morden Legion. This was the first year for this fundraiser in support of the local squadron. The total amount raised was not available at press time, but training officer Chris Flook said on Saturday that they were pleased with the response.

GVSD early years literacy program paying off

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley School Division's early years literacy initiatives are starting to pay off.

The Gr. 3 assessment results for 2015/16 show that local students are performing above provincial averages in literacy, with approximately 67 per cent of students meeting grade expectations. The provincial average is 58 per cent.

"That's exciting news," says assistant superintendent Todd Monster, who notes it's a far cry from where the division was just a few years ago.

The 2011/12 results showed only 53 per cent of GVSD kids were where they should be when it came to reading abilities—far below provincial averages.

The low scores prompted the division to launch its early years literacy initiative, which included additional professional development for K-4 teachers on literacy strategies in the classroom as well as ongoing assessments of students to help teachers better focus their instruction.

"With each year of the initiative we have seen an improvement in the number of Gr. 3 students that are meeting expectations," Monster said. "We hope to see those numbers continue to improve.

"As part of our literacy initiative

we have a goal of having 85 per cent of our students reading at or above grade level by the time they complete Gr. 4," he explained. "So we're really hoping and expecting that those results will continue to show improvement, but we're also really excited to be seeing this kind of improvement at this point already."

Monster noted that one exciting element of this success comes from the fact that so many of GVSD's students speak English as a second language.

A full 41 per cent of the assessed Gr. 3 are English as an Additional Language (EAL) students, which comes with its own challenges in the classroom.

"That is definitely something that teachers have to work differently with in helping EAL students not only develop literacy skills but also develop English literacy skills," Monster said. "So when we see the results the way that they are, recognizing that 41 per cent of our students are EAL, we're quite excited that our students are ac-

"WITH EACH YEAR OF THE INITIATIVE WE HAVE SEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE NUMBER OF GR. 3 STUDENTS THAT ARE MEETING EXPECTATIONS."

tually performing as well as they are." The impact of these results will ripple on down through the years for these students.

"When students have a strong foundation in literacy coming out of the early years, they're well positioned then to have greater success in all of their academics from then on," said Monster.

NEXT UP: MATH SKILLS

The Gr. 3 assessments also showed that GVSD students are above average in their numeracy skills.

Sixty-two per cent of local students are meeting grade expectations, com-

pared to the provincial average of 55 per cent.

"Although we have seen an improvement in the numeracy levels in the past four years, it has not been to the same extent as we've seen in literacy, and that's one of the reasons why numeracy has been added as a goal to the division's strategic plan," Monster said.

The division's numeracy initiative is being created right now with an eye to doing for math skills what the literacy initiative did for reading.

"We're very hopeful that we're going to see those numbers improve as well," said Monster.

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Students from the Douglas Kuhl School of Music got the chance to play with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra earlier this month. Taking part were (above, back row, from left) Haylee Henderson, Rachel Rempel, Faith Schroeder, Nya Dubyk, Kemper Hamm, Trey Hamm, instructor Rochelle Drudge, (front row, from left) Hezekiah Hoeppner, Amie Drudge, Olivia Groening, Beth Giesbrecht, Joel Alles, and Jaxson Friesen.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Twelve students from the Douglas Kuhl School of Music got the chance to play with the pros this month.

Through the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's Adventures in Music program, kids from Winkler, Morden, Thornhill, Altona, and Gretna took to the stage alongside the WSO for its education concert series Feb. 10.

Taking part were violinists Haylee Henderson,

Rachel Rempel, Faith Schroeder, Nya Dubyk, Kemper Hamm, Trey Hamm, Hezekiah Hoeppner, Amie Drudge, Olivia Groening, Beth Giesbrecht, Joel Alles, and Jaxson Friesen.

Instructor Rochelle Drudge says it was an exciting experience for the kids.

"It's great. They get to prepare a piece that they play together with the symphony on stage, and they're out front ... it's very exciting for everyone," she said.

Local Gr. 4-6 students have taken part in the pro-

gram for the last three years now.

"This year there were so many kids who had never been to a symphony, never been to the concert hall in Winnipeg, and some of them who had never participated in a group performance," Drudge said."There were so many of them that this experience just sort of blew them away.

"You get backstage and you're seeing all these musicians ... you're part of this big thing."



Katie's Cottage nears completion

By Ashleigh Viveiros

When Katie's Cottage opens it doors this summer, it will be a true home away from home for the families of patients receiving care at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

"That is exactly what we want. We want it to feel like a home," stressed Ruth Reimer, mother of Katie Cares founder Kaitlyn Reimer during a recent tour of the nearly completed facility.

Reimer led visitors through both the cottage's main building—which rolled off the Grandeur Housing assembly line just last week—and the still under con-

struction sleeping quarters section. (The two buildings will be connected onsite when both are moved to the lot across from the hospital once the ground thaws.)

Walking around the finished common rooms, it's clear they've met their goal of creating a welcoming

space. Katie's Cottage looks and feels very much more like a large home than any sort of hotel.

Natural light fills the high-ceilinged kitchen, dining, and recreation spaces (13-feet high at its tallest point), while the smaller rooms—the library, the private family meeting room—will be inviting, cozy areas once the furniture and decorations are in place.

The eight bedrooms—which will be accessible at all hours to guests via key card, while the common areas will be staffed during the day—each have their own private bathrooms, providing guests with a quiet place to clean up and recharge.

"They'll come across the street and register here and be able to spend the night, if that's what they need," Reimer says, noting guest rooms will be just \$30 a night, just enough to cover operational costs."If they just need to spend an afternoon here, they're welcome to do that. Grab a cup of coffee."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Ruth and Randy Reimer, parents of Katie Cares founder and namesake Kaitlyn Reimer, in the completed portion of the Katie's Cottage respite home, which aims to provide a comfortable retreat for families of patients at BTHC.

The importance of being able to stay close to the hospital is something that can't be overstated, Reimer says, remembering the long hours she and husband Randy spent at Kaitlyn's bedside during her cancer battle.

"You want to be as close as you can. You don't want to leave that person but you know you need to for a few minutes, so, if you think, this is just across the street. I am just across the street. I am not that far from you. I can be back in two minutes.

"I look at it as being so holistic," she adds. "If you can take care of the person who's the caregiver, they can go back and be that caregiver that their loved one needs."

ONE GIRL'S DREAM

Even as she dealt with her own illness, Kaitlyn saw the stress that having a loved one in the hospital put on their families. While the Ronald McDonald House in Winnipeg met the need there for a quiet place of retreat, no such option existed for the thousands of southern Manitoba families travelling to the BTHC.

Kaitlyn set out to change that, and though she wasn't able to see it through herself—she succumbed to cancer four years ago at the age of 15—her family and friends picked up the torch and ran with it.

Looking around at the building today, Reimer thinks Katie's Cottage is turning out to be just the way Kaitlyn would have wanted.

"I feel Katie in here," she says. "I just feel her presence ... whether it's the dream that's coming to reality or just her spirit in here, I feel it."

Katie's memory will be honoured with a tribute wall in the home, but she also lives on in every-

Continued on page 15



The modular home's main building (above) rolled off the Grandeur Housing assembly line last week and will be moved to the site across from the BTHC this spring. Right: Checking out one of the eight guest bedrooms still under construction.



"WE WANT IT TO FEEL LIKE A HOME."

> KATIE'S COTTAGE, FROM PG. 14

thing from the layout to the design choices.

"Kaitlyn, she would have wanted this games area, for sure," Reimer says, gesturing to a corner that will soon be filled with toys and games. "She would have wanted the library stocked with books, because that's who she was. She was such a reader."

"Those are things that she would have wanted, and I feel her here..."

A COMMUNITY PROJECT

As work wraps up on the building, Reimer stresses again, as she has so many times since the project was first announced just a year and a half ago, that it wouldn't be happening at all if not for the overwhelming support Katie's Cottage has received from the communities it seeks to serve.

"We can not say thank you enough to the community of Manitoba," she says."They have seen the dream that Kaitlyn had and they have felt it and now they're catching that dream."

Donations towards the \$650,000 facility have poured in from all across the province and beyond.

"As far north as Churchill ... then going west as far as Calgary and now east as far as Toronto. That is just ..." Reimer trails off, words failing her. "And this is one little girl's dream. One kid's dream.

"That's why I am truly humbled, my family—my husband, my son, my daughter-in-law-we are truly humbled by what people have done. They have been gracious, they've been super kind, and they've just taken her dream and made it a reality."

If you'd like to contribute to Katie's dream, you can send donations to Katie Cares Inc., 255 13th Street, Winkler, MB, R6W 1S5.

You can also learn more about Katie Cares and follow the construction progress of Katie's Cottage online at www.katiecares.ca.

Work has been completed on the respite home's common areas. Local businesses have had a big hand in the project, including Decor Cabinets, who did the kitchen cabinets (right), Prairie Barn Wood, which created the mantle for the eye-catching fireplace in the living room, and many others.

> **PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE**









Fun facts about February

February is the shortest month of the the one Egyptians used, instead of the

year, but many people have no idea why that is. February is the only month to have fewer than 30 days, but there is no scientific reason behind that distinction, though there have been various changes to the calendar throughout the centuries, and

eventually February became what it is to the solar cycle of roughly 365.2425 today.

The Romans developed a 10 month with no distinctive months.

Numa Pompilius, took to the throne in has four, full seven-day weeks. 713 BC, he had plans to make the cal-January and February had 28 days.

At the time, even numbers were and ends on the same weekday. considered bad luck, and these months People born on a leap year techni-"unlucky" month and one devoted and Dennis Farina. to honoring the dead and perform- Despite its status as the shorting rites of purification, as the word est month, February is packed with February comes from februare, which the start of the new year.

the amount of time it takes the Earth of the month in many provinces. to orbit the sun. Therefore, an extra up. Sometimes this extra month was first Sunday of February. overlooked or not scheduled in time, No one really knows for certain why

when he was in power. He wished to month, it is still a special time of year. make the calendar solar-based, like



nate the calendar year days.

February remains the shortest month calendar that began with the Spring of the year. Through the years there equinox in March and ended in has been no widespread attempt to December. There is belief that what is reorganize the calendar once more to now February was overlooked when even out the months and give extra this calendar was created, as winter time to February. As a result of the weather had little to do with the har- shorter number of days, February has vest in the northern hemisphere, where some unique attributes. In common Rome is located. Romans essentially years, February can pass without a considered the winter a period of time single full moon. The next time this will happen is in 2018. Once every six When the second king of Rome, years, February is the only month that

February starts on the same day of endar more accurate by synchronizing the week as March and November in it with the actual lunar year, which is common years, and on the same day roughly 354 days long. Thus, two new of the week as August on leap years. months, January and February, were February ends on the same day of the added to the end of the calendar. Both week as October every year. In leap years, it is the only month that begins

were not looked upon favorably by the cally celebrate their birthday only once king. So he decided to make changes every four years, but most observe once more and added a day to January it on the 28th. Celebrities born on to make it 29 days long. February February 29 include Tony Robbins, was left untouched, remaining an Antonio Sabato, Jr., Mervyn Warren,

many events, including Valentine's means "to purify." February remained Day and Groundhog's Day. Americans the last month of the year for roughly celebrate the birth of two presidents 200 years until the calendar was reeval- in February, as well as Black History uated and February was reassigned as Month. Mexicans celebrate Flag Day in the second month, with January being February, while residents of St. Lucia celebrate their Independence Day. This new 355-day calendar simply February is also a time for families, could not stay in sync with the sea- especially in Canada, where Family sons because it did not account for Day is celebrated on the third Monday

February is also an important month "month" of 27 days was added after for sports fans, as two teams will face February 23 each year to play catch- each other in the Super Bowl on the

continuing the calendar conundrum. February was relegated to the shortest Julius Caesar was responsible for month. However, with so much trivia tackling calendar problems further and special events surrounding the

older lunar-based calendar. This led to the creation of the Julian calendar. Ten days were added to the calendar year in various months, and February was increased every four years (leap year) to 29 days to coordi-









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Coig performs in Morden

Right: Rachel Davis and Chrissy Crowley play fiddle and viola for Cape Breton-based Celtic group Coig, who performed Feb. 21 at the Access Event Centre in Morden as part of the Southern Manitoba Concerts series. Above: Coig member Darren McMullen got toes tapping with his many instruments, including the guitar, mandolin, mandola, banjo, bouzouki, whistles, and flute.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Pembina Valley Studio Tour artist deadline nears

By Lorne Stelmach

It's an annual event that since 2005 has served as a showcase for some of the region's vast artistic talent.

There are likely many more artists in the area still to be discovered, so organizers of the Pembina Valley Studio Tour each year hope to

find some of them.

"We want to have a variety of artists ... and it doesn't matter what people do," said artist Tammy Hendrickx, a member of the committee working on the 2016 tour set for Sept. 10-11.

"Maybe there are some that we haven't heard from in a long time who would like

to return," she suggested. "It's a possibility that there are some artists and creative people among the newcomers who are coming in from different countries as well."

The Pembina Valley Studio Tour offers people a chance to explore the region by visiting artists in their own creative spaces.

It was first organized by area artists,

now a committee of eight to ten people, who were inspired by a similar event in the Interlake area.

The aim is simply to encourage and promote the region's artists and for the artists to have a chance to engage with people who are interested in what they do.

> Hendrickx said they are always looking for both returning and new artists to get involved, with room for up to 30 artists for the tour.

There is a core group who are involved each year, but they like to vary the lineup with some different participants as well.

A majority of the artists are painters, and they also want to have variety of me-

dia represented, she noted. For herself, Hendrickx said the tour offered a good way to get involved when she returned to Manitoba.

"I came back after many years of not living in Manitoba, and this was a nice avenue to get involved with the community again," she said. "It was a

Continued on page 21

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Prairie Singers take to the stage March 6

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Prairie Singers regional choir wraps up another winter season of music with concerts in Winkler and Morden next week.

The regional choral group takes to the stage on Sunday, March 6 at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church at 2:30 p.m. and at the Morden Mennonite Church at 7:30 p.m.

Choir president Stephen Knott says the choir, which is made up of 35 members from across the Morden-Winkler area, will be sharing *Songs* for the Journey.

"Most of the songs are about travelling," he



says, noting they'll be singing songs such as 900 miles, *The Lonesome Road*, and *The Road Not Taken*, to name just a few."A good number of them are spirituals and then also some Broadway songs."

The Prairie Singers have been performing for over a decade now, providing adult vocalists with a place to come together with other like-minded people to share their talents.

"It started off as a Lenten expression a good 10 or 12 years ago," notes Knott."It's evolved quite a bit since then.' The group is conducted by Loretta Thorleifson, with accompaniment from Fay Carruthers.

Tickets are available for \$10 each (half-price for students) at the door, by calling 204-325-8732, or from choir members.

> AN ARTIST'S LIFE Live events a source of inspiration

irst and foremost, attending professional events can be a source of inspiration for the attendees—understanding the amount of time and effort that goes into preparing for a performance or exhibition, seeing and hearing beautiful art, music, or dance in person.

Taking the time for a live arts event is a tangible, visible way to support the arts. Many times a community has much more support for the arts and artistic goals then may be realized, simply because attendance at concerts or recitals is not as high as it could or should

be. Successful artists depend on an audience to share creative work with. Why not try a concert or other event as a fun weekend (or any other day of the week) activity?

Attending a live arts event often allows for opportunities to learn about the history behind the works that would otherwise not be possible. Music can provide valuable insight into bygone times. For



By Candace Hamm

example, the music of Bach provides a glimpse into the values and church music of the 1700s. More contemporary music was often composed in response to current events such as war, oppression, political arguments, or other issues facing the people of that time period. Visual art can be a commentary on these events, a glimpse into past fashion, lifestyles, or artistic conceptions of emotion.



Morden chamber Home & Life Show runs March 4-5

By Lorne Stelmach

The upcoming Home and Life Show in Morden is all about making connections.

The Morden and District Chamber of Commerce started the annual showcase to give local businesses a way to promote themselves.

More importantly, though, it is a way for businesses to connect with customers and for the public to see what all the Pembina Valley has to offer, says chamber executive director Candace Olafson.

"It's to really give local businesses a marketing opportunity ... a great chance to showcase their business and have that one-on-one connection with people," Olafson said of the 2016 show, which takes place Friday, March 4 from 3 to 9 p.m. and Satur-day, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Access Event Centre.

"And for people, it's a unique opportunity where there's a number of businesses ... all under one roof, and you can have conversations with many different businesses."

Olafson estimated the show in recent years has attracted close to 2,000 people over the two days.

There were 36 exhibitors lined up as of this past week, with just a few spots left.

"This show really has a little bit of something for everyone," Olafson said. "It's not just if you're about to renovate or build a home. It has everything from those kind of home renovations and decor items to landscaping and gardening, health and beauty ... finance and realtors.

"We have as well outdoor sports like camping and motorcycles," she added. "And everything from windows and doors, blinds, draperies and flooring to hot tubs and sunrooms."

The show has six featured exhibitors this year: Avenue Polaris Victory South, Co-op at Home, Greenvalley Equipment, Ideal Floors, Legacy Centre Group, and Sun Valley RV.

Bring the kids along Saturday afternoon to meet Winnipeg Blue Bomber mascots Buzz and Boomer.

Attendance is free and there are chances to win prizes, including a new barbecue.

For more information, contact the chamber at 204-822-5630 or go to www.mordenchamber.com.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden and District Chamber of Commerce's Home and Life Show will once again fill the Access Event Centre with booths and displays from dozens of local businesses. The show runs March 4-5.

Early bird deadline Feb. 29, final deadline March 15

From Pg. 19

good way to show my art and get to know other artists."

The artists come from a wide area stretching east to Gretna and west to La Riviere and everywhere in between, she noted.

The 28 artists involved last year were located in 22 studio or gallery spaces throughout the region that were open for viewing over the two days.

The lineup of artists was divided between two areas: those east and west of Winkler. There were six new artists among the 19 in the area to the west and three newcomers among the eight from the Feb. 29 early bird deadline. After that area to the east.

Artists interested in signing-up for this year's tour can do so by the

> AN ARTIST'S LIFE, FROM PG. 20

Attending a live event allows for many opportunities to try something new. The variety of styles, concepts, mediums, instruments, dances, and many other aspects of the arts means that there really is something for everyone in the arts. Why not attend a concert in a musical genre outside your comfort zone? Attend a pottery exhibition or a poetry reading and learn something new.

date, the fee increases from \$65 to \$75. Registration closes for good on March 15.

Lastly, attending a live arts event

provides young arts students with an

opportunity to see what is possible in

their chosen field of study. They can

see firsthand the results of hard work,

perseverance, and time that people

just like themselves have put towards

achieving the goal of a live perfor-

mance. Each performer was once

their age, and each performer was

also once a beginner. They may even

For more information on the Pembina Valley Studio Tour, check it out online at www.pembinavalleystudiotour.com.

get a chance to meet the performer. This sense of humanity cannot be felt through a recording.

Still not convinced? You'll never know until you've tried it! Visit your local arts organization's website for information on upcoming events.

> Reach Candace Hamm at ibcnu@mts.net

Corn & Apple Festival looking for organizers



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden's Corn and Apple Festival is looking for help for its 50th anniversary celebration.

By Lorne Stelmach

Directors are beginning preparations for this summer's Morden Corn and Apple Festival.

With this year marking the 50th anniversary of Morden's signature event, director Lynda Maclean says excitement is already starting to build in the community.

Maclean said she is already hearing people talking about the August festival and planning things like reunions in conjunction with it.

And while there won't necessarily be a lot of extra events and activities festival weekend, she said they are stepping it up a bit in terms of doing some extra fundraising so they can do what the festival already does so well just a little bit better.

"It's not that we're going to increase the footprint of the festival," Maclean commented at the Feb. 10 organizing committee meeting. "We just want ... when our guests come ... to experience the best. So if we dress up the stage more, have better entertainment, have more activities."

Fundraising activities include a festival social Saturday, Feb. 27 as well as a variety night on May 14.

There is also a special edition Pandora apple charm being sold by the festival, while local artist Diana Persson is also working on Corn and Apple watercolor prints that will feature a collage of festival images such as hands holding corn on the cob.

Planning is also underway for a special festival history book with the committee calling on the community to submit their festival memories.

"We want any and all stories about the festival ... long or short ... we want to get this book made and available for selling," MacLean said.

At this month's meeting, individual committee members in charge of the various activities that make up the festival were encouraged to consider ways they may want to mark the 50th year.

The organizing committee also still

had a few vacancies to be filled, including chairpersons for the stage and canopy set-up as well as parade float coordination.

Other minor issues touched on at the meeting ranged from finding new locations for the Art Walk to starting some set-up earlier, such as for the craft tents.

It was also noted that headline acts have not yet been finalized, though discussions are ongoing.

The festival budget for 2016 has been set at about \$326,000 with the largest expenditure being \$75,000 for entertainment.

On the revenue side, about \$94,000 is budgeted to come through grants and \$65,000 through street space rentals, with other sources ranging from fundraising to the midway to corn and cider sales.

If you'd like to get involved with the festival or want to donate toward making the 50th event a memorable one, call 204-823-CORN (2676).

Weigh-in online on Morden downtown square idea

By Lorne Stelmach

Residents still have more opportunities to have their say on the concept of a city square in downtown Morden.

Two surveys are being offered through the chamber for its members and through the City of Morden website for the general public.

Chamber president Chad Sheldon said it is a way to continue the dialogue started through the three recent community consultation forums.

"We're trying to encourage everybody to take five minutes," said Sheldon. "This is the input that we need ... we're gauging the level of support for the idea."

Whatever direction the chamber next takes with the idea "will be based on whether we think there's adequate support to pursue it," he stressed.

The idea of putting in a city square in the downtown area of 8th St. between Stephen and North Railway has drawn both supporters and vocal opposition.

Concerns raised by some—particularly downtown merchants—have centred on the impact on parking and traffic flow and making access difficult for businesses and offices in what is already a busy area. A petition had circulated among the business community, with about 75 per cent of those contacted against the proposal.

Sheldon said he had been "surprised at the level of misconception out there.

"There's a disconnect with this being in the early phase ... just gauging support ... there seems to be a lot of people thinking like it's a done deal." Sheldon again stressed there is no commitment to the city square and that the chamber is just looking for feedback—both pros and cons—to get an idea whether the concept should even be explored further.

"I've heard a lot of positives too. Any negatives I've heard ... are about things that aren't at all involved in the process right now," he suggested.

"People have a negative view on

something that's not intended to be part of the city square discussion right now at all.

"It skews the results of the discussion a little bit to be more of a negative one when it's a completely different topic.

"The positive is that there's definitely discussion out there, and it's definitely people with opinions."

Winnipeg logistics co. purchases local couriers

By Lorne Stelmach

A Winnipeg-based logistics company has purchased two southern Manitoban courier companies with the aim of helping them expand their services.

Frontier Supply Chain Solutions Inc. sees their acquisition of Winkler's Parcels 'N' More Express and Country Trails Courier out of Morris as giving businesses a strong local option for expanded shipping and delivery services across North America.

Frontier itself expanded into courier service as a result of issues they were encountering with other courier options, including rising costs.

"We started talking to our customers and heard the same things ... that

everyone was facing these same challenges from the major courier companies," said company spokesman Lochlin Broatch.

Frontier had developed relationships with a number of independent couriers across the country, he added, so this seemed like a logical next step for them.

"What we decided to do was sort of put it all together to start our own courier service to start being able to compete with these guys," said Broatch.

He added expanding in this way into the Winkler-Morden area had become a priority given the growth of this region.

"It's an area we've had our eye on for the last couple years. We started making calls into the area last year," he said, adding Parcels 'N' More Express and Country Trails Courier provided them with well-established options. "We discovered they were well respected and well used companies out there, and it just seemed like a good fit for us.

"The big thing was we wanted to start giving those businesses the opportunity to maybe start expanding their reach beyond southern Manitoba," he added.

Frontier is a privately held, full service provider of logistics, trade consulting, and U.S. and Canadian customs brokerage services.

They are headquartered in Winnipeg with offices located in Toronto, Chicago, Seattle and Los Angeles.



Morden Thunder forward Brendan Turnbull puts the puck just over the pad of goaltender GVC **Brady Klassen** at the end of the second period, making it 5-0. The Feb. 17 game saw the Zodiacs' season come to an end with a 6-0 loss that knocked them out of the playoffs and moved Morden onto the next round.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT



Thunder knock Zodiacs out of hockey playoffs

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Zone 4 boys hockey season playoffs have moved into the second round.

After making short work of the GVC Zodiacs, the Morden Thunder are now facing off against the PCI Trojans for a seat at the finals.

Also vying for a spot at the table are the Prairie Mountain Mustangs, who are up against the Morris Mavericks. Game one in Morden's series took place on Monday, with the Thunder coming out on top 4-3.

Scoring for Morden was Cade Kowalski and Brendan Turnbull in the first, Keane Boucher in the second, and Kowalski once more in the final frame for the win. Manning the Thunder net was Jesse Ross, who made 20 saves in all as Morden outshot Portage 40-23.

Game two was slated for Tuesday in Portage. Game three, if necessary, goes Friday in Morden.

Meanwhile, last week, in their quar-

ter-final round against the Zodiacs, Morden took the series 2-0 with 7-1 and 6-0 victories.

The decisive Feb. 17 game saw goals come from Kowalski, Finley Wheeler, Brayden Jonnason, and Turnbull (with two) while Ross stopped 21 shots.

Off the ice and out on the court, the Morden varsity basketball teams had a mixed week, with the boys falling in Zone 4 action to the undefeated-athome GVC Zodiacs 86-13 on Feb. 16 and then to the Stingers 56-43 on Feb. 18, while the girls fell to GVC 53-24 and then bested the Stingers 62-8.

The Zodiac boys, meanwhile, also beat Morris 89-29 last week.

The NPC boys SCAC team fell to the Celtics 81-54 on Feb. 17 and then beat the Olympiens 71-36 on Monday. They also hosted a weekend home tournament, taking second place af-

ter falling to the Raiders 99-49.

At the JV level, the GVC teams found success at the Steinbach Regional Sabre City invitational tournaments.

The boys downed J.H. Bruns 88-84, Lord Selkirk 73-50, and the Glenlawn

Lions 79-71 to win the championship. The girls finished in third after besting Westgate 48-46, falling to Glenlawn 79-30, and then bouncing back with a win over Steinbach 65-34.

Flyers' streak ends thanks to Steelers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers five game win streak came to an end Sunday at the hands of the visiting Selkirk Steelers, but the home team didn't go down without a fight.

The regulation time was full of backand-forth, with Winkler drawing first blood at 1:59 thanks to a goal from Jeff Michiels and then Selkirk tying things up in the 15th minute.

Tristan Keck pulled his team back into the lead with the second period's lone goal, but the Steelers got it back midway through the third for a 2-2 score that held through to the end.

Each team fired a lone shot towards the net in the extra period, but both goalies stood firm, sending things to a shootout.

There, Winkler's first two shooters—Nolan McGuire and Jordan Williamson—found their mark, while Selkirk's first and third shooters did the same.

It was a wash for both sides for shots four through nine, but Selkirk's tenth

Hawks split weekend games to end season

By Lorne Stelmach

The numbers tell a story of a disappointing season for the Pembina Valley Hawks.

There were only nine wins out of the 44 game Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League season, which ended with the Hawks in 10th place in the 12 team league and out of the playoffs.

Coach Rylan Price, however, prefers to look at the growth of the team and of the players individually this season.

Price, who took over coaching duties early in the winter from Gerry Leiding, sees the year as having provide valuable experience—both good and bad—for what was a young team.

"Obviously, with nine wins this season, that wouldn't be considered a good overall experience performance-wise," Price said after the Hawks ended the campaign with a 3-2 win over Parkland Saturday followed by a 6-1 loss to Yellowhead Sunday.

"I just told them that you're going to have some bad seasons again in the future as well," he continued."So just learn from this one ... and as long as we keep growing and keep getting a little bit better, they can look at that as a positive."

Price saw some good bounce back from his charges Saturday against the Rangers.

They trailed 2-0 after two periods



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

The Pembina Valley Hawks' Caleb Unrau breaks through the defense of the Rangers' Dustin Mozdzen and Bradyn Smelski in Saturday's 3-2 win over Parkland.

before their special teams came to life in the final frame with two powerplay markers and a third goal that came seconds after another Parkland penalty had ended.

"They came out a little flat ... then the boys decided half way through that they weren't going to go out that way," said Price."They got the powerplay working in the third period."

Garrett Szeremley, Nicholas Hatley and Wyatt Sabourin with the winner scored for the Hawks, who were outshot 37-21. Aaron Brunn earned the win in net with a strong 35 save performance against the ninth place Rangers.

On Sunday, the Hawks fell behind 3-1 after one period and then the fourth place Chiefs pulled away in the second with a shorthanded goal and a powerplay marker.

"We ran into a really, really strong Yellowhead team ... that was very confident after beating the Winnipeg Wild the night before," said Price. "They just outskated us and they were better in all aspects of the game."

Troy Lehmann on a first period powerplay scored the lone Hawks goal that briefly had them tied 1-1.

Matthew Thiessen started in net for Pembina Valley, giving up five goals on 23 shots through a period and a half. Brunn came in partway through the second and stopped 19 of 20 shots for the Hawks, who were outshot 43-19 overall.

With that, Pembina Valley ended their season at 9-31-0-1-3 for 22 points, putting them ahead of Interlake at 20 and Norman at nine points.

Continued on page 28

Redskins down Hawks; end of line for Royals

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Royals saw their season come to an end after losing their South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League quarter-final series against the Portage Islanders three games to one last week.

After taking a 2-1 series lead with a narrow 6-5 overtime win on Feb. 15, the Islanders went on to bounce Win-

kler 4-1 last Friday night.

Portage was up 2-0 after the first period and then, after a scoreless second frame, bolstered that lead to 4-2 by midway through the third.

Winkler's offense showed a glimmer of life in the final two minutes when Mitch Fehr got his team on the board, but that was all she wrote for the Royals this season.

Matt Krahn manned Winkler's net

once again in the final game. Krahn played 20 games for the Royals this season, earning a 11-9-0-0 record and giving up 74 goals off of 664 shots for a 0.919 save percentage that earned him the league's Top Goalie Award.

While the Royals are out, the Morden Redskins are most certainly still in it, having dumped the Notre Dame Hawks in three straight games.

The final game on Feb. 16 saw Mor-

den double up on the Hawks 6-3, with Clint Olson scoring a hat trick plus an empty-netter, and Tyler Groening scoring the remaining two.

Alcide Grenier guarded the Redskins' net, making 28 saves as Morden outshot Notre Dame 35-31.

Morden now faces the Altona Maroons in the best-of-seven semifinals. Game one is Thursday in Altona. Game two is Saturday in Morden.

Female Hawks moving on to semifinals

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Hawks breezed through their Manitoba Female Midget Hockey League quarter-final series last weekend.

Outscoring the Norman Wild by a combined 17-3 count, the Hawks made it a three game sweep in Morden.

After opening with a strong 7-2 win in game one Friday, Pembina Valley blanked the Wild 4-0 Saturday and closed it out with a 6-1 victory Sunday afternoon.

The Hawks took period leads of 2-0 and 4-1 Friday with Alyssa Alderson scoring a pair of goals.

The rest of the scoring was spread out with markers from Mackenzie Hutchinson, Makenzie McCallum, Sage McElroy-Scott, Lindsay Michiels and Megan Neduzak.

Taylor Reimer had a light workload

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 23

in net, facing 13 shots as the Hawks blasted 50 shots at the Norman net.

Halle Oswald earned the 15 save shutout Saturday to pace the Hawks to the 2-0 series lead with a 4-0 victory in game two.

Chelsea Dearsley scored a pair of goals for the Hawks, while McElrov-Scott scored once and assisted on the other three markers, which included a goal by Hutchinson.

Pembina Valley took quick control of game three Sunday with period leads of 3-0 and 5-0. Reimer picked up the win in goal with 12 saves.

Janelle Delaquis, an alternate, stepped into the lineup and made a difference with a pair of goals and an assist, while Katelyn Heppner contributed three assists. The other Hawks goals came from Dearsley, McCallum, McElroy-Scott and Abbey Bridges.

The schedule for the semifinals was

shooter found his mark, while Winkler's did not, giving the 3-2 victory to the visitors.

Nathan Warren took the loss in net, making 33 saves in regulation off of 35 shots as Winkler outshot Selkirk 53-32.

The week before, the Orange and Black were on fire, winning three games in four days.

They started by crushing the Waywayseecappo Wolverines 7-2 on Feb. 16, with Connor Harmonic, Kurt Sonne, Nolan McGuire, Coltyn Bates, Scott Gall, Tyler Jubenvill, and Thomas Mansbridge all getting in on the scoring action.

In net, Warren made 29 saves off as Winkler outshot Waywayseecappo 41-31.

Things were much closer two nights later in Winnipeg against the Blues.

Coming from being down 1-0 after two periods, Keck evened things up early in the third. Winnipeg pulled ahead again, but Gall got the second tying goal with 14 seconds to go to send things to overtime.

After the extra frame decided nothing the game moved to a shootout that saw two of Winkler's shooters-McGuire and Keck—find their mark for the 3-2 victory.

Warren was in net once again for Winkler, making 34 saves in regulation and stonewalling all but one of the five shootout shooters.

The Flyers made it five in a row with a 5-0 blanking of the Kings in Dauphin on Feb. 19.

That lopsided victory saw a pair of goals from Keck and singles from Williamson, Kayden Jarvis, and Braden Billarney. Connor Slipp took to the net this time around, making 24 saves as Winkler outshot Dauphin 41-24.

With that, Winkler remains in third place in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League with a 39-12-4 record and 82 points. They trail the first place Portage Terriers (100 points) and the second place Steinbach Pistons (86 points) and have a full 13 points up on the fourth place Virden Oil Capitals.

This week the boys headed Winnipeg for a rematch on Tuesday and will then play a pair of home/away games against Virden on Friday and Saturday.

The regular season then wraps up next week with a home game against the Steelers Tuesday and an away game against the Neepawa Natives March 4.

THREE NAMED TO ALL-STARS

The league announced its award winners and all-star team selections last week.

While the first place Portage Terriers nearly swept this year's awardswinning all but the Hockey Ability award, which went to a player from the Steinbach Pistons-Winkler defensemen Tristan Keck, Zak Hicks, and rookie Tyler Jubenvill were named to the all-star teams.

not finalized as of press time, though three of the four participants were set.

The fourth place Westman Wildcats and fifth place Winnipeg Avros were tied at a game apiece in their series with games three and four still to

come.

Meanwhile, the Yellowhead Chiefs and the Central Plains Capitals both advance after sweeping their series 3-0 against the Interlake Lightning and the Eastman Selects.

Mixed week for Twisters

By Lorne Stelmach

It's crunch time for the Pembina Valley Twisters with four games remaining in the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League regular season.

They remained ensconced in third place after being on the opposite ends of a pair of 3-2 decisions last weekend, falling to the St. Vital Victorias Sunday after having edged the Stonewall Jets Friday.

The loss to St. Vital could potentially come back to haunt them as the Victorias improved to 48 points and just three back of the Twisters, whose record now stands at 23-12-5 for 51 points.

The trailed 1-0 and 2-1 at the intermissions against St. Vital and then traded goals in the third for the loss.

The Twisters came back from a 2-0 first period deficit Friday against Stonewall.

A quick start in the second period turned the tide with Matt Mazinke scoring his 10th of the season just seven seconds in and Matthew Hadley connecting for his sixth at 1:32.

A third period powerplay then provided the winner as Fraser Mirrlees picked up his team-leading 26th of the year at 14:27.

Morgan Wall earned the win in net with 31 saves as Stonewall outshot the Twisters 33-29.

Pembina Valley trails the first place Raiders at 62 points and second place Charleswood at 58 points.

The Twisters were in Winnipeg Tuesday to take on the last place Fort Garry Fort Rouge Twins then Friday faced the challenge of taking on the Raiders.

The regular season schedule then concludes in St. Boniface against the Riels Monday followed by Charleswood at home March 6.

Manitoba Hockey Standings

| MANITOBA JUNIOR | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| HOCKEY LEAGUE | GP | W | L | OTL | PTS | GF | GA | I |
| Portage Terriers | 57 | 49 | 6 | 2 | 100 | 264 | 117 | |
| Steinbach Pistons | 55 | 41 | 10 | 4 | 86 | 227 | 127 | |
| Winkler Flyers | 55 | 39 | 12 | 4 | 82 | 238 | 136 | I |
| Virden Oil Capitals | 55 | 34 | 20 | 1 | 69 | 182 | 129 | I |
| Winnipeg Blues | 56 | 29 | 18 | 9 | 67 | 199 | 163 | ١ |
| OCN Blizzard | 54 | 25 | 27 | 2 | 52 | 170 | 193 | (|
| Swan Valley Stampeders | 56 | 22 | 26 | 8 | 52 | 167 | 189 | (|
| Selkirk Steelers | 54 | 22 | 29 | 3 | 47 | 181 | 229 | ١ |
| Dauphin Kings | 55 | 18 | 33 | 4 | 40 | 159 | 232 | I |
| Waywayseecappo | | | | | | | | I |
| Wolverines | 56 | 14 | 38 | 4 | 32 | 142 | 241 | I |
| Neepawa Natives | 55 | 11 | 42 | 2 | 24 | 118 | 291 | ę |
| | | | | | | | | |
| MANITOBA MAJOR | | | | | | | | |
| JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE | GP | W | L | OTL | PTS | GF | GA | I |

| JUNION HOUKET LEAGUE | ur | VV | ь. | UIL | гіз | uг | UA |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Raiders Jr. Hockey Club | 41 | 29 | 8 | 4 | 62 | 161 | 113 |
| Charleswood Hawks | 40 | 26 | 8 | 6 | 58 | 152 | 106 |
| Pembina Valley Twisters | 40 | 23 | 12 | 5 | 51 | 160 | 130 |
| St. Vital Victorias | 41 | 22 | 15 | 4 | 48 | 153 | 139 |
| St. James Canucks | 41 | 22 | 18 | 1 | 45 | 152 | 143 |
| Stonewall Jets | 40 | 21 | 17 | 2 | 44 | 149 | 134 |
| St. Boniface Riels | 41 | 18 | 19 | 4 | 40 | 138 | 156 |
| Transcona Railer Express | 40 | 18 | 20 | 2 | 38 | 146 | 168 |
| River East Royal Knights | 41 | 17 | 20 | 4 | 38 | 123 | 141 |
| Ft.Garry/Ft.Rouge Twins | 41 | 7 | 32 | 2 | 16 | 97 | 201 |

SOUTH FASTERN MANITOBA HOCKEY I FAGUE

Quarter Final B (Best of 5) - Winkler Rovals vs Portage Islanders Portage takes the series 3 games to 1

Quarter Final A (Best of 5) - Morden Redskins vs Notre Dame Hawks Morden takes the series 3 games to 0 Quarter Final C - Altona Maroons vs Warren Mercs

Altona takes the series 3 games to 1

AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE Plav-offs begin Feb. 26

| AAA BANTAM HOCKEY LEAGUE Brandon | GP | W | L | OTL | PTS | GF | GA |
|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Wheat Kings - B1 Central Plains | 36 | 32 | 4 | 0 | 64 | 219 | 58 |
| Capitals - B1 | 36 | 21 | 12 | 3 | 45 | 190 | 160 |
| Yellowhead Chiefs - B1 | 36 | 19 | 12 | 3 | 43 | 164 | 134 |
| Parkland Rangers - B1 Pembina Valley | 36 | 18 | 17 | 1 | 37 | 173 | 192 |
| PV Hawks - B1 | 36 | 12 | 18 | 4 | 30 | 164 | 195 |
| Southwest Cougars - B1 | 36 | 13 | 22 | 1 | 27 | 113 | 131 |
| Norman Wolves - B1 | 36 | 1 | 35 | 0 | 2 | 55 | 367 |

MANITOBA FEMALE MIDGET AAA HOCKEY LEAGUE

Play-offs - Quarterfinals Pembina Valley vs Norman Game 1 - Pembina Valley Wins 7-2 Game 2 - Pembina Vallev Wins 4-0 Game 3 - Pembina Valley Wins 6-1 Pembina Valley Wins Series 3-0

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

1st place Prairie Mountain Mustangs vs 4th place Morris Mavericks Prairie Mountain leads the 3 game series 1 game to 0 at press time 2nd place Morden Thundar vs 3rd place PCI Trojans Morden leads the 3 game series 1 game to 0 at press time

STATS AS OF TUESDAY, February 23

Agriculture

Miami cattle farm welcomes rare triplets

By Harry Siemens

A cow having triplets is very rare, for sure: about 1 in 105,000. Those odds jump to about one in 700,000 that all three will be the same sex, says Dr. Kerri-Rae Millar, a mixed animal veterinarian at the Morden Vet Clinic.

Millar is commenting on her brother, Jay Sprott, a cow calf producer at Miami whose Red Angus Simmental 1,500 lbs. cow had three healthy female calves on Feb. 11.

"I have been fortunate enough to deliver a set from a dairy cow, diagnosed on ultrasound a set in another dairy cow, and have my own brother have a set within the last eight months," Millar says. "Specialist? No. Lucky vet? Yes."

Sprott, who calves out about 400 cows, was not anticipating this at all, he says.

He moved the cow into the maternity pen and when he came back there were three calves, all healthy.

"She had the first one, weighing about 90 to 95 pounds. [I] put her in a pen by herself and figured that would be a pretty good year for her," he says. "Low and behold, I come out in the next check and she's had another two calves, all three up sucking and everything."

That's another rarity, Millar says.

"They were all born by themselves, which is also fairly unusual with triplets, too," she says. "Quite often they get tangled up and sometimes need a little help."

"[There's] lots of reasons when a cow has twins for being born dead, or born weak and then dying," she says. "To have three that are alive, strong, and healthy is pretty awesome. Getting a picture in the morning of three healthy calves sure beats getting a call at three in the morning asking for help."

Sprott, who is only 29 years old and already a seasoned cattle producer of over a decade, says the cow didn't look any bigger than she normally had, and, after having three calves, didn't look much smaller, weighing maybe 1,500 pounds. With three calve

of 90, 80 and 70 pounds, that's a lot of weight, he admits.

Sprott loves farming, loves the animals especially, and has farmed all his life, starting into the cattle business buying one for 4-H at 10 years old.

He's been expanding his family's farm every since graduating from the University of Manitoba with an agriculture diploma in 2007.

He farms with his parents, Rick and Lynn Sprott, making the cattle his project and converting more and more of the cropland into cattle land.

"When I'm converting grain land into cattle production I mean I'm using it to grow corn silage, alfalfa for hay, and annual ryegrass also for hay," says Sprott. "I also seeded 160 acres of pasture that's close to my yard so I can rotational graze my fall cows and calves them out in mid August to October.

"We have a base of 960 acres that could be used for grain production and I also have another 180 acres of alfalfa for hay which I rent from other grain farmers that they use for their own rotation in their grain operation. I have native pasture at Miami, La Riviere and Langruth."

The young cow-calf producer raises



SUBMITTED PHOTO Miami cattle farmer Jay Sprott with the healthy triplets born to his

his calves to about 650 pounds right off the cow and will sell them to private buyers or the auction marts.

Red Angus Simmental cow on Feb. 11.

Then he backgrounds some calves to about 800 pounds and sells them, too.

"I usually sell my bigger steer calves right off the cow, 650 to 700 pounds, backgrounding meaning taking all my smaller calves, bringing them up to 700 pounds," he says. "Anything under 500 pounds, I keep for the winter and get them a little heavier and stuff, feeding them corn silage and a bit of grain barley."

Having about a third of his cows

calve in the fall evens out his calving times and income, Sprott says. It splits up his risk, income, marketing, and the workload, too.

While not dwelling on some of the real bad years in the past, the last number of years in the cattle business have been pretty good, he says.

"Really nice. Hopefully it stays at least like this for quite a few more years," he adds. "I like working with the animals, it's fun. Hopefully, the cattle market stays strong so I'm able to keep doing it and make a good living."



> HARRY SIEMENS

ast week in this column I talked about the intensity factor of the younger farmers attending conferences, seminars, and farm meetings, and how they want the latest and the best.

Korey Peters farms as part of a family grain and hog farm in Randolph, Herbsigwil Farms Ltd., raising pigs and grain on 5,000 acres.

"We're putting up a dryer system for corn, with some options leaving the canola screens in it so we can dry some other crops, too," says Peters, who left a career as a music teacher in Winkler to return to the family farm as a partner. "We've been getting into corn a little bit more and more over the last few years. Buying a planter a few years ago, which doubles up for soybeans, a rotary

combine, and a corn header last year."

While corn acres were around 300 acres in 2015, their intention is to increase that to 800-1,000 acres in 2016, Peters savs.

Peters says the farm grows a combination of grain and feed corn, with several feed mills close by for easy access.

Making a conscious decision to get more into corn is something they've talked about for a few years, he says.

Suncrest Colony opens new hog barn

By Harry Siemens

The first new hog barn in Manitoba for the better part of a decade is set to open its doors for an Open House on March 4 at the Suncrest Colony just off the intersection of highways 59 and 52.

Colony hog boss Bob Kleinsasser describes it as a 800 sow, farrow to 80 pounds facility, using open group housing with 125 sows per group at 28 square feet per sow.

"Our sow barn is shot, 50 years old, and we are 500 sows, farrow to finish right now," he says. "We'll finish as many as we can and the rest we're selling as Isoweans and once we get this new barn a little bit paid down it is not cheap to build—we'll build a new finisher barn, too."

When asked how much the new sow barn cost the colony, way too much was his answer, and the exchange rate really put a wrench into things, adding 20 per cent more than what they had figured on from the time they started moving dirt back in May 2015.

"Most of the equipment and materials come from the U.S., even if it comes from overseas, like our Big Dutchmen electronic sow feeders, still need payment in American dollars," says Kleinsasser. "We'll sell the Isoweans, paid in American dollars, and that is why we're doing it, otherwise we'd look for a barn to finish them here."

While preferring to finish them in Manitoba, it is impossible to find a finisher barn here because Maple Leaf has tied up every available barn in the country.

Kleinsasser says right now their plans are to ship the Isoweans in bigger batches of 1,200 piglets through Provista's Proline Pork Marketing company, meaning they have to collect four weeks worth of pigs to make one truckload of 1,200. It costs \$2,000 freight to go to the U.S.

"We'll be introducing pigs into the barn in about four to five weeks, seal off the sow end and then start breeding, while continuing to build the farrowing and nursery section, which will take another three to four months to do," he says.

While some companies are converting existing barns to the new required group housing, Suncrest Colony felt it would work better with a new building where they could start from scratch.

"Seven years ago we built a new lagoon, a manure storage that included enough animal units to almost double our production," says Kleinsasser. "If you have the animal units, manure storage, you can actually build a new facility."

However, if a producer wants to increase the number of animals and doesn't have the animal units to apply that manure to the land, it's impossible.

"If you have 300 sows for example and you want to go to a thousand sows, you can't build because you have no manure storage," says Kleinsasser. "We lost hundreds and hundreds of producers because their barns were too old and didn't have the manure storage to increase production. The province will not give the permit for the lagoon to do so." In Suncrest Colony's case, they also have 9,300 acres of land to apply and incorporate the manure.

In addition to the hog, this colony is well diversified, running a 22-cow dairy, 20,000 layer chickens, 20,000 breeder broilers.

As Kleinsasser says, it takes lots of money to build a brand new hog barn, but there is some interest from financial institutions, now, to help with those costs.

Manitoba Pork's Andrew Dickson says the financial institutions are expressing an interest in providing the capital to renew the province's pork production infrastructure. "I would encourage producers to go for the longest terms they can get," he says. "For a building that's going to last 25 years or 30 years you should be looking for a mortgage that's at least 15 years. One institution is offering that. You're going to have to get them to lend against your actual construction cost not just market value."

Dickson says Farm Credit Corporation, for example is prepared to step forward and he fully expect the major banks will come forward as well.

It bodes well for the future.

"But I've got to emphasize here it's absolutely critical producers can show they have the capacity to service any debts they take on," adds Dickson.

> SIEMENS SAYS, FROM PG. 26

Being in the hog industry, too, and having manure application available, it makes sense to go into corn with a lot of their fields having manure in them; it becomes almost a no-brainer after a while, he says.

"Obviously we wish we'd done it earlier when the corn price was at record high levels, but I was just coming back to the farm at that point. Now it seems like the next step in the production for us," says Peters. "It stretches out our harvest a little bit, we're looking forward to it."

The farm's 5,000 acres of cropland also includes winter wheat, canola, soybeans, and spring wheat.

"We're cutting back our winter wheat acres, soybeans are up, and corn will be up too," says Peters. "Soybeans, corn, canola, and more spring wheat with the new varieties of spring wheat coming out, which are so good, we've gotten into spring wheat a little bit more."

Since leaving his full-time teaching career in 2012, Peters hasn't looked back.

"It's been great. I still get asked it from time to time, most recently at the Young Farmers Conference in Winnipeg, how it's going and do you miss it," he says. "Yes, I miss some things, where vacation comes in exactly opposite times from summer to winter.

"The summers are a little busier and the winters a little slower, [which] allows me to continue my professional development, as I call it, going to conferences. Also

gives me time off to go on vacation."

Those farm conferences are invaluable, Peters says, giving producers a chance to meet experts who know what they're talking about.

"I think there is a huge push to not waste time. I want to know and pick up the info I need," he says. "When we go to those conferences and read about certain things in publications via print and online, or talked about on social media with other farmers, and now someone who is an expert shows up to a meeting and we want to know the details for sure whether a new product or a new variety, a new genetics, or a new process, or any of the above."

Korey tells me that initially social media wasn't his thing, initially, but as he got into it, he realizes the benefits.

"Now I get together with farmers that became my friends through Twitter and at conferences we get together and develop that friendship and our further our professional development," he says. "Huge bonus, a huge benefit."



PHOTO BY HARRY SIEMENS/VOICE Korey Peters of Randolph, Manitoba farms as part of a family grain and hog farm, Herbsigwil Farms Ltd. raising pigs and grain on 5,000 acres.

EmpowHER speaker at Boston Pizza March 15

By Lorne Stelmach

International Women's Day will be marked in Morden with a local speaker.

The Morden and District Chamber of Commerce together with the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre is hosting EmpowHER March 15.

Co-sponsors include Pharmasave and Boston Pizza, which will host the evening in its lounge from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Guest speaker Peggy Penner has overcome challenges in her life, and she will address the theme that perseverance is a choice.

"She's going to talk about perseverance as a positive choice you can make in your life ... to persevere in whatever situation in your life you

may have going on," said chamber executive director Candace Olafson. "You can really apply her message to any situation you have in your life and learn from it."

For \$20, you also get a drink and dessert with the option of ordering a full meal from the Boston Pizza menu as well.

Olafson noted the chamber used to have a women in business breakfast series, and the idea for this event grew from that, although she stressed "really, it's not just for women in business ... this is something much broader.

"We just were wondering what could we do ... and we kind of thought let's make an event around International Women's Day."

International Women's Day globally

is being marked March 8 to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

The 2016 campaign theme is a "pledge for parity." Women continue to contribute more to social, economic, cultural and political achievement,

> HAWKS, FROM PG. 24

Price, who was encouraged by the team's growth in a challenging season, said he thinks he'd like to be back behind the bench again next season.

He sees the team being well positioned for improvement with a majority of the players set to return along with some talented new prospects.

but progress towards gender parity has slowed in many places.

You can find out more online at www.internationalwomensday.com.

You can register for the Morden event by calling 204-822-5630 ext. 1 or go to www.mordenchamber.com for more information.

"There are quite a few returning players ... there was only four graduating players," Price said. "We know through the bantam AAA team there's going to be a couple really good young players coming up who have done quite well. So they'll have an opportunity to come in and make the team."

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| | | | 3 | | | | | | Fun By The Numbers |
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| 3 | 4 | | | 1 | | | | 7 | |
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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!



take a brea **CLUES ACROSS** 1. Sold at a higher price 8. Instill fear 13. Can be domesticated 14. Oohed and v The

- 15. Make too simple 19. Plutonium
- 20. Necessary for breathing 21. Make happy
- 22. Mythological bird
- 23. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 24. Put on
- 25. Type of dough
- 26. Blushed
- **30. Celestial object**
- 31. Point __ National Seashore
- 32. Purplish red
- 33. Towards the mouth or oral region
- 34 Portuguese musical genre
- 35. Steals
- 38. Acts insincerely
- **39. City in Belarus**
- 40. Anticipates
- 43. Paris airport
- 44. Deal with
- 45. No (Scottish)
- 47. Opens lock
- 48. Central parts 49. Sheep disease
- 50. Indicates position
- 51. Doing many things at once
- 55. Khoikhoin peoples
- 57. Informal alliance between countries
- 58. Long poems
- 59. The state of being poorly illuminated
- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Portico
- 2. Delicacy
- 3. Punish with an arbitrary penalty



- 4. Household god (Roman)
- 5. Public television station
- 6. __ Lilly, drug company
- 7. Degraded
- 8. Free from danger
- 9. Low bank or reef of coral
- 10. Exclamation of surprise
- 11. Lies down in rest 12. Give an education to
- 16. Provides
- 17. Fat from a pig 18. Belonging to a thing
- 22. Branches of a bone 25. Having a cheerless aspect or disposition
- 27. Edema (archaic)
- 28. Bo __, "10"
- 29. Unfledged or nestling hawk
- **30. Surrenders**

- 32. Type of dessert
- 34. Planted with trees
- 35. Washington town
- 36. Listen in
- 37. Inwardly
- 38. Chinese province 40. Garrison
- 41. Converts thermal energy to mechanical work
- 42. Holy people
- 44. Lowest point between two peaks
- 46. Boundaries
- 48. Utter obscenities
- 51. ____ and cheese
- 52. Member of the cuckoo family
- 53. Type of microscope 54. and Barbie
- 56. Michigan

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BUSINESS



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COMING EVENTS

TCVEND.COM Thousand Oaks Ministries In GOSPEI MUSIC NIGHT Sat., Feb. 27, 2016 7:30 pm at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall Winkler, MB Featuring: By Choice

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YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CITY OF WINKLER **2016 BUDGET HEARING** MARCH 8TH, 2016, 7:00 P.M. **COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

The Council of the City of Winkler will hold a public hearing to present the 2016 Financial Plan (budget). The presentation will provide an overview of the proposed financial plan followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed financial plan are available on our website at www.cityofwinkler.ca or upon request at City Hall, 185 Main Street, Winkler, during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may also be directed by letter to our Assistant Administrator or through our email address at bdyck@cityofwinkler.ca.

Consultation with our community is an important component of the City's budget process. Council encourages you to attend.

Barb Dyck, Asst. Administrator City of Winkler February 18th, 2016 (In accordance with subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act)

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COMING EVENTS

S**OUP & PIE** FUNDRAISER

for Valley

Mennonite

Academy

Fri., Feb. 26

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Winkler Mennonite Church

Admission by Donation

School Choir will

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Voice

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COMING EVENTS

St. Thomas

Anglican Church

131-8th St., Morden

SOUP

LUNCH

Fri. Feb. 26

11:30 - 1 pm

\$7.00 per person

Proceeds to: Daffodil

Campaign - Cancer Care

TENDER



1st cut for sale, Afl/ grass mix, 300 rounds available, 5x5 bales, 3 1/2 cent/lbs. 1100 - 1200 lbs. Mesh and twine. Contact 1-204-886-7267.

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has one suite available 1 bedroom with spacious den, patio, small garden plot, rent includes: heat, a/c, water. Laundry hook ups in your suite. No common fees, no taxes. Common rooms free for gather ings. 2 lunches per week full time activity coordinator on site. Everything is on one level. Heated garage parking available. You won't have to worry about repairs, maintenance, yard work or snow removal anymore. For more info. call Cindy

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FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for property in the RM of Stanley will be received by: WIENS & FRANZ LAW OFFICE, 2-500 Main St., PO Box 99, Winkler, MB, R6W 4A4 SW 1/4 5-2-6 WPM, and

NW 1/4 32-1-6 WPM, Exc. mines and minerals reserved in Patent 47025 MLTO approximately 160 acres each, for a total of approximately 320 acres.

CONDITIONS OF TENDER

For

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property. 1. Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on March 15, 2016. 2.
- 3. Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit of 5% of the amount offered, payable to WIENS & FRANZ LAW OFFICE. Deposit cheques accompanying unaccepted bids will
- be returned. 4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. The Vendors are not obligated to
- sell any of the land, or to accept any Tender. The purchaser(s) shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess for GST.
- If bidders place bids on both parcels, they should indicate the price being offered for each 6. parcel. If they are not prepared to purchase one parcel unless
- they can also purchase the other parcel, they should indicate that in the bid. **CONDITIONS OF SALE**
- The bidder(s) whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering the terms and conditions of sale and, on the execution of such agreement, an additional sum
- representing 15% of the accepted tender price will be required as a second deposit. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender(s) must be paid on 2 or before the date of possession, or evidence provided that the purchase funds
- will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty. 3
- The adjustment for taxes is January 1st, 2016. 4 The date of possession is April 5, 2016.
- For further information contact:

HARRY WIENS or JOAN FRANZ at:

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Email: harry@wflaw.ca or joan@wflaw.ca



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CAREERS



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Essential qualifications: ECE training or equivalent experience, ability to communicate fluently in French and English, effective interpersonal skills, and ability to keep confidentiality with nature of work

Conditions of employment: satisfactory criminal record check and child abuse registry check.

Position is 8 hours/week following the school year calendar Start date is September 2016

Wage is dependent on experience

Please submit your applications by mail or email to by March 7, 2016: 831 Thornhill St., Morden, MB R6M 1J8 Phone: (204) 362-3317 Email: smallwondersns@gmail.com

NOTICE OF HEARING

UNDER THE HIGHWAYS PROTECTION ACT THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC BOARD

Notice is hereby given that a hearing of the Highway Traffic Board will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 410 – 9th Street, Brandon, Manitoba.

PERMITS – PART I – SECTION 9 H.P.A. AND PART III – SECTION 17 H.P.A. 3/023/009/C/16 – EVOLVE SURFACE STRATEGIES INC. O/B/O ENBRIDGE PIPELINES INC.

Application to Temporarily Change the Use of Access Driveway (Agricultural to Other) onto P.T.H. No. 23, N.E.¹/₄ 16-5-11W, Municipality of Lorne.

The Highway Traffic Board will be prepared to consider all submissions, written or oral, on the above applications by contacting the Secretary prior to or at the hearing.

200 - 301 Weston StreetMichelle Slotin, A/SecretaryWinnipeg, MB R3E 3H4THE HIGHWAYPhone: (204) 945-8912TRAFFIC BOARD



Jou're at home hese. CO-OP CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Winkler Consumers' Cooperative Ltd Board of Directors represents the membership and is responsible for setting policy and guiding the cooperative towards a profitable and socially responsible organization. The Co-op Board of Directors is currently accepting nominations for Board Members.

The nomination process:

- 1. Nominate those who you feel would represent the best interests of the co-op membership.
- 2. Nominated individuals will be interviewed to ensure they meet eligibility requirements, and confirm that they want their name to stand for a three year term. (Eligibility requirements are listed at winklercoop.com)

 A vote will take place at the Coop Annual Meeting on March 22, 2016. To submit a nomination, please contact Monika Penner at mpenner@ winklercoop.com or phone 204-325-9595. The nominations committee will follow up with an interview to ensure the nominee meets eligibility requirements.

Deadline for nominations is March 4, 2016.

Winkler • Morden • Rosetown • Plum Coulee

McSherry Auction Moving & Estate Auction Sunday, February 28 @ 10:00 am Stonewall, MB #12 Patterson Drive 69 Skidoo Olympic 320 * Surveying Transit * Brass Steam Whistles * Military * Wildlife * Traps * Bear Skulls * Railway * Antiques * Household * Go to Web.

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Temporary Propane Service Technician Federated Co-operatives Limited is now accepting

applications for a Temporary Full-time Propane Service Technician 1 for our propane department in Winnipeg for a 6 month term.

The successful candidate will be responsible for promoting the sale and use of Co-op propane, accept, schedule and carry out service and installation orders, maintain an inventory of propane equipment, and ensure compliance to safety and preventative maintenance procedures.

The successful candidate must have a Grade 12 diploma or equivalent, a minimum class 3 with air driver's license and a safe driving record, be physically fit, and have excellent interpersonal and sales skills. Applicants must also be willing to do emergency service work on evenings and weekend, with short notice.

Contact: HR Advisor Federated Co-operatives Limited 1615 King Edward Street Winnipeg, MB Email: k.ganchar@fcl.ca



Please send resumes (including when you are available) to: drevel@buffalopoint.mb.ca

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CAREERS

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If we could have a lifetime wish.

A dream that would come true:

We know because we've tried:

We know because we've cried.

You left behind our broken hearts, And happy memories too;

But we never wanted memories,

Neither will a thousand tears,

For vesterday and for you.

We'd pray to God with all our hearts.

A thousand words can't bring you back,





OBITUARY

Jack William Wiebe 1936 - 2016

Jack passed away with family at his side Sunday, February 14, 2016, at Boundary Trails Health Centre after a hard battle with cancer. He was born in Morden, Manitoba. He leaves to mourn his passing; five children, Norma and Abe Wiebe of Winkler, Robert and Shirley Wiebe of Morden, Karen and Clinton Dyck of Morden, Ken Wiebe of Morden, John and Helen Wiebe of Alberta; as well as 16 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren, one great-greatgrandchild; two brothers and their families. He was predeceased by his wife Laurette in 2008; his sister, Edna; and parents, Cornelius and Sarah Wiebe.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 2016 at Christian Life Centre in Morden with interment at Hillside Cemetery.

We would like to thank the community for their overwhelming support during this difficult time. Special mention to dad's brother, Cornie, Doug Penner, Pastor Weldon Yeo and the Christian Life Centre family for the numerous visits and words of encouragement over this past year. A special thanks to Dr. Nause, Boundary Trails Chemo department and Dr. Bob Menzies for their caring support to Jack to enjoy life this past year.

-The Jack Wiebe Family

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jack's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Cancer Care Unit.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden In care of arrangements, wiebefuneralhomes.com





OBITUARY

Agnes Wolfe (nee Schellenberg) 1930 - 2016

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Agnes Wolfe of Winkler, who went to be with her Saviour on Tuesday, February 2nd, 2016 at the age of 85 years.

She will be greatly missed by her children and their families; seven daughters, Tina, Susanne (Mike), Helen, Betty (Ron), Judi (Bill), Sara (Les) and Margie; five sons, Dave (Helen), John, Henry (Brenda), Frank (Lori) and Ike (Lisa); 38 grandchildren; 33 greatgrandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She also leaves behind three sisters whom she loved spending time with, many friends she hosted over the years and others she touched and knew. She was predeceased by her husband, Ike Wolfe in 2009;

three sons-in-law; one daughter-in-law; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one sister and three brothers.

Mom had a huge heart for the needy and lonely and will be remembered for Friday night games nights at her house, open to anyone, and the many meals she hosted for her single friends. Her failing eyesight prevented her from doing many of these things in the last years but she was still very young at heart and loved people. She experienced many hard times herself but found her strength and comfort in God, her heavenly Father.

A tribute to Agnes was held on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at Faith Evangelical Bible Church with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone for their prayers and kindness, to pastor Mike for time spent with her (it was never enough), to all those who served at the funeral, and for the exceptional care from doctors and staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler In care of arrangements wiebefuneralhomes.com



Set inspired > MEAL IDEAS

Oatmeal porridge with almonds and cherries



Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 mL) 1% milk
- 1 1/4 cup (300 mL) water 1/4 tsp (1 mL) ground cinnamon

1 1/3 cup (325 mL) quick cooking oatmeal

1/3 cup (75 mL) dried cherries or cranberries, chopped

1/4 cup (50 mL) roasted almonds,

chopped Added 1% milk,

Added 1% milk, optional Directions

Stove Top: In a saucepan, combine milk, water and cinnamon. Bring to a boil over medium high heat, stirring often. Gradually add oatmeal and cherries. Reduce heat and let simmer, stirring often, until the oatmeal is tender – about 3-5 minutes.

Microwave: In a large microwavable bowl, mix together milk, water, cinnamon, oatmeal and cherries. Cook on high, 4-5 minutes, stirring once.

Once cooked, remove porridge from heat or microwave oven, cover and let stand 5 minutes. Sprinkle with the almonds and add more milk to taste.





Attention ALL Brides. Quality Inn Conference & Event Centre is having an Open House! Come join us on **March 3 from 4 – 8 pm** at 851 Main Street in Winkler on the Lower Level of the Quality Inn Hotel.

