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Gaining perspective

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Students got to see what it's like living with impaired senses by taking part in the Alzheimer Society's Virtual Dementia Tour last week.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A class of Gr. 4 students from J.R. Walkof School got the chance to experience the effects of aging

about 50 years too early last week.

The kids stopped by the Winkler Senior Centre Feb. 22 to take part in a Virtual Dementia Tour led by the Alzheimer Society's Kathy Fehr.

The exercise is meant to give participants a small taste of what living with altered physical and sensory abilities is like.

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH
VIVEIROS/VOICE

Wearing tape-covered goggles and popcorn kernel-filled gloves, students were asked to do everyday tasks to see what it's like to live with altered physical and sensory abilities as part of the Virtual Dementia Tour.

'Now I know how my grandma feels'

From Pg. 1



"I think it's very important that kids have the opportunity to learn and to be able to better understand people who have difficulty, be it with dementia or be it with physical disabilities," said Fehr, explaining that the kids were asked to do basic tasks—find certain pieces of clothing on a table full of clothes, write down their address on an envelope, set a place setting with matching dishes—all while the senses they normally take for granted were hindered. "It's a chance for them to gain a little bit of empathy and hands-on experience with what some people deal with all the time."

The students wore rubber gloves filled with popcorn kernels and with several fingers taped together to simulate the effects of arthritis.

They also donned goggles with small pieces of tape placed on the lens to mimic vision loss.

Finally, when they entered the darkened exercise space, a colourful strobe light further messed with their vision and loud, garbled sounds playing out over speakers made it hard not only to hear but to concentrate.

Once the initial giggling subsided, the kids quickly realized the seemingly simple things they had been

asked to do weren't quite so easy.

"That was so difficult," said Madison Chateaufort after she and her friends tried, unsuccessfully, to complete all the tasks. "I didn't think it was going to be like that. My grandparents, some of them, go through this and now I know how they feel and how bad it can be."

"I think it's going to be really hard if we get old and have diseases like that," agreed Jasmine Osinski. "Now I know how my grandma feels."

The kids weren't the only ones to gain a new perspective thanks to this exercise—several seniors stepped up to try their hands at it as well.

Norman Blatz said it certainly gives him a better appreciation for the challenges some of his peers have to deal with every day.

"It gives you an idea of what it's like," he said, noting the struggle began before he even set foot in the room, when Fehr purposely rattled off the list of tasks too fast for him to catch, leaving him feeling a bit lost.

It mimics the confusion people living with various forms of dementia feel all the time, he said.

"It really makes you think."

Bright future ahead for Winkler: Harder

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Mayor Martin Harder's annual State of the City address was packed full of announcements last week.

Speaking before the Winkler chamber of commerce's annual meeting on Feb. 23, the mayor began by briefly singling out the highlights of the past year.

"When I look back at 2016, I'm in awe and I'm amazed at the accomplishments that have happened in the city of Winkler," he said, pointing, in part, to the recent Hwy. 32 intersection improvements, the ongoing industrial park expansion, the headway made on the Meridian Exhibition Centre project, and the fact the city saw one of the highest growth rates in the nation at 18 per cent.

"So where do we go from here?" Harder asked.

One project the mayor is most ex-

cited about is the Safe Communities Initiative, which the city aims to roll out over the next few months.

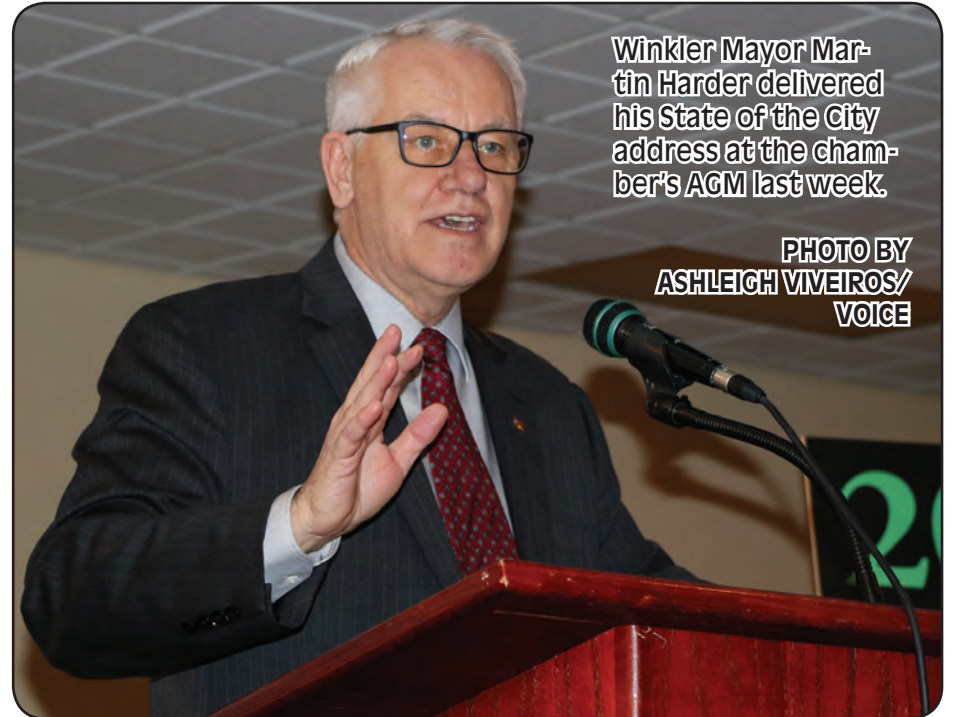
A big step toward that end will be the hiring of a community safety/by-law enforcement officer.

"This change in our direction is designed to provide our police department with a more focused approach to policing," Harder said.

The initiative focuses on tackling social issues before they lead to increased crime rather than putting additional police officers on the streets to deal with the aftermath.

"There is a constant demand to add more police officers [but] we believe that there is a different way of controlling our crime ... without necessarily making arrests," Harder said. "It is obvious that prevention is the better alternative than an arrest."

"It is our desire to take the petty incidents and deal with them before they become criminal in nature," he said,



Winkler Mayor Martin Harder delivered his State of the City address at the chamber's AGM last week.

PHOTO BY
ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/
VOICE

listing that as the reason city council approved only one new officer this year rather than the two requested by the department. "We believe it is important to give this a try first, rather than simply adding more officers."

Harder then turned his attention to the city's future economic growth.

"2017, in fact, is looking like it will be the biggest commercial and industrial growth year in decades in Winkler," he said.

One big project on the horizon is the revitalization of the Southland Mall, which was recently purchased by the Canadian Tire Corporation's real estate investment trust.

The company plans to add new stores to the facility, Harder said, "with the added goal to improve the long-term viability of the shopping mall."

Continued on page 6

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Western School Division's annual budget exhibition gave Mordenites a chance to see some of the educational programs their tax dollars go to support.

PHOTOS
BY LORNE
STELMACH/
VOICE



WSD unveils \$20.3M budget

By Lorne Stelmach

Taxpayers in the Morden area are looking at a 3.8 per cent increase in the education mill rate as part of a \$20.3 million budget for the Western School Division.

The rise in taxes is helping meet a financial plan for the 2017-18 school year that sees spending increase by 2.6 per cent.

At a budget exhibition at Morden Collegiate Feb. 22, division officials suggested they have managed to strike a good balance.

"We don't want to pass on a huge burden to the taxpayers ... there was a good feeling of peace about our budgeting this year," said board chair Brian Fransen. "It is an increase but it's a reasonable increase."

"It's basically a break-even budget and really that's what we are striving to do," added secretary-treasurer Carl Pedersen, noting while minimizing the tax impact they also want to address key priorities and maintain an accumulated surplus of around four per cent to be prepared for unexpected costs.

"We need to keep that accumulated surplus ... you need to have that money, that flexibility ... we have to have a little bit of that cushion to weather those storms that will come along some time or another."

The increase in the levy means for a Morden home assessed at \$275,000, the school portion of the tax bill will increase \$76 to \$2,055.

For the RM of Stanley, \$1 million worth of farmland will see its school

taxes rise by \$161 to \$4,318.

A business valued at \$500,000, meanwhile, will see its school taxes increase by \$201 to \$8,810.

The budget was boosted somewhat by the division receiving a 2.8 per cent increase in provincial funding, which is better than anticipated in a year of belt tightening by the Manitoba government.

"Other divisions have fared quite a bit worse than we have, and we have no complaints about the funding we got from the province," said Fransen.

"We do have to be able to make sure that we can maintain the services that we have with the budgeted amount that we're getting from the province," he added, suggesting the budget allows the division to continue looking at a few priority areas.

"We're looking very specifically at project-based learning, adding to our Red River Technical Vocational Area with the piping trades program and expanding into our career develop-

ment opportunities for students," Fransen said. "We've heard a lot in the community and among our students that they're really interested in that area. We really need to provide more opportunities for leadership for our students and for our staff, so we're looking at ways of doing that with our budget."

Pedersen noted the budget process always involves making some tough decisions, such as this year not being able to extend fiber optics to Minnewasta School.

"It's the last school we have yet to go to ... we did Maple Leaf last year. It's great to do ... [but] it costs a lot of money."

Coming in at over \$13.1 million, provincial funding makes up about 64 per cent of the division's revenues, with the levy representing another 34 per cent and another two per cent coming in through other sources.

Continued on page 5

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Chamber announces biz award winners

Co-op, Penner Waste, Dominion Outdoors, Country Cycle, and The Bunker to be honoured

By Ashleigh Viveiros

At its annual general meeting last week, the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the 2017 P.W. Enns Business Awards.

The winner of this year's P.W. Enns Business Excellence Award is Winkler Co-op, the Business Builder awards will go to Penner Waste and Dominion Outdoors, the Customer Service Award winner is Country Cycle & Ski, and the Not for Profit Service Award goes to The Bunker youth ministry.

Incoming chamber president Kori da Costa said the selection committee certainly had a tough job this year.

"It was such a hard decision to make, because we really did have some really excellent nominations," she said. "There's so many excellent business owners in Winkler and so much growth and wonderful things happening."

The 2017 winners truly stood out above the rest, da Costa said, when it comes to growth, customer service, and community involvement.

"I think this year we picked some really solid award winners and we hope to see them at our gala on April 20 and be able to celebrate a little piece of their businesses there," she said.

The banquet will include as guest speaker economist, author, and former *Dragon's Den* star David Chilton.

Tickets are available at the chamber office in City Hall.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

After a year serving as the chamber's vice-president, da Costa officially assumed the role of president last week. She steps in for outgoing president Ryan Hildebrand.

Da Costa, who works as a financial advisor at CIBC, has big plans for the chamber in the years ahead. She'd

like the chamber to be the first place local entrepreneurs turn to when they need help with a business-related issue.

"One thing I'd really like to see the chamber do is just be that face ... the first thing that comes into their mind is the chamber and how can we help them," said da Costa.

"We want to hear more from our members," she added. "We put on lots of great seminars and things like that, but we want to make sure we're benefiting the community and I want to make that part of it, to be our main focus."

"Also, we'd like to maybe broaden our board," da Costa said. "We don't have anybody from, say, the restaurant industry, the industrial industry. We really want to get more people on the board that are willing to come out, be excited, and help make the changes."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
Kori da Costa received the ceremonial gavel as the incoming Winkler Chamber president.

> WSD BUDGET, FROM PG. 4

Salaries represent over 76 per cent of the division's costs at just over \$15.5 million, which is a 3.5 per cent increase from the past school year.

Other areas of spending range from a 10 per cent increase in administration costs to a 2.6 per cent decrease for operations and maintenance, while other expenditures remain similar to last year's budget.

Meanwhile, the budget exhibition last week

offered residents a chance to meet school staff and view displays highlighting key programs and initiatives in the division.

Fransen said they hoped that "people had an opportunity tonight to see some stuff about what's happening in our school division that they aren't familiar with ... and they go away excited about what we're doing with education in Morden."

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The Winkler Morden
Voice



PUBLISHER
Rick Reimer



ADMINISTRATION
Lana Meier



EDITOR
Ashleigh Viveiros



REPORTER
Lorne Stelmach



SALES
Gwen Keller



AGRICULTURE REPORTER
Harry Siemens



PRODUCTION
Tara Gionet



PRODUCTION
Nicole Kapusta

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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Despite my best efforts . . .

Have you ever tried to do something you have not done in a great while under the assumption you will do it just as well?

I do this all the time. I live in a great bubble of self-denial and forgetfulness and am amazed it has not caused me great injury or death yet.

There are so many instances of this in my life that it is difficult to narrow it down to a few for the sake of the column.

There was the time I decided to start jogging again after having not jogged since Gr. 9. I remember going and buying some nice runners, new high-tech sweats (I will NEVER wear paint-on running/biking pants, no matter how amazing my legs look), and got ready to hit the road.



By Peter Cantelon

I figured I would keep the first run small, maybe five kilometres or so based on how great I felt after my last 10 km run (remember—the one from Gr. 9). I think I got about a third of a kilometer when I felt like I was going to throw up. I limped home puzzled.

Lifting things is also a bad habit. I lift things that are too heavy for me all the time. Like most men (sorry, this is going to be sexist) I tend to try and hook all two dozen grocery bags onto the fingers of both hands at once to avoid two trips to the car (plus a jug of milk with a thumb) and struggle to get up the stairs.

Moving furniture and televisions up and down the stairs on my own is also a fun hobby. I use it to remind myself of how much heavier things seem to have gotten.

Then there is the shovelling frenzy that cannot be stopped. I recognize before I go out to shovel snow that I will try to shovel as quickly as possible and with as full a shovel as I can. I know that my heart will feel like it is going to burst through my chest in an effort to revolt, and yet I do it anyhow.

It's not just physically demanding things but also feats of balance (sometimes known as feats of stupid-

ity).

"Peter, the ladder is not tall enough to reach the eaves ... let's just borrow another one" says the voice of common sense in my life.

"No, no ... if I just... balance myself ... on the balcony edge ... on my tiptoes ... I think ... I can reach." Followed by a comedic attempt to re-enact a Cirque du Soleil performance on my second storey balcony (successfully, I might add).

I promise you I am not intentionally trying to kill myself.

Lately I have been wanting to climb down my 120-year-old well in an effort to become a spelunking archaeologist. I even attempted to use what might be a similarly aged ladder bolted into the bricks on the inside—not a good idea.

The groans and shifts of the ladder were enough for me to realize this needed to be rethought. The plan is to find a rope ladder and try again in the spring (which could then double as a fire escape from the second storey, so obviously this is a good idea).

If you don't hear from me after May come look in my well. Until then, I promise to try and make more appropriate decisions.

> STATE OF THE CITY, FROM PG. 3

"These changes will reinforce and solidify Winkler as the shopping centre for all of southern Manitoba."

Another plan in the works that will not only help draw new business to Winkler but also create improved internet access for existing businesses and residents alike is Valley Fiber's ambitious plan to install a fiber optic network throughout the city.

"The City of Winkler will invest half a million dollars into economic development that will benefit every business and every household in the city," Harder said, explaining the city will take the lead by connecting every city-owned facility to the network to help get it started.

Harder called this plan a game changer for Winkler, as it will attract new high-tech companies and jobs,

and also create "a data corridor no less important than the Trans-Canada Highway or the Trans-Continental Railway System."

"This has always been a part of our economic development plan that has been missing," he added, stressing this will allow Winkler businesses to "be front and centre on the world stage competing with the best around the world. There is no reason that you're going to be delayed because of internet service anymore."

POOL UPGRADES

Turning, then, to Winkler's recreational offerings, Harder outlined some major plans in the works.

On the new project front, the city intends to add two additional out-

door skating arenas at Pine Ridge Plaza and Emerado Park, as well as a cricket pitch beside Northlands Parkway Collegiate.

The Winkler Aquatic Centre will also get a much-needed upgrade this summer.

The 21-year-old facility's liner has needed replacement for several years now, and council has earmarked \$650,000 to get it done, along with other refurbishments.

"We've struggled with trying to keep the liner waterproof and this last year was particularly challenging," Harder said "It's just time."

It will mean closing the pool early this summer—just before the Harvest Festival & Exhibition, in fact—but Harder explained after his

Continued on page 7

Economic outlook bright for Manitoba, Canada

By Lorne Stelmach

The economic outlook is rosier now for both the country and our province in particular, a top economist told guests at a reception hosted by the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce last week.

There are a number of factors that are cause for optimism, Pierre Cleroux said.

"The world economy is improving for the first time in five years, and the U.S. economy is also going to perform better in the next two years," said the vice-president of research and chief economist for the Business Development Bank of Canada. "We expect to see more growth, good growth over the next two years both in Canada and in Manitoba."

Cleroux touched on how what is happening in the global economy is playing a major role in improving our outlook here in Canada.

"We expect to see more growth in the next two years than we have seen in the past few

years," he suggested.

"Commodity prices are starting to increase ... prices are improving, so as a result countries that have been struggling because of those low commodity prices are improving," he added, citing countries like Brazil and Russia as being among those leading the recovery alongside emerging economies like India, which is forecast to have seven per cent growth this year.

China is also a major player with a forecast for about six per cent growth, but Cleroux noted one does need to consider the scale of that country's economy.

"The growth in China for one year was about the size of the entire Canadian economy. That's how six per cent growth in China looks," he said. "These

countries continue to grow, and they will have a positive impact on the world economy."

Cleroux also touched on the importance of the U.S. economy to Canada.

Considering that the U.S. represents about

"WE EXPECT TO SEE MORE GROWTH IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS THAN WE HAVE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS."

Continued on page 9



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Business Development Bank of Canada's Pierre Cleroux spoke to Morden area business leaders last week about the economic outlook for Manitoba and Canada.

> STATE OF THE CITY, FROM PG. 6

speech that they need those weeks to ensure the 2018 swim season isn't also disrupted by the renovations.

"It's going to be [closing] a couple weeks earlier than normal so that the work can get done during the course of the winter and be ready for spring season [2018]," he said. "If we would wait until later there's too much risk that we would have to disrupt two seasons rather than just one."

Harder added that the annual swimming pass rates will be adjusted accordingly to reflect the shorter season.

TALKING NUMBERS

Harder wrapped up his speech with a look at the city's finances.

The city's reserve fund has exceeded its debt load for years, he noted, putting the city in a strong position moving forward.

"Again, preparing ourselves to be ready for future expansion and investment," Harder said.

Winkler has long held the line on tax increases, the mayor said, as property assessments continue to rocket upward each year.

To help alleviate some of the tax burden on businesses looking to grow, Harder announced the city is looking at introducing an incentive package for companies building new or expanding existing facilities in Winkler.

Under this proposed tax break, businesses will receive a grant in lieu of a portion of

their taxes. This grant will be based on the added tax assessment of the expansion or new building, Harder said, and could save companies thousands of dollars over the five years they're eligible for it.

"We believe this incentive will encourage future activity in the commercial and industrial sectors," he said, "and enhance our already attractive industrial base."

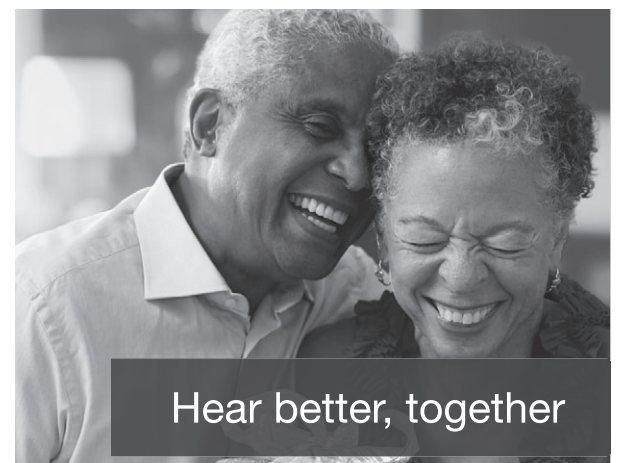
Later, the mayor further explained that they are still working on the wording of this incentive package to ensure it meets the guidelines set out under the Municipal Act, but he anticipates they should be able to make it happen.

"It may require some wording changes and we'll make sure that we have all that in place before we pass the bylaw," he said. Council was expected to discuss the matter further at Tuesday's council meeting.

Harder wrapped up his presentation by stressing that the future of Winkler remains bright, thanks in large part to the business leaders who continue to push the community forward in growth and prosperity.

"Together we have done one awesome job in making this the fastest growing city in the province of Manitoba," he said. "We will continue to provide strong leadership with a strong future."

"We must have strong, vibrant economy in order to provide the amenities that you as residents of the city of Winkler have come to expect."



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Above: ECS students show off their woodworking skills at the GVSD Budget Exhibition last week. Left: Amy Redekop and Claire Goertzen get into character at the Plum Coulee School booth. Below: Electrical technology student Calvin Wiebe shared how the RRTVA program has impacted his life.

Budget showcase puts schools in the limelight

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Last Wednesday, Winkler area residents got a chance to see just where their school tax dollars are going as the Garden Valley School Division hosted its first budget exhibition night.

Since trustees are still putting the finishing touches on the budget, the evening was light on hard numbers.

"We don't have too many numbers right now," admitted board chair Laurie Dyck, explaining those will come in the next week or so as pricing for several projects is confirmed.

That said, Dyck pointed out that rising assessment values will translate into more tax dollars coming into the division. Beyond that, she expects if there is an increase on the education portion of the tax bills, it will be minimal.

"We are working very hard, we're cutting back," she said. "We always have a list of possible projects that could be done ... and that list, we have trimmed it back, prioritized it to what impacts the kids in the classroom? What impacts the kids' learning?"

"Whatever choices we make this year have to show significant impact on student learning. That is our goal."

Dyck said that with the provincial government reigning in spending, GVSD didn't receive funding for much beyond the basics.

"We didn't get the funding from the government to cover all our other stuff," she said. "So we are aware and we're paying very close attention to the mill rate. History would show we have gone down the last couple of years."

In fact, last year's budget dropped the mill rate by 11.41 per cent to 15.99 mills, though increased assessments meant the division still took in about the same amount in taxes.

Possible budget expenditures this coming school year include \$44,000 to

further develop the Gr. 5-8 classroom libraries, \$17,000 for teacher professional development in connection with the Gr. 9-12 literacy programming, and \$24,000 in professional development for the numeracy initiatives in K-8.

Dyck said they're also looking at having to spend \$200,000 for a new school bus, \$40,000 to increase physical therapy services for special needs students, \$30,000 for a classroom conversion at GVC Tec, and \$180,000 for some much needed additional computer equipment for schools throughout the division.

GVSD estimates student enrolment will increase to 4,444 students this fall—up four from the 2016 actual enrolment totals and 97 from the year's initial projected numbers.

Trustees were slated to meet with municipal leaders and the parent advisory councils this week for feedback on the budget. The financial plan is expected to be approved at the board's March 14 meeting.

If you'd like to weigh in before that, Dyck urges you to contact the division office or a trustee.

"All our emails, phone numbers are on the division website," she said. "Call, e-mail, find us—we love to have these conversations with people."

SHOWCASING LOCAL SCHOOLS

The lack of firm budget numbers is part of the reason why the division opted for a showcase evening rather than the traditional public budget meeting.

"That's why we chose to do it this way and say, 'Hey, look at what last year's budget did,'" Dyck explained, adding she was thrilled to see so many people come out for the event.

Area schools and divisional programs filled the Garden Valley Collegiate gymnasium with displays to highlight some of the ways students are learning today.

Emerado Centennial School principal Garth Doerksen said they were excited at the opportunity to reach out to the community at large like this.

"It's nice to get the general public coming in ... to see the different things that we offer our students," he said, as nearby students conducted science

"IN MANY CASES IT'S A DIFFERENT STYLE OF LEARNING THAN WHAT MAYBE THEIR PARENTS EXPERIENCED."

Continued on page 9

> GVSD SHOWCASE, FROM PG. 9

experiments and woodworking demos for onlookers.

"In many cases it's a different style of learning than what maybe their parents experienced," Doerksen added. "There's a lot more exploration and hands-on learning, and that's the kind of stuff we're featuring here tonight."

"It's a fantastic opportunity," agreed Jeff Osinski, vice-principal at Northlands Parkway Collegiate. "You finally get to show off some of the fantastic things that our teachers do and some of the fantastic programs that our kids get to do every day."

"We've been getting a lot of positive feedback," he continued. "We've been hearing from people who are in our catchment area whose kids are coming up. And we're also hearing from some people who are planning to move to Winkler and they know what school they want to go to and they're using this to scout out what that will look like."

The dozens of students in attendance to represent their schools also gave the event a big thumbs up.

At the RRTVA booth, Calvin Wiebe, a Gr. 12 electrical technology student, was eager to share his experiences with the program.

"I was doing home schooling and private schooling up until halfway through Gr. 8 and then I heard about the RRTVA," he said, explaining he convinced his parents to let him finish the school year in Winkler (he lives south of La Riviere) so he could explore technical vocational programming in high school. "I was thinking, 'Here are opportunities that I don't



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Students from NPC's hair styling program show off some of the cuts they've learned.

have yet and this is something that's going to help me in life' ... even if I don't go into this trade, it's still a great life skill to have.

"I believe the RRTVA will truly change a lot of students' lives because it's such a great opportunity," Wiebe said. "It truly has changed my outlook on everything ... it broadens my

spectrum on jobs I can get into."

Other student demonstrations included manicures courtesy of the esthetics program, snacks cooked up by baking students, and musical performances by band and choirs from Winkler Elementary School and NPC.

Manufacturing sector poised for a boom year

From Pg. 7

75 per cent of our Canadian exports and 69 per cent of those from Manitoba, we stand to benefit from their economic success, which, he added, is being influenced by the new Trump administration.

"We have a new president with a very aggressive economic agenda, a very stimulative economic agenda, said Cleroux, citing such factors as the recently approved Keystone pipeline and other priorities like reducing taxes and boosting spending.

Meanwhile, he noted the unemployment rate has dropped to 4.8 per cent, which is the lowest since the last recession, and job creation has accelerated as well.

All that has contributed to growth in the housing market, Cleroux said.

"We have a lot of companies that are benefitting from that in Canada," he said. "We are exporting more lumber, more wood flooring, more kitchen cabinets ... a lot of companies are

part of the value chain of the housing market in the U.S."

One note of caution, however, are challenges on the trade side, including the U.S. wanting to renegotiate trade agreements. Cleroux suggested, though, that Canada is too important of a market for the U.S. to risk losing.

"We don't believe we are going to be a focus for the renegotiation ... we are in a very good position ... we are optimistic any changes will not have a big impact," he said.

He also noted while there will be growth here in Canada, it will still be somewhat slow, though going in a positive direction. The government is boosting spending in key areas, including infrastructure, that will help spur some growth, which he estimated will be around two per cent this year.

Manitoba, meanwhile, will continue to be a bright spot in Canada, Cleroux said, suggesting we are in a special situation here given we have many sectors in play and are not as special-

ized or as reliant on key sectors like Alberta, which was heavily impacted when commodity prices took such a hit.

"This is by far the most diversified economy in Canada," said Cleroux. "The rest of the economy here performed quite well ... that's the reason that you have growth despite the fact that we have lower commodity prices."

With a growth rate of around two per cent, Manitoba is performing better than the national average and was third behind only B.C. and Ontario, he noted, crediting areas like our manufacturing and food processing sectors, while tourism is also having a strong influence on our economy.

"THIS IS BY FAR THE MOST DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY IN CANADA."

"These industries are driving the exports from Manitoba and are compensating for the lower exports we see in other sectors. That's the reason why having such a diversified economy is so important," Cleroux concluded. "The manufacturing sector is going to perform even better this year than it did over the last few years."

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Major renos to dog kennels on PVHS' to-do list

By Lorne Stelmach

A significant renovation of its animal shelter in Morden is among the priorities this year for the Pembina Valley Humane Society.

It is a much needed project, but one that comes on top of the ongoing challenge of keeping up with the rising costs of providing a home and care for its animals, directors said at the agency's annual meeting Monday.

The upgrade to the seven-year-old dog kennel area is needed because of wear and tear, president Tyler Cameron explained. Funding is already in place for about three-quarters of the project, with the PVHS left to raise about \$9,000.

"It's a much needed renovation ...

for the animal health, for the ease of cleaning and the ease on our staff," Cameron said.

"The timeline is really dependent on whether we can do it in half sections or the full area all at once, and that's really dependent on our foster situation," he stressed, encouraging people in the community to step forward to provide short-term homes. "If we can get homes for all of our dogs for the interim, then the project will take a lot less time because we'll be able to do the entire renovation at once."

Volunteers and supporters heard directors report that progress was made in a number of areas in the past year.

The day-to-day operation of the shelter, as always, had some peaks.

"We saw a really early spike in dogs

being adopted as well as incoming. It spiked a lot more in our adoptions and not as much in our incoming, which gave us a nice break, it gave us a bit of a breather," said Cameron. "Cats, unfortunately, we always have a waiting list ... as soon as one goes out the door, another one comes in."

The humane society was particularly focusing on building its financial stability this past year, including by setting up a small retail section and aiming to increase its monthly donors.

The society otherwise aims to raise about 20 per cent of its operating budget through support from area municipalities, with the 2017 financial plan remaining steady at a little over \$150,000. Morden is targeted for the

biggest grant at about \$6,000 since it represents about 35 per cent of the shelter's animal intakes.

"I think there's always challenges financially. Every single year, I think even monthly, our costs go up ... especially this year we saw some of the vet bills go up," said vice-president Brett Casper.

"I think this year we're going to focus a little more on sharing with the public that we have a large need for financial support," he said. "We want to continue to care for the animals ... give them the best home possible. But as costs grow, then we need more and more support."

Cameron added they have also been making it a priority to ensure the society operate as efficiently as possible.

"And we have a great fundraising team," added Casper, noting that fundraising increased about \$5,000 to over \$50,000 in the last year.

In addition, the agency has also worked hard to build and maintain a strong and stable volunteer base.

"That's everything from our chore volunteers up to our board," Casper said. "We grew our board quite drastically this past year, which was a very big help to us ... spread out the work load a little bit."

Casper concluded that the humane society generally is pleased with where it is at, but also stressed the need for continued support.

"We just can't stress enough that we need as much support as we can get."



The PVHS board of directors reported on a successful year at its annual meeting in Morden on Monday.

PHOTO
BY LORNE
STEL-
MACH/
VOICE

Regional landfill to add new cell this summer

By Lorne Stelmach

The Winkler and Morden area's regional landfill is set to expand once more.

The Solid Waste Area Management Project (SWAMP) will have another new cell added to the landfill located north of Winkler in the RM of Stanley.

The fifth cell expansion done since the landfill opened in 1996 will add an additional 835,300 cubic meters of space for waste and should serve the region for the next 12 years or more based on the region's projected waste volumes.

Dirt Pro Inc was awarded the \$1.1 million project, with work expected to begin in spring and be completed this summer.

"Hopefully with some of the waste

reduction strategies that have already been implemented and will be implemented in the future, we can eliminate the need for new cell expansions in the future," suggested SWAMP chair and Morden city councillor Hank Hildebrand.

SWAMP is currently receiving around 22,286 metric tonnes of waste per year, with commercial waste being the largest contributor.

With that in mind, SWAMP has launched a number of reduction strategies to divert waste from entering the landfill, Hildebrand said.

"We had a number of pilot projects where we worked together with businesses to look for diversion opportunities and gather some data," he said. "Diverting metal, concrete, tires and appliances on site have all proven

successful."

Meanwhile, the expansion comes as SWAMP manager Dave Wolfe steps down later this month after 15 years in the role. Wolfe is being succeeded by Brent Kletke, who has already started work at the landfill.

Hildebrand said SWAMP has served as a good example of what can be accomplished when municipalities work together, and he credited Wolfe for playing an integral role.

As for Wolfe, he is proud of what has been accomplished with three other cell expansions during a time of increasing population, evolving waste reduction strategies, and changing government regulations.

"The landfill has gone from receiving 22,000 metric tonnes up to 28,000 metric tonnes per year. Through dif-

ferent reduction strategies we've managed to reduce our waste levels and have gone back down to 22,000 metric tonnes," he noted.

"Considering the population increases over that time, there has been a significant reduction in waste per population entering the landfill," Wolfe said. "And I've thoroughly enjoyed being given the opportunity to play a role in that."

"Ultimately, I've always taken the approach that I would love to see less garbage entering the landfill to the point where we wouldn't need to be digging additional cells," he added. "It's a situation where if you can accomplish your goal you will essentially be working yourself out of a job."

'Something to Sing About'

The Prairie Singers regional choir take the stage this Sunday for two concerts in celebration of our nation's 150th anniversary. The "Something To Sing About" concert will highlight Canada's rich choral repertoire with songs by the Masters and Canadian composers, as well as tunes portraying the country's vast landscape and folklore. The choir will be led by conductor Loretta Thorleifson, with accompaniment by Fay Curruthers. Shows take place March 5 at 2:30 p.m. at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church and at 7:30 p.m. at the Morden Mennonite Church. Tickets are available at the door for \$10 for adults, half-price for students.



Central Station hosting world-class chef March 11

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Local foodies have a chance to enjoy an amazing meal while also supporting a great cause this month.

The Central Station Community Centre is teaming up with the Winnipeg Supper Club to host a special fundraising meal on Saturday, March 11.

The supper club, created by former Winklerite Leane Funk, organizes secret meals in Winnipeg every month, where guests don't know what they'll be eating until they walk in the door.

"When you get a group of people in a room that are there because they genuinely love food, it's kind of magical," Funk says of the experience. "It's such an incredible night. The chef gets to showcase their talents in front of a small audience, and just watching and hearing the appreciation that the guests have for the chef and for the whole experience, it's pretty satisfying."

"It's really, really exciting to be able to bring it home like this," she adds.

The Central Station meal will have as its chef Ben Kramer, an internationally celebrated chef who is at the forefront of the Winnipeg food scene.

He'll be putting together a unique

multi-course meal with wine pairings using locally sourced ingredients, says Central Station board member Christina Wall.

"We've already had a lot of local businesses donate food for this event," she says. "We have so many amazing producers in this area, so to be able to showcase what's available here is a fun part of this."

As with the Winnipeg suppers, the details of the menu will be kept secret

until the guests sit down at the table, and Wall is excited to see what Kramer manages to whip up.

"To be able to have someone like that come out here is quite exciting," she says. "This is something that's really different for this area."

All the proceeds from the evening will go to Central Station's programming. Right now they're in the midst of a major renovation project that will allow the Winkler Food Cupboard to

move into the building.

The dinner will take place at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre. Doors open at 6 p.m. Supper will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are limited to just 90 people and cost \$100 (with a \$50 tax receipt). Book yours by contacting Central Station at 204-325-0257 or stopping by during public drop-in times Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mentoring event offers a chance to share, learn

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler hosts its very first Speed Mentoring event later this month.

The Winkler & District Chamber of Commerce is teaming with BDC, Community Futures Heartland, and Pixels to host the inaugural event on Tuesday, March 14.

The evening will take its lead from speed dating, explains chamber executive director Tanya Chateaufneuf.

"You'll sit down at a table with a mentor and spend a few minutes with them before transferring onto the next one," she said, noting they plan to have several experienced business leaders representing a variety of commercial and industrial sectors.

"It's going to be a really fun opportunity to share knowledge between really seasoned business owners and those that are maybe somewhere in the middle and then also those who are at the other end of the spectrum, new to business," Chateaufneuf said.

"There's new, innovative ways of doing things but then there's also

more traditional ways and I think at this point there's a little bit of a gap in that communication, so this will help bring those two things together."

One of the mentors will be Kate- lin Letkeman of Charley B's Classic Grill and Ice Cream Parlour. Letkeman said she's eager to share some of the wisdom she's gleaned since starting her business in 2014.

"Things have changed so much for me in the past three years ... I'm learning more and more about who I am as a business person, so it's interesting to see that grow and change and I want to tell people about that process," she said.

"For someone just starting out, be excited about what you want to do, but don't put too much pressure on yourself," Letkeman added, stressing that you continually learn new things as a business owner and need to be open to adapting your plans as necessary.

It's a sentiment echoed by Kurtis Fox, owner of the Muscle Hut and another mentor signed up for the

event.

"You should always be striving to learn more, not getting stagnant," he said. "You need to be open to what the customer wants."

Like Letkeman, Fox hopes that by sharing his experiences as a business owner he can help newer entrepreneurs avoid some of the pitfalls he faced.

"It's a huge learning curve," he said of building a business from the ground up. "And I think a big part of it is stepping out of your comfort zone in many different ways."

"The startup phase especially, there's so many little technicalities involved in just getting going ... so any advice there was huge for me and hopefully I can pass that on."

The Speed Mentoring evening runs from 6-8:30 p.m. in the Quality Inn banquet hall. Refreshments will be provided.

Participation is free, but pre-registration is required. To sign-up or for more information, contact the chamber at director@winklerchamber.com or 204-325-9758.

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SLEEP APNEA - Sharing a Bed with a Poor Sleeper

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People often blame aging, stress and over-scheduling for daytime sleepiness. However, restless sleep is not normal at any age, for any reason. In fact, snoring and daytime sleepiness are the most common symptoms of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA), as well as:

- Pauses in breathing at night
- Gasping or choking during sleep
- High blood pressure
- Large neck size
- Being overweight

What is Sleep Apnea?

Obstructed Sleep Apnea (OSA) is a serious, yet common sleep disorder. Throughout the night, breathing periodically stops for short periods of time due to the collapse of tissues in the upper airway. Air is prevented from getting to your lungs, which reduces oxygen to your body. This lack of oxygen may cause morning headaches and high blood pressure. Pauses in breathing also disrupt restful sleep, which

is why sleep apnea sufferers feel so tired during the day. Often the bed partner notices these symptoms first. Most don't know they have a problem, and so it is often overlooked or remains undiagnosed, and sufferers needlessly endure symptoms.

- OSA affects men, women and even some children, and it may run in families.
- Up to 65% of people snore
- 9 of middle-age women suffer from OSA
- 24% of middle-age men suffer from OSA
- 77% of people who are overweight have OSA
- 35% of people with high blood pressure have OSA
- 15% of people with diabetes have OSA
- As many as 4 out of 100 employees suffer serious symptoms of sleep apnea
- Sleepiness at work or while driving increases the risk of serious accidents up to 15 times

Determining Your Risk of Having Sleep Apnea

If you are worried about your snoring or sleep problems, or about someone else's, answer these eight simple questions to help determine your risk of having Obstructive Sleep Apnea.

1. Do you snore loudly? Louder than talking or to be heard through closed doors?

2. Do you often feel tired, fatigued, or sleepy during the daytime?
3. Has anyone observed you stop breathing during your sleep?
4. Do you have or are you being treated for high blood pressure?
5. Is your BMI greater than 35?
6. Are you over 50 years old?
7. Is your neck circumference greater than 40 cm (16 in)?
8. Are you a male?

If you answered yes to 3 or more questions, talk to your doctor about your sleep and consider having a sleep study.

For more information, visit www.RANAsnorescore.com.

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City hires Chad Sheldon as biz development specialist

By Lorne Stelmach

Working with the Morden Chamber of Commerce, including serving as its president, stirred an interest in municipal affairs for Chad Sheldon.

Given that, taking on a new role now as business development specialist with the Morden Community Development Corporation was an opportunity that he couldn't pass up.

"It's kind of the dream position that I was looking for ... being involved in the growth of the city. There's some pretty good things happening with the city and the growth of it," Sheldon said from his new office in the City of Morden's planning and development department.

As business development specialist, Sheldon will be connecting investors with business opportunities and assisting new business start-ups as they become established in Morden.

He welcomed the chance to be part of the growth of the city as well as meeting people from other countries and cultures and helping people real-

ize their dream of owning a business or even just starting a new life here.

"I've been really intrigued with the corporate plan to get to 15,000 by 2020," he said. "That's been stuck in my head for a couple years, so the opportunity to be a part of that was a key thing."

His main responsibility will be to oversee the Morden Business Gateway program.

"It's providing information, contacts and connections, and it's really helping somebody who has an interest in owning a business, developing a business in the city," Sheldon explained.

He sees it being satisfying to be a catalyst to help make the continued growth happen.

"It's also about an individual's dream to own a business ... a dream to come and settle in Canada ... so it is fun. You get to meet a lot of different people."

Sheldon has been on the job for about a month now and said it has been busy right from the get-go.

"I hit the ground running. It's been



Chad Sheldon has been hired as Morden's new business development specialist.

busy ... a lot on the go. It's been great ... lots of activity," he said. "Every day is different and unpredictable. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes that people don't always realize, and leading business development to fruition from start to finish is a long process."

Sheldon comes to the role with a variety of entrepreneurial and business

development experience.

He is the current president of the Morden & District Chamber of Commerce as well as a board member of Minnewasta Golf & Country Club and an owner of Floral Scents in Morden's downtown.

Sheldon previously worked in business development with RANA Respiratory Care for 19 years.

Couple arrested after police standoff in Winkler

A husband and wife are facing charges after a stand-off with police at their home in Winkler last week.

Winkler Police received a call for assistance from the RCMP just before 8 p.m. on Feb. 22. Officers had stopped a vehicle on Hwy. 14 near 15th St. and believed the occupant was possibly in possession of a firearm.

The suspect vehicle then fled from the roadside scene and travelled to a residence on Roadrunner Bay, where the occupant fled on foot into his

house.

Winkler officers joined RCMP at the house, where attempts were made to call the suspect out of the building. Morden Police and the Regional Support Tactical Team were also called to assist.

The suspect eventually exited the house and fled on foot. He was apprehended by police a short distance away and taken into custody by the RCMP.

Continued on page 14

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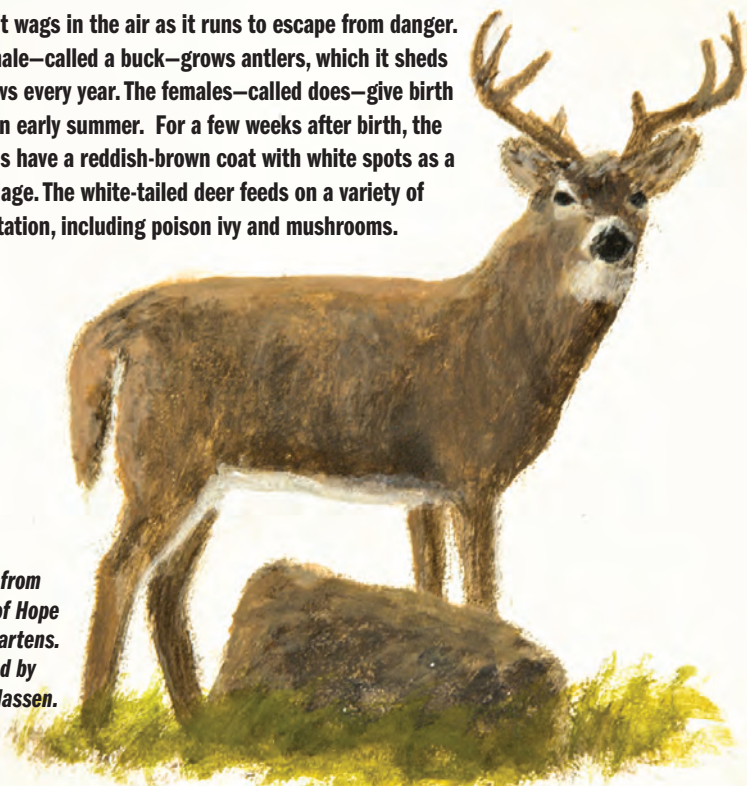
PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Cuddle up and read

It was a pajama party with a whole lot of fun books last Thursday as Maple Leaf School in Morden hosted its Cuddle Up and Read night to help mark February as I Love To Read Month. The event brought families to the school for one hour of family reading. "We want to make sure that families realize that reading isn't just for school time ... it's important to do outside school as well," said Darlene Keith, literacy coach for the Western School Division.

On the Oak Woods Trail

The White-Tailed Deer is named for the white underside of its tail, which it wags in the air as it runs to escape from danger. Only the male—called a buck—grows antlers, which it sheds and re-grows every year. The females—called does—give birth to fawns in early summer. For a few weeks after birth, the young fawns have a reddish-brown coat with white spots as a camouflage. The white-tailed deer feeds on a variety of vegetation, including poison ivy and mushrooms.



- Excerpt from
Footprints of Hope
by Henry Martens.
Illustrated by
Raymond Klassen.

FOOTPRINTS
of Hope

CANADA
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Environmental Stewardship

Morden Police weekly report

Morden police were alerted Feb. 20 just before 11 p.m. by an off-duty police officer about a disturbance at the Access Event Centre.

Several people were drunk and yelling and swearing at other people as they left the building. Police arrived and saw two individuals with beer in their hands. As a result, one was charged with consuming liquor in a public place and another with consuming liquor underage.

It also turned out another male youth involved had an outstanding warrant from Brandon for break and enter. He was arrested and released pending an appearance in Brandon court.

Other items in the weekly Morden Police report include:

- A 46-year-old man is facing a charge of mischief for vandalizing a vehicle as well as two counts of breach of probation.

Police were called when a resident saw a neighbour break the antenna off her car.

The man was arrested and the investigation revealed he was also on two separate probation orders with conditions to keep the peace and be of good behavior.

- Morden police were called

around 11:20 p.m. Feb. 24 by a resident when a man came to her door asking her to call police regarding a domestic assault. The caller told officers she could hear a lot of yelling coming from the neighbour's residence.

Police then spoke to a witness who saw her sister assault her boyfriend several times by slapping him. The 31-year-old woman was arrested for assault and held overnight until sober. She will appear in court in March.

- A 43-year-old Brandon woman is charged with three counts of failing to comply with a recognizance after showing up at a Morden home Feb. 26 despite a no-contact order.

Police learned the victim had recently moved to Morden and was on a no contact order with the accused, who was also ordered to have no contact with him.

Despite that, she had shown up and refused to leave the home, so the victim left and went to a relative's house for the night.

Police went to the home and found the accused sleeping in the living room. She was arrested and remanded into custody.

> WINKLER POLICE, FROM PG. 13

An adult female then exited the family home with a young child. A search of the child's backpack was found to contain a number of toys along with small quantities of methamphetamine and marijuana.

The woman was taken into custody by Winkler Police.

Several firearms were subse-

quently located and seized from the house and vehicle. The RCMP investigation on that front continues.

Winkler Police later released the woman, though she will face possession charges under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

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Getting Down to Business

Inking tattoos, building relationships

Aiming to offer custom tattoos in every style, Neonothings Studios in Morden is as much about building relationships with its clients as it is about the art.

"We try to make sure that we put a little bit of individual flair into every tattoo," said owner-operator Jon Fehr. "We really just try to make sure we're pleasing people because this is a permanent investment in yourself."

Fehr's journey started a decade ago when he wanted to start pursuing an art-related career. Not able to find an apprenticeship, he began working from his home before getting a chance to be an understudy in a shop in Medicine Hat where he learned one of the most important parts of the job.

"I prided myself on treating clients the way that I want to be treated," said Fehr, who worked there for about two years before coming to Morden and picking up an established business here.

"What we're trying to do is show people what the new breed of tattoo shop looks like," said Fehr. "The industry, the equipment and the entire approach to the artwork has evolved a lot."

He is also looking at possibly expanding the business.

"I've hired another artist, and I have an apprentice that I've had for almost a year now," said Fehr.

I Am a Member!



Facebook icon, mdcc logo, Twitter icon

Neonothings Studios' Jon Fehr says they put a bit of individual flair into every tattoo.

"I felt because I tried so hard to get an apprenticeship ... I feel like one of the biggest things is when you are blessed ... you pass those blessings on," he said. "I feel like I was so blessed to be in this industry that for me to be able to pass that on to somebody who is going to take it seriously and make a career out of it is a huge blessing."

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MORDEN CHAMBER NEWS

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Lunch & Learn
Topic: Recruitment
March 23rd

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The Home & Life Show is an annual Spring event to showcase a variety of businesses to the community March 3rd & 4th 2017. This is a great opportunity to visit numerous businesses under one roof and see what new products and services they have to offer. This 2 day event is free for the public to attend and has a little something for everyone from home decor, furniture, landscaping, health & beauty to outdoor activities. The Home & Life Show runs Friday March 3rd 3:00pm to 9:00pm and Saturday March 4th 10:00am to 5:00pm at the Access Event Centre.

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spring 2017 HOME & Life SHOW

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Talking fungi at the next A Rocha Nature Talk

By Lorne Stelmach

The next Nature Talk in the series hosted by A Rocha will offer a glimpse into the mysterious under-



Dr. Diana Bizecki Robson

ground world of fungi.

There is a vast amount of fungal life in the soil beneath our feet, so the talk next Thursday, March 9, will explore that diversity under ground and how it connects to and matter to us here above ground.

"All we see of it is when the mushrooms pop up ... but the mushrooms are not nearly the most vital part of what's really going on," said director Jamie Fox.

"Fungus and mushrooms and such are, I think, fairly misunderstood," he suggested. "Even in terms of the soil, there's more living organisms under our feet than most of us realize. So we wanted to have someone come in who could shed some light on this."

The talk gets underway at 7:30 p.m. at the Morden Adult Education Centre.

Leading the presentation will be Dr. Diana Bizecki Robson, curator of botany at the Manitoba Museum. One of her key areas of study is the prairies, which includes a lot of mycological activity.

"She's going to talk about the fungal diversity in Manitoba and kind of what's going on underneath our feet in the soil," said Fox. "Also she's going to be teaching a bit about identifying specimens and gathering specimens, so I think that should be interesting."

Robson obtained a master's degree in plant ecology at the University of Saskatchewan studying the rare plants of the mixed grass prairies.

After a few years of working as an environmental consultant and sessional lecturer, she got her Ph.D. in soil science from the same university, but this time she focused on phytore-

mediation of hydrocarbon-contaminated soil using native and naturalized plants.

In 2003, she joined the team at the Manitoba Museum, where she has continued her research on endangered prairie plants, documenting their distribution, habitat and ecological relationships with other species including pollinating insects.

Her current research is focused on prairie pollination and conservation of wild crop pollinators, like bees and flower flies, in agroecosystems using wildflower plantings.

As always, Fox hopes those who take in this latest installment in the Nature Talk series come away from it with "a better appreciation ... a better understanding of what's going on in the soil ... a greater sense of awe about the world that we live in."

Training program prepares newcomers for jobs

By Lorne Stelmach

Funding from the province is helping train and put newcomers to work in an industry where there is a need.

The Manitoba government is partnering with the Wood Manufacturing Council (WMC) to prepare a group of newcomers in the Winkler and Morden region for jobs in wood manufacturing.

The program is a co-operative effort that involves Regional Connections to also give these newcomers the language training and support they need.

"We can't do it ourselves ... an individual employer often can't do it themselves ... so I think it's a really good partnership," said Steve Reynolds, program director for workplace and employment services for Region-

al Connections. "It's a way to get people who are already here and willing to work into jobs where there's openings with employers who have the needs."

Manitoba Education and Training Minister Ian Wishart agrees, stressing in a statement that the program is responding to wood manufacturers in the area having called for help in recruiting skilled workers.

As a result, the province has provided \$90,000 for the Wood Employee Readiness Curriculum Project to target newcomers with an English proficiency of between four and six on the Canadian Language Benchmark scale.

"We are investing in this training initiative to help connect workers with in-demand jobs in a growing industry," said Wishart.

The participants began by receiving three weeks of English as an additional language (EAL) instruction through Regional Connections late last year followed by four weeks of essential skills training, which included things related to applying for jobs, communication, and working with others.

Next going into the new year was eight weeks of hands-on training, including two weeks on the job. That will be followed by four weeks of

post-hire support for individuals who obtain employment and assisted job search for those not directly hired.

One of the participants said he really appreciated the opportunity to improve his skills through the training program.

"I've learned a lot about machines and machine vocabulary, and I have new skills and techniques in using machines and doing wood work," said Winkler resident Almas Sarsenov.

Biz boot camp returns

By Lorne Stelmach

A two day workshop later this month could help people in the region take their businesses to the next level.

The Pembina Valley Entrepreneur Boot Camp is aimed at people who are in the early stages of developing and growing their business.

"If you're looking to think outside the box and get some pointers from outside experts ... it's absolutely worth the two days," suggested Ken Reimer, general manager of Community Futures Heartland.

The agency offers the boot camp in conjunction with Innovate Manitoba, Manitoba Agriculture, and local partners and it is set for March 21-22 at the RM of Stanley office.

This is the second year for the boot

camp, which attracted six businesses last year.

"The boot camp for me was a combination of a reality check and a tune up," said Marc Palud of Repstar Agency, which won first place in the 2016 pitch competition held on day two of the camp. "I was able to make important decisions to point my business in the right direction for smart and profitable growth."

"I cannot express how helpful the boot camp was," said Daniel Friedrich, president of Perimeter Vision, which won second place. "It was truly an eye opener for me and provided me with the necessary information to take things to the next level."

Reimer said they want the boot

Continued on page 27

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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Thunder downed the Mustangs 7-2 on Feb. 22 in game one of the semi-final series. They went on to sweep the series with a 3-1 game two win Friday.

Thunder make short work of Mustangs

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Thunder won game one of their championship series against the Carman Cougars on Monday.

The 5-2 victory gives them a 1-0 series lead, with game two slated to take place Wednesday and game three, if needed, happening on Friday.

The road to the Zone 4 hockey championship began when Morden knocked out the Tigers in the quarter-finals. They went on to sweep their second round series against the Prairie Mountain Mustangs, winning game one 7-2 on Feb. 22 and game two 3-1 Friday night.

Carman, meanwhile, followed up on a 5-4 game one win over the Aces Feb. 21 to take that series in overtime 4-3 Friday night.

In other high school sports news, the Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs boys varsity basketball team wrapped up their regular season with a 88-35 victory over Morden on

Feb. 23. The GVC girls did the same that night, beating Morden 68-43.

In the SCAC, the NPC boys basketball varsity team downed the Wings

71-64 and the Canadiens 77-42 to close out the season. The girls, meanwhile, also posted wins: 56-44 over the Wings and 51-17 over the Canadiens.

In their first playoff game on Monday, the NPC boys lost to J.H. Bruns 53-40, while the girls lost their match against the Broncos 82-55.

Flyers earn key points as season winds down

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers solidified their second place ranking in the MJHL standings with a 3-1 win over Winnipeg on Saturday.

The team headed into the match in a three-way tie for second with OCN and Selkirk, but came out of it up on those teams by two points.

A little over 10 minutes into the opening period, Nolan McGuire successfully fired in a shot from the bottom of the face-off circle to give the Flyers a 1-0 lead.

Early in the second period, Coltyn

Bates popped in a rebound to double it to 2-0.

Winnipeg finally got their act together long enough to get one past Troy Martyniuk in net during a powerplay early in the final period.

The Blues yanked their goalie in the final minutes in an attempt to tie, but instead Will Blake added an insurance goal for Winkler with 37 seconds left to give the Flyers the win 3-1.

Overall, the two teams were evenly matched in shots on goal at 26 each, with Martyniuk making 25 saves to improve his record to 9-1-1 for the

season.

The weekend win came a few days after the Flyers posted their second straight loss when they faced OCN on Feb. 21.

That game, played in Winkler, saw the Blizzard up 3-0 before the Flyers got their first goal, courtesy of Blake, 15:35 into the second period.

OCN responded with two more goals in the third, while Winkler's Matt Christian made it a 6-2 loss with the last goal of the night at 16:12.

Continued on page 22



March is Pharmacist Awareness Month *Dedicated caregivers*

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The changing role of pharmacists

Did you know that depending on where you live, your pharmacist might be able to give you a flu shot? And that he or she can give you a screening test for the early detection of diabetes? As an important member of your health-care team, there are a lot of things your pharmacist can do that you might not be aware of. This March, Pharmacist Awareness Month (PAM) aims to celebrate and educate Canadians about all the contributions that pharmacists make to your good health.

In a February 2015 report prepared for the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPA), an online survey of Canadians showed that we are more likely to have a positive impression of pharmacists than of teachers, military officers and police officers. That information goes a long way in saying that we put a lot of trust in our pharmacists every time we buy an over-the-counter product, get a prescription filled and get advice about chronic illness or medications.

In the past ten years, the scope of practice of pharmacists has expanded so they can do more for their patients as health-care providers and not just as prescription-fillers. In fact, 79 per cent of the respondents of the 2015 CPA survey agreed that “if pharmacists worked more closely with doctors it would reduce overall health-care costs... and patients’ overall quality of life would improve.”

During the month of March, ask your pharmacist which services he or she offers besides filling prescriptions. You may be surprised to learn that your pharmacy is almost a one-stop health shop.



Keep medication out of your child’s reach!

There’s no denying that children are curious little beings, which is why it is imperative that you keep all forms of medication beyond their grasp. All it takes is a split second of inattention for an unfortunate event to occur. Follow these ground rules to ensure your child’s safety.

- Store all of your medication in the same location — ideally in a locked cabinet — and ensure that every container has a childproof safety cap.
- Only open your medicine cabinet when it’s time to take your medication, and make sure to put all items away as soon as you’re done with them. Avoid walking from room to room with your medication in hand, as you might accidentally leave it in plain sight of your child’s searching eye. Likewise, if you take medication during meal times, never leave pills unattended on the table; your child’s little hands manoeuvre with incredible swiftness.
- Avoid taking medication around children when possible, as little ones tend to mimic the actions of those around them.
- Pills come in all sorts of tantalizing colours. Gently explain to your child that medication is not candy.
- Never give your own medication — prescription or otherwise — to your child, whose metabolism works differently than that of an adult. All medication given to children needs to be administered according to a precise dosage and adapted to their specific health-care needs.

Consult a pharmacist with any inquiries regarding you or your child’s medication. As a highly qualified health professional, he or she will know how to address all of your concerns.



Your medicine cabinet: do you have everything you need?

Headaches, scratches, heartburn and colds: not all your ills require a visit to the doctor. But do you have what you need to take care of them? It's time to take an inventory of your medicine cabinet so you can be ready to deal with all those minor day-to-day emergencies that can come up.

Essentials

Your medicine cabinet should include basic medicines for all the members of your family. In other words, you should be able to deal with:

- pain and fever
- coughing and nasal congestion
- allergies and itching
- mild burns, sunburns and cuts
- digestive problems, sore muscles, diarrhea and nausea

Insect repellent and sunscreen are also essential, depending on the season. If you have a baby, stock up on cream for diaper rash and a soothing teething gel.

First-Aid Kit

As well as the above-mentioned medications, you should also have a first-aid kit containing:

- a digital thermometer, splinter tweezers, blunt-ended scissors and safety pins
- sterile gloves and pads, adhesive bandages of various sizes, antiseptic solution, alcohol pads, adhesive tape, gauze bandages, cotton wool and elastic fabric bandages
- a hot water bottle, ice compresses and CPR mask

Don't forget to keep on hand all the relevant emergency phone numbers, including the poison control line and your family physician's.

Your pharmacist can help you customize your home pharmacy kit. Don't hesitate to ask him or her for advice.



New Approach to Prescription Refills - Getting things Always Right and Right on Time!

To get full benefit of many medications and health supplements, you must take them on a regular basis as prescribed or directed. Taking medication regularly can be challenging for many reasons. Taking many medications can also be challenging in a variety of ways.

To help alleviate these challenges, Pharmasave's pharmacy team is excited to provide a new service: Simpl Sync. Simpl Sync saves you time, money and hassle when it comes to your prescription drug refills. It also can go a long way toward keeping you healthy (by helping you take medications as prescribed) and reducing the country's overall medical costs - which are often linked to the improper use of medications. Another part of the Simpl Sync program is an annual one-on-one session with a pharmacist to review all of your medications to ensure they are providing you with the best possible health outcomes.

Many people take a number of different medications, and getting all those refills can require several trips to the pharmacy each month. Now, through our Simpl Sync program, our pharmacy team can work to meet patients' individual needs and with their insurance

plans so that all of their refills are available for pickup on the same date.

Pharmasave will offer a week-ahead check-in for those enrolled to make sure there haven't been any changes in their medications, and will also remind people the day before their prescriptions are ready for pickup. In this manner, medications will be filled exactly the way patients should be taking them, and exactly when they need them. Private consultations with a pharmacist will be scheduled to more thoroughly review medication issues.

This program is the first of its kind in western Canada. Pharmasave is pleased to be offering Simpl Sync to any person on three or more regularly-scheduled medications. There is no extra cost to joining our Simpl Sync program.

People's top reasons for not taking their medications include running out, being away from home, trying to save money, and experiencing side effects. Whatever your reason, Pharmasave's Simpl Sync program can help you take your medications properly and with less worry and hassle. Please stop by Pharmasave in Morden and ask any staff member about the Simpl Sync program.



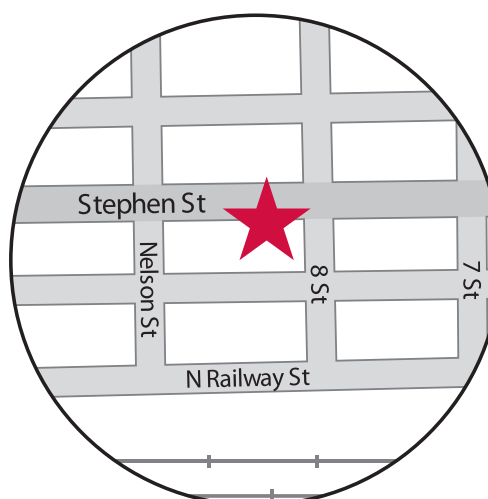
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Burwalde skiers go the distance

By Lorne Stelmach

An annual winter gathering that brings skiers together to see how far they can collectively go within 24 hours achieved another record this year.

The Boundary Trails Nordic Club held its 11th annual distance challenge last Friday to Saturday at Burwalde Trails.

It attracted 119 skiers from all over Manitoba, and they tallied a total of

4,716 km of skiing—a distance spanning Vancouver to Newfoundland—in setting the new event record in one full day of skiing.

It's the fact that it is a fun, family event for skiers of all ages and abilities that drew people, suggested organizer Vera Froese.

"I think it's just because it's such a neat, community event ... It's a community of skiers of all ages and abilities," she said. "There's all kinds of visiting going on, sort of like a family



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Over a hundred skiers hit the trails at Burwalde last weekend for the annual Distance Challenge. Junior racers Aaron Warkentine and Mattias Klassen (above) managed 150 km each, while Tessa Warkentine (right) set a new individual record of 168 km.

reunion."

Participants came from all over—from Winnipeg to Boissevain to Dauphin— and the beautiful setting and

Continued on page 25



End of the line for Morden Redskins

By Ashleigh Viveiros

And then there were four.

The Notre Dame Hawks are facing off against the Warren Mercs while the Carman Beavers take on the Portage Islanders in the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League semi-finals this week.

The Mercs made the cut after knocking out the Morden Redskins with a game four win last week Tuesday.

It was a do-or-die situation for the Redskins, who had fallen 6-2 in game one and 6-1 in game three, and so needed to follow up on their 3-2 game two victory to stay in the best-of-five series.

It wasn't to be, though, as Morden hosted Warren Feb. 21 for game four.

The Mercs hit hard right out of the gate, scoring the first period's lone goal and two more in the second before the Redskins' Cole Penner got

his team on the board at 17:28.

Tyler Penner's goal midway through the third brought Morden within one of tying, but Warren dashed those hopes with two goals in the final two minutes to take the game 5-2

Reed Peters took the loss in net,

making 43 saves as the Mercs outshot the Redskins 48-28.

And with that, Morden's season came to an end. They had finished the regular season in fifth place, just one down of the Mercs in fourth and two up on the Winkler Royals (who were

kicked out of the playoffs by the Islanders) in seventh.

In game one of the semi-finals on Sunday, Notre Dame beat the Mercs 6-5, while the Islanders fell to Carman 4-3 in overtime. Games continue all through this week.

Weaver named Rookie of the Year

From Pg. 19

Winkler's record at press time was 39-15-3 for 81 points, which puts them 15 back from the first place Steinbach Pistons.

This week, Winkler took on Neepawa on Tuesday and they will play their final two games of the regular season against the Blues on Friday and against Virden on Saturday, both in

Winkler.

WEAVER TOP ROOKIE

Winkler goaltender Cole Weaver has been named the MJHL's Rookie of the Year.

The 18-year-old, who was also nominated for Top Goaltender, has a 24-9-2 record so far this season—including three shut-out wins—with a .909 save percentage and a 2.42 goals against

average.

The Minnesota native was also named to the league's 2nd All-Star Team and All-Rookie Team.

Winkler's Lawson McDonald, who was one of the three finalists for the Top Defenseman Award, was also named a 1st Team All-Star last week, while Hockey Ability and Sportsmanship finalist Scott Gall and 17-year-old defenseman Tyler Jubenville were selected to the 2nd All-Star Team.

3rd Wave Tri Club looking for members

By Lorne Stelmach

A club of athletes who meet throughout the year to train together is looking for more people to get involved.

The 3rd Wave Tri Club is holding a registration and information evening Monday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Access Event Centre in Morden.

The group, which is involved with the annual Morden Triathlon, emphasize that they welcome all ages and athletic abilities.

"Anyone who is new in the community even, it's a nice way of meeting people who are like-minded ... if you're into any sport," suggested member Crystal Gavigan.

"We really do encourage people who are new or want to try something different to come out. Nobody has to be a pro, just come and have some fun with it," added president Tom Wiebe.

The club starts to meet more regularly in April and then through to the end of the summer. This year they're planning to get together on Mondays.

"It's for everybody. You don't need to have fancy equipment ... we do have club bikes," Gavigan stressed, suggesting that if people decide if they've gotten a taste for the sport, they can then decide if they want to invest in their own bikes.

Wiebe pointed out that because the



ABOVE VOICE FILE PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

The 3rd Wave Tri Club's Crystal Gavigan and Tom Wiebe urge athletes interested in trying something different to come to the club's information night next week. This year's Morden Triathlon runs July 8-9.

triathlon events are individual sports, the group is a great way for athletes to enjoy some camaraderie and support.

"The more people you have in the club, the more I enjoy it as well," he said, noting some years they've had upwards of 30 members. "It's really encouraging for each other ... we can give each other some pointers."

The club is also, of course, a good forum for training, not just in running, biking, and swimming, but also things like transitions between these events.

"That increases your speed overall," said Wiebe. "Your training really requires you to work on a mental mind set ... and strength is a big part of it as well."

If you can't make next week's info. night, you can connect with the club on Facebook or email wiebet91@yahoo.com for more information.

"IT'S FOR EVERYBODY. YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE FANCY EQUIPMENT."

TRIATHLON PLANNING UNDERWAY

Meanwhile, planning is well underway for the Morden Triathlon, which has been a summer tradition for over 30 years.

The July 8-9 race has two new co-race directors this year in



Chaley Martens, communications manager for the city, and Stephanie Dueck, recreation programmer

One major change will be the event is dropping the Half Ironman in favour of the Olympic and Sprint events, which will involve shorter distances of each discipline.

The Kids of Steel and the Try-a-Tri will both be back.

"The Try a Tri is on the Saturday ... people who are wanting to try the sport can go with the rest of the race ... before it used to be on Sunday with the Kids of Steel," noted Gavigan.

As always, the triathlon weekend requires an army of volunteers to run smoothly.

If you are interested in getting involved or want more information, e-mail mordentriathlon@gmail.com or check out mordentriathlon.com.

Hawks taking on Winnipeg Avros in semi-finals

By Lorne Stelmach

The female Pembina Valley Hawks are looking to take down Winnipeg next in the Manitoba AAA midget playoffs.

The Hawks kicked off their best of five semi-final with the Avros Tuesday night in Morden. Results were not available at press time.

For the Hawks, their approach to the series is the same as it has been all season: to focus on themselves.

"I think we've got to stick to our game plan," said coach Dana Bell earlier this week. "We have to throw an aggressive forecheck at them and, same

as we did with Central Plains, we've got to play a full 60 minutes of hockey.

"When the girls are going hard with the forecheck in all three zones, that makes us a strong team, and that's what we're shooting to do."

Game two of the series takes place in Winnipeg Thursday followed by game three back in Morden Sunday afternoon.

The second place Hawks moved on from the quarter-finals by sweeping the Capitals in three games with 3-1, 3-0 and 6-3 wins last week. The third place Avros also had an opening round sweep of the sixth place Norman Wild.

Pembina Valley won three of their four regular

season games with Winnipeg, winning 5-1 and 3-1 decisions before dropping the next battle 2-1 in a shootout and then edging them 3-2 in their final meeting in late December.

The playoffs have gone according to the seedings so far, with the first place Westman Wildcats facing the fourth place Yellowhead Chiefs in the other semi-final.

The powerhouse Wildcats dispatched the last place Interlake Lightning in three straight, while the Chiefs needed the full five to take care of fifth place Eastman Selects, including a double overtime 3-2 win to close it out.

Olympic gold medalists to speak at Esso Cup

A pair of Olympic gold medalists are coming to Morden next month.

Hockey players Jennifer Botterill and Sami Jo Small have been announced as guest speakers for the April 28 awards banquet at the 2017 Esso Cup.

"It is awesome to have Jennifer and Sami Jo come to Morden," said Clare

Agnew, chair of the host organizing committee. "They will be around the community for the day participating in the banquet, a presentation to the players, and participating with ceremonial puck drops. They are both amazing women and ambassadors to female hockey and to Canada."

Botterill, who retired after winning

her third Olympic gold medal at the 2010 Games, still ranks fifth in all-time scoring with Canada's National Women's Team, recording 174 points (65 goals, 109 assists) in 184 games.

In addition to her Vancouver gold, the Winnipeg native helped Canada to the top prize at the Olympics in 2002 and 2006, in addition to a silver

in 1998, and won five IIHF World Women's Championship gold medals during a 13-year career with Team Canada.

She was also named Most Valuable Player at women's worlds in 2001 and 2004, and took Top Forward honours in 2001.

Small appeared in 51 games for Canada's National Women's Team across 10 seasons, winning Olympic gold in 2002 and 2006, along with four gold medals at the IIHF World Women's Championships.

Named Top Goaltender at women's worlds in 1999 and 2000, she finished her career with a 40-6-0 record, leaving her third in all-time wins.

Tickets for the Esso Cup awards banquet are available for \$25 at the Access Event Centre during regular business hours. There are a limited number of tickets available for the general public.

"Our banquet committee is working tirelessly on every detail," said Darcie Reimer, chair of special events for the host committee. "It's exciting to see it all come together, and with Jennifer and Sami Jo involved it's going to be a memorable morning."



Olympians Jennifer Botterill and Sami Jo Small will be in Morden next month as guest speakers for the Esso Cup.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morden hosting JV boys basketball provincials

By Lorne Stelmach

Basketball fans will have a chance to see some of the best young players in the province in Morden next week.

Morden Collegiate is hosting this year's junior varsity boys basketball AAA provincial championships from March 9-11.

There will be eight teams involved and about 140 participants, including players and coaching staff.

With playoffs still underway, the participating teams had yet to be determined at press time, but Morden's JV team will definitely be taking part as hosts.

It will be a great opportunity for them, said athletic director Nicole Rutledge.

"They have held their own and been competitive throughout the league play, even in exhibitions and tournaments," she noted.

"It's tough for our teams to sometimes advance past the zone playoff or even to get a wild card spot," added Rutledge. "So it's kind of a good opportunity for the athletes themselves to be able to participate in the provincials."

Rutledge said the school has been pursuing opportunities to host provincials in recent years, such as the varsity AAA boys championship held here two years ago.

"That was a big success for us ... a lot of positive feedback from the schools that attended and a good experience for our athletes," she said.

"Since we had our gym renovation and expansion, we have been looking

forward to some host opportunities that we haven't had in the past," she added. "It's a good opportunity not only to showcase our gym, our facilities and school, but the community of Morden as well."

The tournament begins the morning of Thursday, March 9, with games scheduled for 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Games will also be played those same times on the Friday, fol-

lowed by the consolation final Saturday at 10 a.m., third place game at noon, and the championship match at 2 p.m.

Rutledge encouraged basketball fans to come take in some of action.

"These are the top teams in the province in the AAA category ... so we're looking forward to some good basketball."

Imagination Library badminton tourney this Sat.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The birdies will be flying for a great cause at Garden Valley Collegiate this weekend.

The fourth annual Winkler Imagination Library Badminton Tournament takes over the Winkler high school from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Event organizer Steve Goertzen says they have 16 teams signed-up to take part in the doubles competition, and they urge people to come out and

cheer them on.

"We would gladly welcome people to come in and check out what's happening," he says, noting that the event's silent auction—which will be filled with a variety of prizes donated by local businesses—is open to everyone.

All the funds raised from tournament registrations, the auction, and day-of donations go to help the Imagination Library mail free books each month to registered pre-school age

children in the Winkler area.

The amount the event has raised has risen each year, and this year Goertzen would love to see them hit the \$1,000 mark. That would help pay for books for about 17 kids for the year.

For more information on the tournament, including whether there's still room for late registrations (\$20 per person), contact Goertzen at steve.goertzen@gvdsd.ca.

Check out the Winkler Morden Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca

Agriculture

Celebrating Ag Day

By Harry Siemens

Winkler Scotiabank invited producers to a special event last Friday to mark Canada's first Agriculture Day.

"We are Celebrating Canada's Agriculture Day with a farmer's lunch and guest speakers discussing agricultural businesses and their meaningful role in our local and national economy," said small business advisor Peter Becker.

Some of the topics on the agenda included reducing operating expenses, increasing operational profitability, and the agricultural business climate both provincially and locally.

"The idea behind it is to give farmers a forum to listen to people who are in the industry, to voice the issues and concerns that they see with the industry from those looking upon them from the outside," Becker explained. "So that the people who are actually doing the job, producing the food, are the ones that are setting the course for the regulations and laws and all the things that are happening."

Looking forward, Scotiabank hopes to make this event bigger and better next year.

"This is obviously the inaugural meeting. I think the speakers this year represented the industry across the province," said Becker. "We want to continue to move forward, gain more and more traction and provide information and services to the agricultural community."

One speaker included farmer Jim Wilson, who spoke candidly to the group on what social justice means to the consumer and the farmer alike.

"I interpret social license being the provision, I guess, if you want to look at it from a consumer's point of view the permission to do what we're doing on the farm," said Wilson. "It means that society has granted us permission, if you will, or acceptance of the practices we employ in producing the food that they consume."

That can be an issue from the farm community's perspective, because the consuming public often has no or very little idea what modern agriculture really entails when it comes to producing an abundance of safe, quality food in a sustainable manner.

Often, he said, the general public's view of a farmer is one that's stuck in the past.

"So if they see any views of modern agriculture and us spraying our crops and doing whatever we need to do to produce a healthy safe crop they have questions," said Wilson. "We need to make sure that they understand what we do and why we do it."

Wilson said there are a number of tools available to help farmers share their real agricultural stories with the general public, including publications like those from Farm and Food Care Canada aiming to do just that.

"To help them feel more comfortable in talking to the public about what they do and how to communicate what they do in an effective manner," he said. "Another one is looking at the video *License to Farm* about modern agriculture and about encouraging farmers to speak up about their industry."

"Other people will not speak up for



PHOTO BY HARRY SIEMENS/VOICE

Scotiabank hosted about 20 local producers for a Canadian Agriculture Day luncheon last Friday at the Winkler library.

them and it gives them some tools to work with whether a one-on-one conversation, whether in a group, in a classroom, to give some confidence in communicating their message," he said. "It is a matter of speaking confidently and explaining what we do."

Last but not least, the Darlingford farmer and seed grower said the

farmer needs to have his or her house in order so when someone does show up for whatever reason, this is how it is, always.

"Yes, we need to walk the talk and to make sure that our practices are sustainable, are environmentally friendly, are all the things we talk about," he said. "We need to be a credible voice."



By Harry Siemens

Sometimes we need to digress, and I do so for just a minute.

As I sat down to write this column, I was also preparing to officiate at a funeral of a dear friend. This man had lived a good long life, farmed successfully, and provided for his family well.

The reason I write about it here is simply to show there is more to life than farming, being a parent, a teacher, or whatever line of work you find yourself in.

On occasion, I help out at Salem Home with the chapel services. I did so with a group of students from the Canadian Bible Baptist college here in Winkler on Feb. 22. As we were preparing to start the service upstairs, a good friend came walking to me saying, 'I think my father is just passing away.' I asked a member of our group to look after the service and I walked over to the room just

around the corner to find out what my friend had just said with tears in his eyes was true.

I looked at the family and looked at my friend, and, yes, he was well in his nineties and realized he was breathing his last. Knowing him well, and the family too, I offered a short prayer to mark this rather solemn occasion. God is so good always, but especially in situations like that.

Why do I share this here? Because life can be so short, often things happen which we don't understand, but there is God who does.

My other topic up for discussion has to do with the social license that I spoke about with grain farmer Jim Wilson of Darlingford. I had never quite understood what those two words actually meant and how they can affect what we do in life. We are often quick to pounce on someone else who may drive erratically or who doesn't treat us well when serving us in some paid capacity, and yet

does social license really come into play?

Farmers have long tried to get legislators around the country and around the world—where a very small percentage of the entire population, about 1.5 per cent, farm—to apply the practices to feed the rest of us with healthy, quality, safe and in most cases affordable food, especially here in Manitoba.

There are three aspects to the social license that Wilson talked about, and his main concern is that farmers know that license, the consumer knows that license, and that farmers communicate what they do and why they do it on the farm.

Part one involves the social license from the farmer's perspective, who employs practices that they mostly understand and often take for granted others do too.

The consumers often have in mind

Continued on page 27

Taking some time to reflect

Hog industry waiting on U.S. trade plans

By Harry Siemens

H@ms Marketing service's Tyler Fulton says so much of what is happening in the hog industry, especially the pricing, depends on what trade actions the new U.S. administration is going to take.

In fact, Fulton says the industry is viewing President Donald Trump's remarks to a Congress this week and the resultant actions as a possible pivot point for North American hog markets.

On Friday, he said the past week's considerable volatility in the hog market was fuelled by the prospects of larger pork supplies and questions related to demand.

Fulton said the market expects a three to four per cent increase in pork supplies over the next six to eight months and, while all indications over the past six weeks show domestic demand for pork is quite good, the export side of the equation is uncertain.

He said lean hog futures have dropped significantly, rooted largely in a cash market influence from the pork belly complex.

"Pork bellies are the primal cut that is the source for bacon and we were bumping up against near record high prices over the course of the past month or so and there really wasn't

a lot of support for it, keeping in mind that pork production numbers and weights have all been significantly up from year-ago levels," he said. "So the flow of pork was still flowing quite heavy, but there was some speculation in the market that there was a tight supply and quite simply the market couldn't sustain the levels that the pork bellies were trading at."

Fulton said the pig prices were trading at approximately \$185 per hundredweight, then on last Wednesday's trade alone, they dropped \$25 per hundredweight—a significant drop for any one primal cut to make in one day.

"That really shook the whole hog market and resulted in some significant selling and weakness in both the cash and futures markets," he said, adding that domestic demand for pork is quite good, but the question is whether that demand is sustainable.

"On the export side the uncertainty

comes from the possibility of new trade and tax policy that could result in a de facto trade war with, for example, Mexico which would be negative for livestock markets, particularly the lean hog market," he said.

More specifically in Manitoba where the two largest processors, Maple Leaf Foods and HyLife Foods, keep looking for more pigs, Manitoba Pork general manager Andrew Dickson says the pork industry is seeing the first signs of a rebound in the number of hogs available for processing.

Dickson said the numbers of pigs on farms have crept up a little bit, taking the industry back closer to the hog numbers in 2006. Productivity continues to improve and producers are now actually thinking of expanding their operations, he said.

That is why it is so crucial as to where Trump takes the U.S. trade policy, because the industry needs some stability to have the confidence to expand.

"We've got some looking at building new facilities and we've got some service companies that provide, for example, genetics, they're looking at building new facilities here in Manitoba," Dickson said. "It's early days in terms of large numbers, but it's a start."

Dickson said it is better than what the industry did four or five years ago. The credit agencies being prepared to lend on new construction costs is a big help, he added.

"One of the processing plants is offering financial incentives to encourage people to build finishing barns, so I think we're starting to see some real opportunities coming up in the next year," Dickson said. "The Canadian dollar is in the 74 to 76 cent range compared to the U.S. dollar so ... there are margins in there if you're careful in terms of input costs and you lock in some of the higher prices offered going forward into 2017."

> SIEMENS SAYS, FROM PG. 26

an antiquated view of a farmer, not realizing that just as their way of doing things has changed, so has it for the guys and gals producing their food.

Part three involves making those rules and regulations that bureaucrats and governments design and

implement, often in ivory towers in urban centers without any regard for how it will affect the farmer.

In putting this all together, from my perspective, surveys show that consumers actually trust the farmer more than anyone else. So it is imperative that farmers keep their house in or-

der, are willing to show and talk about their farming practices and why they do what they do, to convince the consuming public to influence those who make the laws to do so from a safe, yes, but also from a practical standpoint.

Flood risk remains high as warmer weather looms

The risk of flooding remains as Manitoba braces for spring thaw.

In its first flood outlook for 2017 on Monday, the province stressed that there is the risk of moderate to major flooding in much of the province, but it will all come down to the weather conditions over the next few weeks.

"At this time, we encourage communities to continue with preparatory measures such as ensuring emergency protocols are in place," Infrastructure Minister Blaine Pedersen said. "The province's Hydrologic Forecast Centre will continue to closely monitor precipitation, spring melt and inflows from the northern United States in the Red River Basin and the Souris River basin in the west. As the flood outlook becomes clearer, we want to ensure the safety of our communities and all Manitobans."

As it stands today, the forecast models suggest:

- the Red, Souris, Pembina, Roseau and Lower Assiniboine rivers and the

Whiteshell Lakes areas are at major risk of flooding;

- the overland flooding risk is moderate in the Interlake region, along the upper Assiniboine River and the northern portion of the province including the Saskatchewan River; and

- major lakes remain a concern and current river flows and other lake levels are normal to above normal for this time of year.

The minister said the province continues to assess data as it immediately

begins work on the second and final flood outlook scheduled for release in late March.

The mid-February early melt which occurred in the southern portion of the Red River Basin has diminished most of the snowpack south of Grand Forks, N.D., forecasters said. This has slightly reduced the potential for flood flows on the Red River in Manitoba, but it has also left the soil saturated and prone to high run-off volumes from future precipitation.

Future precipitation, the timing and how fast snow melts and the timing of run-off in Manitoba, the U.S., Saskatchewan and Ontario are still key factors. Conditions in the Souris River basin, will affect the lower Assiniboine River in western Manitoba.

In the meantime, the provincial government will work with municipalities, hoping for the best but preparing for the worst-case scenarios, Pedersen said.

> BOOT CAMP, FROM PG. 18

camp to provide entrepreneurs with the information and tools they need to enhance their business skills. They can learn how experienced investors look at business success and assess whether a startup is likely to succeed.

"It's really meant to just kind of launch the business into the next

level, just to really focus it and get it really growing," said Reimer, suggesting they are looking for "people who are really looking to increase their sales and things like that ... to get the kind of skill set they need for it to really take off."

He noted participants from the region served by Community Futures

Heartland will have their registration fees paid by the agency.

"We just want to get as many people as we can to come out."

Companies can register for the boot camp at www.innovatemanitoba.com. To receive a free registration code, contact Reimer at kreimer@cf-heartland.ca.

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NOTICE OF HEARING

UNDER THE HIGHWAYS PROTECTION ACT AND THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC BOARD

Notice is hereby given that a hearing of the Highway Traffic Board will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 204-301 Weston Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

PERMITS - PART I - SECTION 9 H.P.A. AND PART III - SECTION 17 H.P.A.

2/014/010/S/17 - CONNELLY SIGNS & SERVICE LTD. O/B/O 6929088 MANITOBA LTD.

Application for On-Premises Sign Addition, Three On-Premises Signs and Fascia Sign (Commercial) adjacent to P.T.H. No. 14, Block 5, Plan 57090, S.E. 1/4 8-3-4W, City of Winkler.

SPEED ZONES - PART IV - SECTIONS 97 & 98 H.T.A. 003-S - CITY OF MORDEN

Consideration to be given to the following speed zone changes within the City of Morden:

- Easterly extension of the 50 km/h speed zone on a portion of P.T.H. No. 3 (east end), for a distance of 350 metres;
- Reduce the speed zone from 100 km/h to 70 km/h on a portion of P.T.H. No. 3 (east end), beginning at 450 metres east of First Street and continuing easterly for 350 metres.

432-S - CITY OF MORDEN

Consideration to be given to a northerly extension of the 50 km/h speed zone on a portion of P.R. No. 432 (north end), for a distance of approximately 600 metres, City of Morden.

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

200 - 301 Weston Street Winnipeg, MB R3E 3H4
Phone: (204) 945-8912 Michelle Slotin, A/Secretary THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC BOARD



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NOTICES

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY
STANLEY CORRIDOR
SECONDARY PLAN BY-LAW 3-17
Being a requirement of the Manitoba Planning Act to approve the Rural Municipality of Stanley Secondary Plan By-Law 3-17

HEARING: R.M. of Stanley Council Chamber
LOCATION: 23111 PTH 14W, SW 7-3-4W
DATE & TIME: March 23, 2017 at 9:15 a.m.
GENERAL INTENT: To guide sustainable and planned development in the area designated as the Stanley Corridor in the MSTW Development Plan
FOR INFORMATION: Dale Toews, Chief Administrative Officer
CONTACT: Rural Municipality of Stanley 23111 PTH 14W Phone: (204) 325-4101

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from, upon request.



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COMING EVENTS

SOUP & DESSERT LUNCH Fri., March 10

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11:30 am - 1:00 pm
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MOBILITY PRODUCTS

Airgo eXcursion X20 (rollator)

Model - 700-921



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COMING EVENTS

Thousand Oaks Ministries Inc.
GOSPEL MUSIC NIGHT
Sat., March 4, 2017
7:30 pm at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall Winkler, MB
Featuring: *Kornelsen Gospel Singers* (Altona/Winkler)
Faith in Redemption Everlasting (Grunthal, MB)
Everyone Welcome! Freewill Offering
1000 Oaks Info Line (204) 822-1253
www.ThousandOaksInc.org

NOTICES



Winkler Minor Ball REGISTRATION

For Boys & Girls
Born in 1999 - 2012

GVC FOYER
MARCH 6 & 7
6:30 - 8:00 PM
WINKLERMINORBALL.CA

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The Winkler Morden Voice

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HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewall Elk Products Ltd., 204-467-8428 or e-mail stonewoodelk@hotmail.com

HEALTH

Canada Benefit Group - attention Manitoba residents: do you or someone you know suffer from a disability? Get up to \$40,000 from the Canadian Government. Toll-free 1-888-511-2250 or www.canadabenefit.ca/free-assessment.

LIVESTOCK

Polled Salers bulls on farm & at MB Test Station. BW from 77 lbs. Strong growth and maternal milk traits. Semen tested, guaranteed. Can deliver. Ken 204-762-5512.

NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING

2017 Financial Plan

Public notice is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the City of Winkler will present its 2017 Financial Plan at a public hearing to be held on:

March 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

City of Winkler Council Chambers,
185 Main Street, Winkler, MB

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan.

Copies of the City's 2017 Financial Plan will be available at www.cityofwinkler.ca or at the Reception Desk at the City Hall for anyone wishing to get a copy prior to the meeting.



CITY OF WINKLER

185 Main Street, Winkler, MB, R6W 1B4
204-325-9524 | 204-325-5915

CAREERS



WEEDERS

Kroeker Farms Limited, a Winkler MB. based agribusiness will have part-time openings in our organic department beginning early June to mid - August to pull weeds in our organic crops, including onions, potatoes and other field crops.

Desired Requirements:

- Enthusiastic persons willing to take responsibility
- Positive team players
- Ability to focus

Wage rate is \$11.00/hour

Please send or email your resume to, drop off your application attention to:

Ed Klassen
Human Resources Manager
(204) 325 - 4333
777 Circle K Drive
Winkler, MB R6W 0K7
Email: edwin@kroekers.com

Deadline for applications - March 30, 2017

We thank all applicants for their interest.
Only those candidates to be interviewed will be contacted.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

You're at home here.



CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

The Winkler Consumers' Cooperative Ltd Board of Directors represents the membership and is responsible for setting policy and guiding the co-operative 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)
3. A vote will take place at the Coop Annual Meeting on April 18, 2017.

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 17, 2017.

Winkler • Morden • Rosetown • Plum Coulee

CAREERS



Greenvalley Equipment Inc.

JOHN DEERE Morden

HAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR A FULL TIME BULK OIL DELIVERY/YARD MAINTENANCE PERSON

This role entails delivering bulk oil to local farms, yard maintenance and upkeep and other odd jobs as required. Firsthand experience in the safe operation of large equipment and the ability to work outdoors is essential. This position requires a valid class 5 license (or better) with air endorsement. This is a full time, permanent position at the Morden location.

If you are looking to work in a customer focused environment with an emphasis on quality and have what it takes to succeed in this role, then we are interested in hearing from you to join our dynamic team.

GVE offers an extensive employment package that includes: above average salary, paid training, complete benefits, and the opportunity to participate in a company profit share plan.

Interested persons should forward their resume to:

Laurie Dyck-HR
careers@gveag.com

Closing deadline: March 15th, 2017

GVE thanks all that send in their resume. Contact will only be made with those that are asked for an interview.

Classifieds

The Winkler Morden
Voice

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AUCTION

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For more information call Cindy at 362-7151, or e mail cindyek@mts.net.
Check our website: jacobmanagement.com

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Stonewall, MB
#12 Patterson Drive

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Sat, Mar 25 @ 9:30 am
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www.mcsherryauction.com

McSherry Auction
Stonewall, MB
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Featuring Tourist Pedal Bikes
Sat, March 4, 10:00 AM

Estate & Moving Sale
Featuring Toys
Sat, March 11, 10:00 AM

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(204) 886-7027
www.mcsherryauction.com

Meyers Gun Auction

9:30AM Sat, April 1
Arden, MB

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Gebr Merkel drilling
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Martini Henry, Mark IV
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AUCTION

See www.billklassen.com for up-to-date listings & photos!

SPRING FARM AUCTIONS FOR APRIL

APRIL 1 • 10 AM • LARGE FARM AUCTION FOR HANK ENNS FARM, ALTONA, MB

APRIL 8 • VISTA FARMS SW OF PLUM COULEE

Versatile 856. 4x4 tractor very sharp • John Deere 7300 planter 18 row 22 in. • Case IH 1660 Combine only 2168 hrs • 1981 Chev single axle truck grain box real nice • Leon 1000 scraper, and good tillage etc.

APRIL 15 • DUCLOS ESTATE POPLAR POINT MB

Versatile 835, JD 4020, Versatile 4750 swather. CIH 2188 Combine, 2006 Macdon 272 draper head 30 ft. 92 Freightliner grain truck & lots more

APRIL 22 • 10 AM • MARCEL ESPENELL, ST LUPICIN, JUST NORTH OF ALTAMONT

John Deere 4555 FWA Tractor w/ 280 loader. Case 4490 4x4 pto, IHC 1086 W/ Loader, Thomas skid steer 233. 2007 IH 9200I Highway tractor, day cab, wet kit, 2008 Load line



32ft end dump grain trailer. John Deere Hay-ing 567 baler, 945 MOCO. 600 Manure spreader. Easy on air seeder, 32 ft to be assembled Metal shop 30' x 50 ft

APRIL 29 • 10 AM FARM EQUIPMENT FOR MRS. CRYSTAL FINDLAY WILL TAKE IN OTHER CONSIGNORS AT THE ANNAL AUCTION SITE ½ MILE SOUTH OF BOUNDARY TRAILS HOSPITAL

1993 CIH Steiger 9280 tractor 20.8 x42 duals, 4 remote hyd, air seeder. Cat 60 Scraper Hydraulic Push off scraper. CIH 1680 combine 4000 hrs new



sieve, hopper topper #118393. with 1015 Pick up head. CIH 963 Corn head 6 row. 1995 CIH 1020 Flex head 30 ft. # 218890. IH Model 810 24 ft sun-flower head complete with Pans, IH 820 head 20 ft flex with pickup reel # 40078. CIH model 8820 swather, 2330 hrs, w/ 25 ft DSA, head pickup reel # 49720. 2015 Brandt 1370 -11P swing hopper grain auger. 2004 Bourgault smart 750 Grain cart. PTO Drive, 600/65R/32 tires, John Deere 7000 planter 12 row 30. 21000 bushel Brock Grain bin approx 5 years old on concrete pad with Full aeration and centre unload. This bin is located 12 mi. SE of Carman MB, should be removed off site by Aug 1, 2017. We will sell this Bin by photo

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Announcements The Winkler Morden Voice

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BIRTHDAY



Happy 65th Birthday
to Verna Towarnicki
Wishing you a day that is
as special as you are.

-Love Ernie

IN MEMORIAM



John Heide
July 11, 1947 – March 1, 2012
-Always remembered, missed and loved.
your family

IN MEMORIAM



Diane Klassen
April 9, 1954 - February 28, 2007
-Lovingly remembered,
Lisa and Kevin (Josh, Olivia)
Lori and Merlin (Madeline, Emma, Cadence)

OBITUARY

René Joseph Denis Marion 1952 - 2017

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of René Joseph Denis Marion, husband, father, grand-father, brother and uncle on Sunday, February 19, 2017 at the age of 64.

René will be forever loved and missed by his children, Colleen (Bruce), Eric (Brigitte), Dean (Thasha), Michel (Lisa); and grandchildren, Chloe, Cody, Colin, Andon, Danica, Tristen, Tyler and Aria. He will also be missed by his siblings, Solange (Cyril), Agnes (Edmond), Marie (Andre), Roger (Dee), Yvonne (Carl), Rolande (Albert), Blanche (Raymond), Therese (Gilles), Joe (Carole), Jean-Leon, Bernie (Tim), Alphonse, Raymond and many nieces and nephews, as well as extended family and friends. René is predeceased by his wife, Gisele Marion (née Gagné), father,

Léon Marion and mother, Rita Marion (née Moquin).

A Celebration of Life in honour of René will be held Thursday, March 2nd, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cabane a Sucre, 432 Joubert Street, Saint-Pierre Jolys, Manitoba.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in René's honor to a charity of choice.

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



OBITUARY

Helena Giesbrecht (nee Unger) 1927 - 2017

Helen Giesbrecht passed away peacefully in her sleep at Boundary Trails Health Centre on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at the age of 89 years. Helen was predeceased by her husband, Peter H Giesbrecht; her sister, Tina; her brothers-in-law, Martin Friesen and Jack Penner and her adopted brother, Menno Giesbrecht. She is survived by her children, Laura Jean and husband, Karl Dreger, Larry and his wife, Doreen, Reg and his wife, Dorothy, Ken and his wife, Yvonne, Karen and her husband, Glen Siemens, Raymond Giesbrecht, Valarie and her husband, Earl Bergman. She is also survived by her sister, Justina Penner; sister, Susan and husband, Otto Hamm; sister-in-law, Mary Giesbrecht; 16 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and numerous other relatives.

Mom was born on November 26, 1927 to John and Justina Unger in Neuenburg, south of Winkler. On September 29, 1949, mom was married to Peter H. Giesbrecht and also helped our dad run a farm equipment business. Mom's relationship with Jesus Christ was also very important to her and she was baptized upon confession of her faith at the age of nine. She had a desire for others to have a relationship with Jesus as well, selling tickets for the Canadian Sunday School Mission and Union Gospel Mission Banquets so that others could attend and hear about the work God was doing in and through others. Mom had a missionary spirit, which took her to work in kitchens at bible camps for several summers. Mom also worked at the Steinrich Bible School in the southern states. Her strong desire to serve in the Altona EMMC church had her working for 17 years in the Sunday School Nursery department as well the Priscilla ladies sewing circle. She blessed her children and grandchildren as they did short and long-term mission trips. In her later years, she spent much of her free time working at the Altona MCC Thrift Store. In her last years, with her health failing, she shared her gifts of encouragement and wisdom with the many that crossed her path at Lions Manor.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2017 at the Winkler EMMC with interment prior at the Altona Cemetery.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre, all the home care staff who looked after her with such kind and compassionate care, Dr. Blignaut, and the staff at Lion's Manor.

Mom, you are celebrating with Jesus. We love you. You will be missed.

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



OBITUARY

Elizabeth Peters (nee Reddekopp) 1919 - 2017

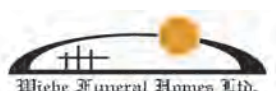
On Friday, February 17, 2017 at Salem Home in Winkler, MB Elizabeth Peters aged 97 years went to her eternal rest.

She leaves to mourn her passing two daughters, six sons, numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Peter S Peters in 2001; son, Peter in 1989 and two daughters-in-law.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at the Chortitz Old Colony Mennonite Church with interment at the Church Cemetery.



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