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Voice

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THURSDAY,
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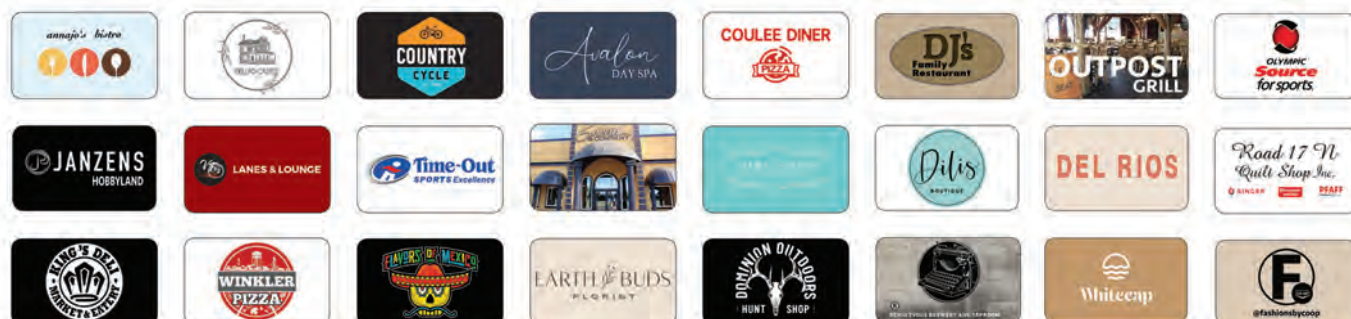


Stocking up

There were good bargains to be found last week as I Love To Read Month wrapped up in Morden with the library holding a book sale and bake sale at the Morden Legion. The event brought in about \$3,000 for the South Central Regional Library.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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Winkler chamber reports on a challenging year

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was another year filled with challenges, but Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce president Keith Gislason shared some silver linings as well at the agency's annual general meeting held virtually Feb. 24.

"This year we've really focused as a chamber on supporting those businesses that were really struggling. We had a lot of disparity in our businesses," he said, noting some local industries flourished despite the global pandemic, while others struggled simply to keep their heads above water.

"What really was consistent is how well our business community came together," Gislason said.

While the chamber itself worked to provide a voice for businesses to all levels of government as the pandemic continued, countless entrepreneurs stepped up to support one another closer to home.

"There are literally hundreds of stories ... of people quietly working to help other businesses," Gislason said. "Different thing like people that would be competitors helping

each other with logistics because they can't get stock. People sharing staff amongst different businesses because of different challenges with skill sets or hiring or ensuring that people have enough hours to be able to pay or earn a living wage to feed their family.

"The kinds of stories that you just don't hear in other communities."

Everyone is hoping for better days ahead, and the chamber is certainly no exception.

This year marks the organization's 100th anniversary, but celebrations are going to look quite different from what was initially planned.

"When we first started talking about what we were going to plan for our 100th year, we had some big dreams. We had a lot that we were going to plan. That's kind of changed," said Gislason. "We're not going to have the big festivities we had originally talked about, but I'm looking forward to having some more subdued celebrations.

"I'm excited that this year it looks like we'll be able to properly showcase some of the great things happening in our business community, some of the great businesses we have," he said. That includes plans to host an

awards gala later in the year for the first time since 2019. They also hope to get back to hosting other in-person events in 2022.

The chamber board is also intent on relaunching the multi-year strategic plan it developed before the pandemic and then put aside to deal with the unfolding crisis.

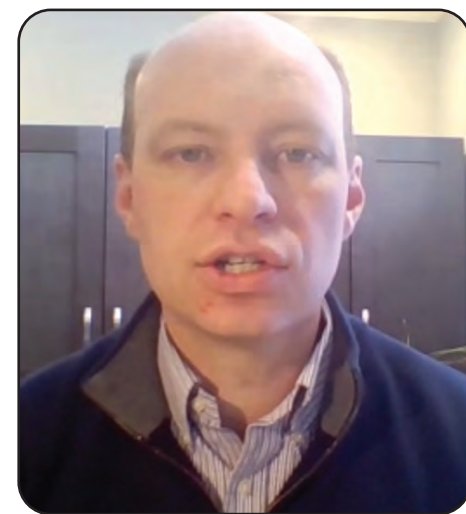
That plan included three main areas of focus: using technology more efficiently to support business members, connecting with members and supporting more collaboration between them, and working with other regional stakeholders to help businesses when it comes to staffing recruitment, retention, and training.

Now is the time to get back to work on those goals, Gislason said.

Financially, the chamber ended the fiscal year with a deficit of \$36,499.

Treasurer Ryan Hildebrand noted they were expecting to be in the red this year, and the shortfall proved to be less than projected.

Major grants from sources such as the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce in response to the pandemic were put to good use, Hildebrand said, referring to the nearly \$30,000 "Shop Local" funding Winkler received from



SCREENSHOT

Winkler chamber president Dale Gislason said he's proud of how the business community has come together to support one another through the pandemic.

the provincial agency.

"We in turn spent that money in the community here, so it was basically an in and out kind of thing," he explained.

For the year ahead, the chamber is projecting a break-even budget with revenue and expenses both totalling \$222,555.



Happy Retirement KEVIN BOLT

PKF Lawyers congratulates Kevin Bolt on his retirement. After 42 years of practicing law, Kevin will be retiring as of January 31, 2022. He and his wife Bonnie plan to spend more time with their ten grandchildren and to travel the world once conditions allow.

About his retirement, Kevin advises he is heartened by the fact that the team at PKF can ensure continuity of legal service to his clients, including his son Matthew Bolt, and colleague Stephane Warnock, practicing at the PKF offices in Morden and Winkler.

During his many years of practice, Kevin made a significant contribution to the law, to his clients, and has helped establish PKF Lawyers as Manitoba's benchmark for excellence in real-world and practical legal advice.

We wish Kevin all the best and thank him for the wonderful service he has provided our clients over the years.

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New health care centre going up in Winkler

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A project that's been years in the making is expected to break ground in downtown Winkler later this year.

The Winkler and District Health Care Board announced on Friday that the former Winkler Co-op gas bar site is going to be home to the region's newest health care centre.

The lot at the corner of South Railway Ave. and Main St. is right across the road from the bursting-at-the-seams C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre, which opened in the ALG Professional Centre two decades ago and has expanded into several other areas of the

building since.

The new, multi-storey facility will put up to 30,000 square feet of much-needed additional space at the clinic's disposal, explained health care board chair Marvin Plett.

"In a strategic sessions a few years ago, the board found space to be a major challenge for growth," he observed, noting the clinic has grown from just 10 physicians in 2000 to 47 physicians, surgeons, and 90 other clinical and support staff today.

The expansion will provide some breathing room for the current ros-

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SUPPLIED IMAGE

A major expansion to the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre in Winkler is going up at the corner of South Railway Ave. and Main St. this year.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler and District Health Care Board members, municipal leaders, and health care staff braved the cold Friday to gather at the site of what will be a major expansion for the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre.

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Altona police chief to retire after 25 years of service

By Ty Dilello

After 25 years with the Altona Police Service, Chief Perry Batchelor has announced his intention to retire this fall.

"It's been something I've been thinking about," said Batchelor. "I wanted to make sure I stuck around until COVID was behind us as I didn't want

to abandon the team in the middle of a crisis."

Batchelor first joined the Altona department in 1997 after serving for 17 years with the Canadian Armed Forces. During his time in the army, he did two peacekeeping tours in Cyprus and Yugoslavia and four years in Germany.

In 2000, Batchelor was promoted

from constable to sergeant and oversaw police patrol operations for a decade in that role before being promoted to chief in 2010. He starts his retirement on Sept. 1.

Looking back over his tenure in Altona, Batchelor has plenty of highlights that come to mind.

"Some of the big highlights are the team itself. We've built a good team here in Altona and made sure that the equipment we use was maintained to a high standard," he said.

"Other highlights include working with several police agencies. Altona Police Service is recognized provincially. We work with the RCMP and Winkler and Morden's police services all the time. We work with the Manitoba First Nations police service. Winnipeg Police, Brandon, and all others in Manitoba when required. It's certainly a highlight working with so many tremendous police officers from across the province."

There are, of course, many ups and downs that go with running a police department.

"A lot of people making bad choices, unfortunately, is part of the job. You're stuck in the middle of it all and have to act like the referee to help them make it through difficult times," Batchelor reflected. "Since I've been the police chief, there have been things such as bomb threats. Sadly, we had a murder in Plum Coulee. We've also had significant sexual assaults, incest files, domestics [abuse cases]. Our community is not immune to anything the big city has, but fortunately we don't see it in the same volume. Our team has always worked hard and worked together through everything."

In his time with the department, Batchelor was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, which recognizes significant contributions and achievements by Canadians, and the 20-Year Police Exemplary Service medal.

His community involvement has included spearheading fundraising campaigns to help Youth for Christ purchase a desperately needed new vehicle and tools for their Maker Space program.

He also led the charge in getting an AED (defibrillator) purchased and installed in the Millennium Exhibition Centre, the first Town of Altona facility to have this device available in the event of an emergency. It was a move

"OUR TEAM HAS ALWAYS WORKED HARD AND WORKED TOGETHER THROUGH EVERYTHING."

that saved his own life in 2009 when the AED was used for the very first time.

"I was playing Oldtimers hockey with the Maroons Oldtimers around 2008. And I had seen a news clip the night before about a man whose life was saved by the AED. So I went into the dressing room and told my team about it, that we should invest in one of these and fund it as none of us are getting any younger," Batchelor recalled. "So I had some great guys on the team that helped me fundraise for it."

"Virtually a year later, during a pee-wee gold medal game that I was refereeing, ten minutes in the third period, they tell me I went down and had a massive heart attack. There were several citizens that saved my life. An off-duty RCMP officer provided chest compressions, an off-duty nurse gave me breath of life, a fellow that I refed with and another fellow that had just finished his AED training, knew enough to grab the AED, get it on the ice, and hit me three times with it. The AED really only fires three times before it has to charge, so thankfully, it worked."

"I had a quadruple bypass and a lack of memory for a few days, but I'm still here to tell the tale."

After his retirement, Batchelor plans on staying in the community and taking things easy, although you might find him on the golf course in the summer.

"We have a pair of twin baby granddaughters, so I'm hoping to spend a lot of time with family. I enjoy the lake too, so I'm sure I'll get up their lots," he said.

"That's 42 years of combined service I put in, so I think I've done my duty to our country, province, municipality, and town. Now it'll be time to kick back and relax a little, hopefully."



SUPPLIED PHOTOS
Altona police Chief Perry Batchelor is retiring this fall after a distinguished career. Above: Batchelor receiving an award from then Minister of Justice Vic Toews earlier in his career.

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“Where people make the difference”

Mayor focuses state of the city address on the people who get things done in Winkler

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After 15 years of focusing his state of the city addresses on the big projects of the day, Winkler Mayor Martin Harder decided to take a different tack for his 16th such presentation.

Harder’s 2022 address to the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce virtual annual general meeting last week focused on a slogan the community has long since left behind in favour of newer mottos but which still holds very true: Where People Make the Difference.

“I usually spend a lot of time talking about projects and about things that are going on in the city, but today I want to concentrate on people,” Harder began, stressing that it’s the people who truly provide the strong foundation on which the community stands.

Winkler has risen above the chaos of the past two years, he said, its leaders and municipal staff working hard to overcome the challenges of the pandemic while also planning for tomorrow.

“We have survived. In fact, we have moved this city forward, preparing us for the next 25 years,” Harder said. “Together we’re pressing on with resilience and determination.”

The mayor went on to pay tribute to many city staff, including city manager Jody Penner, director of finance David Martens, Cliff Wall and Terry Froese in public works, planning and

engineering director Scott Toews, water services supervisor Travis Duff, sewer and water foreman Jake Wiens, planning and permitting manager Stephanie Janz, police Chief Ryan Hunt, fire Chief Richard Paetzold, community services director Jordan Driedger, among others, for all the work they’ve done to keep the gears of the community moving.

These people are the reason the water in our taps runs clean, the snow on the roads gets cleared, and Winkler is able to grow and thrive, Harder said.

“WE HAVE SURVIVED. IN FACT, WE HAVE MOVED THIS CITY FORWARD, PREPARING US FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS.”

After the presentation, Harder stressed how important he felt it was to shine a spotlight on all these individuals.

“Politicians come and go, but if you haven’t established a firm foundation of people who work with you, you have

nothing,” he said. “You have a situation then where you have a new council that comes in and everything’s helter-skelter. We won’t have that problem. We have a very solid foundation of people ... who do their jobs day after day with honour and determination.”

It certainly hasn’t been an easy time to be a municipal worker or politician of late, Harder mused in his address.

“Our council has continually been bombarded with complaints about restrictions as well as access restrictions to the Meridian Exhibition Centre, as an example, making for a very tough



SCREENSHOT

Winkler Mayor Martin Harder delivered his 16th and final state of the city address virtually last week.

year for all,” he said. “On the other hand, we have never had so many people step up to the plate and express their appreciation for our leadership and how we have led the city. Thank you all for your support.

“I’m very proud of all of our staff and I’m proud of the accomplishments of this council.”

Harder thanked the business community as well for its generous support of so many projects.

“It is through you that the likes of the Meridian Exhibition Centre get built, or the new golf course clubhouse, or the skate park, or the playgrounds, our outdoor hockey rinks, or the Greg Ens Memorial Park.”

Organizations like Central Station Community Centre and volunteer groups like the Winkler Horticulture Society and the Discovery Nature Sanctuary continue to be integral

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• GUEST COMMENTARY

Taking a stand

It appears that in our current society people want you to take a stand. That is good, however unfortunately no one wants you to take a stand unless of course they agree with your stand.

That is the dilemma we are facing today as we near the end of restrictions and mandates in our country. People have come to the end of their rope in patience and tolerance for a differing opinion.

However, to heal our community, marriages, and churches we must focus on a stand that really makes a difference. Firstly, we need to stop blaming everyone else for how we each feel, regardless of the stand you



**By Mayor
Martin
Harder**

take.

We have witnessed the abuse of individuals who have for legitimate reasons decided that the vaccine is not for them. We have also witnessed for that same reason people that decided they would disobey the current legislation that puts this law in place, and focused entirely on their rights to do whatever they please. We have had people who decided they would attempt to change the law by declaring it applies to every other person except themselves. The attempt was made to justify the creation of a designated community where the laws imposed that were not to their liking should be ignored, and freedom created to ignore those laws therefore ignoring other's freedoms.

Have we considered what would happen if that ever happened and we simply chose another law that was determined to be unrealistic in another case, and we would again create a region where that law did not apply? Honestly that would create havoc and chaos, so you have to have laws for the betterment of the general population.

Likewise, sometimes we have laws that need to be changed, and in a democratic society that is possible, sometimes with protests. But sometimes those same protests turn out to harm the very people we try to pro-

tect and support. How can our rights be protected at the expense of someone else's rights? So who is right, and whom are we protecting? Again, it becomes the matter of "taking a stand."

Likewise, as those who have been extremely vocal about protecting every restriction imposed on society, we ask what is the cost of "standing" up for those positions? What about the mental and emotional and other healthcare? What about the thousands of people who had to die alone without the opportunity for loved ones to be there for their family or friends? What about being forced to make a decision of who in your family will be left outside of that grieving circle at a funeral restricted to less than your direct family members? What about the financial cost of closing or losing your livelihood in your business that has taken many years to build up? At what cost, and to who's cost do we yield? I dare say, our position would change drastically if it affects us.

At the same time, ignoring the safeguards of healthy communities and blatantly ignoring the cautions, believing "our rights" are being taken away, comes from a very personal selfish position on our part, myself included.

When I reflect today on the conflict

Continued on page 7

• FAITH FOCUS

About Hope

Recently I watched a movie entitled "About Hope."

"Thomas" had an ideal list of what the girl of his dreams would be like. As the story unfolds, he discovers truths about himself and he begins to realize that no one could ever measure up to his list. Some of the painful moments on the way are portrayed for the viewer. There is a happy conclusion but at some points in the story you wonder if it will



**By Randy
Smart**

ever happen.

We all are looking for hope. Hope is often defined as "a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen." A preferred definition might be "an interest or desire whose fulfillment is cherished." The list of things that we hope for can be very long. Sometimes our list is not very realistic.

Having a capacity for hope is a God given feature of being human. God has placed hope as one of the tools within every person to find strength and courage for the everyday, and for exceptional moments.

Hope is closely related to our awareness of faith, thankfulness, intellectual curiosity, bodily desires and needs, moral ideals, special interests, and religious goals and zeal.

As we listen to conversations and read the news today, we are hearing, among other things, a need to rediscover hope. Personal hope, hope for

our families and communities. Hope within and for our nation and hope for the world. God not only gave us the capacity for hope. He also offers to us a reason for hope.

The greatest awareness of hope is ours when we look to God as the ultimate source of hope. In Psalm 73:26 the Psalmist expressed that, "My flesh and my heart may fail, God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever." We can look to God every day for courage for the moment and perspective for the bigger picture. God is concerned about the needs that cause us to fear, the inner peace required for the present circumstances, and the steps required as we look ahead to see our hopes realized in partnership with God's enabling.

In 1 Corinthians 13, in the New Testament, we have a description of the qualities of what love is and what

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> HARDER, FROM PG. 6

in Ukraine, my heart aches for the aggression and pain it causes. I can't ignore our own country, our own situation where we have all suffered with restrictions and freedoms we may disagree with, but that will not bring healing. As with conflict in countries at war, healing begins when we quit the conflict and we are able to walk in someone else's shoes, and we wonder whether this could not have been prevented, and how do we build new?

As I started, we all take a stand, but on our opinion.

Personally I have been accused on both sides of our current issue for not taking a stand, and needing to get off the fence. I want to clarify this and show you it has been the farthest from the truth.

> FAITH FOCUS, FROM PG. 6

love is not. In the summary of that chapter the apostle Paul wrote: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." Hope is a partner with faith and is ultimately expressed in love and with love.

Jesus Christ came to live on this earth as an expression of God's deepest love for us. He came to bring us present and eternal hope. Jesus said that he came that we might have life

> WINKLER CLINIC, FROM PG. 3

ter of health care providers as well as the capacity for the clinic to add more physicians to meet the needs of the region's ever-growing population.

It will also allow the clinic to bring in more speciality services, Plett said, allowing patients "to stay closer to home for their more speciality care needs."

Health care board member Dr. Don Klassen reflected on the day, two decades ago, when the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre first opened its doors, having moved from a much smaller clinic building down the road.

The new clinic was built to accommodate double the number of physicians currently on staff at the time, he recalled.

"We had only 11 or 12, but we had a lot of faith," Klassen said. "You can see where we've come because today we're standing on a cold parking lot celebrating the fact that we're going to have to add another building and that we're going to be able to add another building."

"This is a great project and a great day."

Clinic administrator Jim Neufeld noted that it's been 22 years of consistent growth for the facility thanks to the support of the municipalities it

I spoke out when the government decided they could choose what was essential and what was not, as that was wrong. I stood up for our suffering small businesses that were locked down and continue to struggle because by now they have been without a normal pay cheque for two years.

I have struggled together with churches that have not been able to support those in need as they struggle to help those that are broken, needing counselling. I was instrumental in launching the campaign to "Be safe, be Fair, Open MB" campaign. The government changed some of the conditions to be open, allowed small businesses to sell their wares, but unfortunately those that took a "Stand" on the anti-mask campaign didn't

and have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

Look beyond the world's headlines to realize that God offers us healthy options for our present experiences. The Bible is full of stories of people who experienced challenge and despair but then discovered the hope that God can provide for each day.

Randy Smart has been a pastor in Southern Manitoba since 1979. He is currently senior pastor at Bethel Bergthaler Mennonite Church south of Winkler.

serves.

"To work with the community to make this happen and get us where we are today has been great," he said. "It's another amazing step in this journey, seeing this building show up and the opportunities that are ahead of us for this area in health care."

Co-op general manager Evan Toews said they were happy to work with the health care board on the purchase of the property (which has been used for overflow parking since Co-op built its new gas bar down the road several years ago) and they're pleased to see it will be put to such good use.

"This land has served us well for many, many years," he said. "We're really excited that we can be part of the growth ... going from a small number of doctors to a large number of doctors, that really puts us on the map as far as the services and other things we can provide to patients in the greater area."

The health care board will be launching a fundraising campaign for this project, though firm numbers have not yet been released.

The plan is to start construction on the facility in 2022 and have it open in 2023.

give an inch for the sake of being safe, which in turn ramped up the government rhetoric and further restrictions were imposed.

I have recently struggled with what is right? What is fair? Who does the responsibility lie with? Your local waitress? Your store clerk? The police for reluctantly ticketing people? How about our health care providers, are they to blame? Perhaps the churches who tried to meet the needs of their congregation to the best of their ability?

I thought of a person who we find was instrumental in saving an entire nation from starvation. It was the man Joseph in the Bible. He was rejected by his brothers, sold into slavery, bought by Potiphar, taken into the confidence and put in charge of his household, only to be betrayed by Potiphar's own wife. He was thrown into prison, thought never to surface

again, only to have found favor with the guards, and placed in highest responsibility in prison. Why, do you ask? He achieved the highest position in the land responsible for the highest position in the country, because he was faithful in serving where God had placed him. Not fighting for "his" rights, but fighting inwardly that he would not become "bitter" but to prove he was "better."

My challenge to myself is that I will not become bitter, but that I would help our people to become better at forgiveness, and offer a kind word that heals, and allow our region to become what we have stood for in the past and need to stand on for the future.

Reach out to let the healing begin!

Martin Harder is the mayor of the City of Winkler.

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Harder announces he will not run for fifth term as mayor

Henry Siemens throws his hat in the ring

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Mayor Martin Harder's 16th state of the city address will be his last.

Harder wrapped up his speech at the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce's virtual AGM last week by announcing he will not be seeking a fifth term in office this fall.

"I have served a very exciting city with dignity and honour. It has been a pleasure, it has been a blessing, and I am grateful for the opportunity,"



SCREENSHOT

Deputy Mayor Henry Siemens announced his intention to run for mayor of Winkler this fall.

Harder said. "October of '22 will be my last day in council.

"I will miss it, but I believe God has another chapter for me and I plan to continue to be active in the community and offer my expertise where God calls me to serve."

In an interview after the speech, Harder said this decision was one he had been on the fence about for some time now.

"It's been a 16-year wonderful experience," he said, noting he didn't want to become someone who overstayed his welcome and for whom the joy of serving had worn off.

"I've never been more proud in the community I serve today," Harder observed. "I just hope and wish the community that is divided between themselves is the thing that gets fixed and worked on over the next little while."

Harder said the decision to step back from public life was made easier by the knowledge that longtime Deputy Mayor Henry Siemens was going to throw his hat in the ring for the mayor's seat. Siemens officially announced his candidacy at the tail end of Harder's presentation.

"Thank you for your 16 years of service to the citizens of Winkler, Martin," Siemens began. "It has been my privilege and my pleasure to sit be-

side you for a good portion of that as deputy mayor."

Siemens was first elected to council in 2006.

"Today, as we reflect on what's happened during those 16 years, we can celebrate tremendous growth, we can celebrate hiring a terrific senior management team," Siemens said. "We've really set the city of Winkler up for success.

"I believe, with all the work that's still ahead of us, today more than ever the city of Winkler needs consistent, steady, even leadership," he continued. "I believe I can provide that."

Siemens said that a more complete campaign platform will be released in the months ahead.

> STATE OF THE CITY, FROM PG. 5

pieces of the mosaic that is Winkler, providing support, recreation, and civic beauty for all.

"We need you all. You are more needed today than ever before," Harder stressed of the volunteers who step up to better Winkler in so many ways. "We need to make it known that we will survive, we will thrive beyond COVID-19 because we have demonstrated that we are better and we can do more and we appreciate each other and our neighbours working together in harmony."

There are great things on the horizon for Winkler in the year ahead, the mayor shared, pointing to projects like the new wastewater treatment plant, a new affordable housing project, slide upgrades at the pool, industrial park expansion, road expansions, and reservoir repairs.

He also announced the city is working on a budget of \$20.4 million for 2022, which will represent a 6.7 per cent increase.

"That is necessary because of the additional growth that we have

experienced," Harder explained, pointing to the need to finance the wastewater treatment plant, "and just to place us on a very solid foundation as we look at the future."

The full financial plan will be unveiled at the March 22 council meeting, but Harder noted the city is projected to end 2022 with \$14 million in savings and \$25 million in debt.

"We have a responsibility to establish a city where you can feel comfortable investing in, knowing that your future is bright and that we have opportunities going forward."

Morden downgrades drought level to moderate

By Lorne Stelmach

The snowfall level this winter is proving to be good news for the City of Morden.

The city announced last week that, based on the spring runoff forecast provided by the province, Morden is moving its drought response down to the moderate level.

At that point, while most water conservation measures will continue to be encouraged, they will be voluntary or at least eased to a degree.

So while it is good news in the short term, the long term challenge remains for the city to bolster Morden's water supply, noted Mayor Brandon Burley.

"If we did not get this snow volume, we would have had to act on contingencies, and those contingencies are not cheap, so we're pretty happy to be where we are right now," he said. "We are already at the threshold of what

we are allowed to take out of the lake ... we are already at our licensing limit out of the lake, so we have to look at secondary sources or additional retention in our watershed ... and the latter would be a huge benefit.

"In the short term what we anticipate will happen, until we can do infrastructure projects to make that a reality ... it will likely be a situation where we are looking at our watershed every winter this time of year, estimating the capacity of the lake and then perhaps doing emergency pumping based on that ... but for now, we're in a good situation."

Based on a preliminary forecast by the province, an expected higher than normal precipitation for this time of the year—a level only exceeded three times in the past 40 years—and normal soil moisture means the lake level will rise to the spillway level. Depending on precipitation, spring run-

off and snow melt rate, there might even be significant overflow from the lake.

"At a minimum, it will fill the dam, and they're projecting that without spring rain," Burley said.

The good news comes as the city awaits completion of a new water line and infrastructure that will enable the Pembina Valley Water Co-op to supply up to 12 litres of water per second to the city.

It will help Morden to further reduce its withdrawal from the lake, reduce the draw down on the lake, and help ensure the water supply, so that combined with favourable snowfall puts the city in a much better position at the moment.

"We'll be at moderate until we have our new Pembina Valley Water Co-op hookup ready to go. That work is underway, and it should be ready this spring, at which point we would look

at being at normal stage," suggested Burley. "It will mean we can service Morden without having to overdraw our licensing capacity.

"On the flip side though, we don't have licensing limit right now out of the lake satisfactory for what we will need," said Burley, stressing securing water supply for long term remains a challenge.

"Where we're looking long term then is to retain that excess moisture in the watershed itself ... to ensure that we can conserve it for our needs," he said, noting that could mean retention of water further upstream and capturing excess volume off the Pembina River before it flows out of Canada.

In the meantime, the city thanked residents for their continued efforts to conserve water through the coming months as the city gradually rolls back to normal levels.

“It’s a problem for the whole world now”

Local Ukrainian community worried for family back home as Russia invasion continues

By Lorne Stelmach

Like Ukrainian people everywhere, Yevgeniya Tatarenko is concerned for the well being of her family and friends back in her homeland.

While fearing especially for her mother Olena, Tatarenko is also still doing her small part on a volunteer basis for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in Manitoba.

She wants to help get their message out that the world must rally not only to Ukraine’s cause but also to stop Russian aggression against the rest of the world.

The fight of the Ukrainian people for their freedom is a fight for free people the world over, said the Morden resident, and Russia and its president Vladimir Putin need to be fully isolated.

“It’s a problem for the whole world now,” said Tatarenko. “It’s really hard to predict what will happen ... but this is a threat for Europe and the rest of the world as well.

It’s difficult to fully digest what all is happening, but Tatarenko right now is most concerned for her mother back in Ukraine.

“My mom is really scared and not sure what to do ... worried whether she will be safe or not. My worry is my mom is alone there; she doesn’t have anyone. It’s really tough to realize she doesn’t have anyone with her,” she said. “My heart is with them all in Ukraine ... and it’s really hard to know what to do from here.

“I think none of us Ukrainians were ready to see that massive attack ... and it’s everywhere

in Ukraine in different parts,” she said. “What I think is a lot of people are panicking; they don’t know what to do, to stay or to leave. I think people are really struggling.”

Tatarenko said people there likely feel conflicted and torn between fleeing for safety or staying put to defend their country.

“I know a lot of my friends are ready to fight,” she said.

“To see what is going on there, it’s just really, really hard,” said Tatarenko, who said there is fear not only about the present but also about what the future holds for the country.

“Putin wants again to build up this panic ... he wants to get rid of the government of Ukraine and just to control Ukraine,” she said.

In the meantime, Tatarenko has been trying to help the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, which has emphasized a number of key ideas such as the need for Ukraine to be assisted with more equipment like anti-aircraft defense systems.

And there are of course calls for strong economic sanctions against Russia’s economy, including seizing property that oligarchs own and Russian assets in the west and blocking Russia’s banks from the SWIFT international payment system.

Ukraine as well will need strong economic support and humanitarian aid in the very trying days ahead, said Tatarenko, who ultimately hopes nations of the world will not turn its back on Ukraine however things go.

“I don’t think they’re doing enough. Sanctions could be way worse for Russia,” she suggested.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morden's Yevgeniya Tatarenko with her mother Olena, who is in Ukraine as Russian invasion continues.

“The world is still watching, they still keep talking ... but I personally wish the world could do more,” she said. “If more sanctions were in place, Russian people might react. They might start to protest.

“Putin has plans for everything, though, and he controls with fear. We don’t know what is in his brain and what he could do next.”

“Our hearts are crying for Ukraine, for the people”



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Anna and Alex Barvinok are grateful to be safe in Morden but worried about family back home in Ukraine.

By Lorne Stelmach

While thankful that they have new lives here, recent newcomers from Ukraine are heartbroken about what is happening back in their homeland.

Two families who only settled here in the Pembina Valley within the past few months spoke last week about their fears around the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but they also expressed their gratitude for how they have been welcomed here in southern Manitoba.

“Our hearts are crying for Ukraine, for the people ... I can’t imagine if we were in Ukraine now ... I want to cry,” said Hanna Okopna, who now lives in Morden with her husband Alex Holtsov and their two children aged 8 and 10.

“My mother says, ‘At least I don’t worry about you and your family there now,’” said Holtsov. “If I lived

now in Ukraine, I wouldn’t stay home ... I would go to protect my country.”

“We have many relatives in Ukraine, and we are very concerned about the situation in Ukraine right now, and we are worrying very much about it,” said fellow Mordenite Alex Barvinok, who has been watching the invasion unfold alongside his wife Anna and their nine-year-old daughter.

“We were planning to visit Ukraine this summer,” he said, noting that in large part was due to his daughter’s passport nearing its expiry. “Right now, we understand that it’s 99.9 per cent we won’t do that ... we will have to see what will be next.”

Even years before the current conflict arose, Okopna and Holtsov had survived the earlier conflict between Russian-supported terrorists and Ukraine in Donetsk.

> UKRAINE, FROM PG. 9

"We were forced to move to another part of Ukraine because our house was damaged," explained Okopna. "It just wasn't safe at all, and we started to think about moving to Canada.

"The situation was pretty unstable in our region ... and from all options, Canada has always been the best choice," said Holtsov.

"We always lived with so much stress and fear ... and it was pretty close to war actions," he added, noting for example they would lose access to water for months at a time.

"It was getting a little better ... but it wasn't really safe at all, and there wasn't too many jobs," added Okopna.

Now, they can only follow what is happening half a world away and hope and pray while worrying for their family and friends back home..

"It's happening now in all Ukraine. Putin tries to take all of Ukraine under his control," said Holtsov.

"Our situation is doubly difficult and complicated because we have parents who live in Donetsk still, and they suffer from Russian aggression," said Okopna.

"They grab men on the street and force them to fight. If they refuse to fight, they put them in prison. They can't leave Donetsk because Russian soldiers don't allow that," she said.

"My brother lives in Ukrainian territory and he lives close to Donetsk," she continued. "A few days ago, there was fighting near his home, and he barely left alive ... his car was damaged ... he was forced to leave his house and go live with relatives in another part of Ukraine, and he doesn't know what to do next.

"Almost all of the cities are in danger ... and people don't know where to hide, where to run away," she said. "A lot of volunteers there are going to fight."

"It's pretty complicated ... but the world will never be the same after

these days," suggested Holtsov. "It's pretty scary times for humanity now ... I'm fearful about the future for the world."

"People in Ukraine, they go to bed and they don't know in the morning if they are going to wake up or not," said Okopna. "I don't understand why now in these days it happens, and no one can stop Putin. I don't know."

Both are grateful to be settled here in Morden.

"A lot of friends said to us ... how do you make this decision, how brave you are ... we told them we lost a lot in Ukraine. We lost the feeling of safety," she said. "But we are here, and we are safe ... as a woman and a mother, I am very grateful. Especially to Morden, I am grateful.

"Now we support each other ... in Morden, a lot of people support us. Every step, you can have help," she said. "People everywhere they always help."

"THERE IS SO MUCH SUPPORT"

Barvinok and his family also settled in Manitoba just a few months ago.

"Throughout my life, I wanted to immigrate to Canada. I think since I was 12," he said.

"When we meet people and they ask where we are from, when we tell them the Ukraine, there is so much support from people ... it's very nice to hear, and it helps a lot because I'm telling my relatives there in Ukraine that people here know what is going on and that they support us."

Morden became their destination through a connection to an old friend who had settled here, he noted.

"We grew up in a small community back there; it was a town of, I think, 10,000 where we grew up ... we were trying to find something similar here," he said, noting they did travel a bit and looked at Saskatchewan and Alberta. "Manitoba, we started to love it as our own."

Barvinok also reflected on how the circumstances today can be connected to the fighting in the breakaway regions and the Russian annexation of Crimea.

"Ukraine tried to tell to the whole world what was going on; I think not



ABOVE PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Alex Holtsov and Hanna Okopna have family who are trying to figure out what to do and where to go to be safe as Russia continues to attack Ukraine. Some of their friends (right) have been sheltering in their basement for days to avoid weapons fire.

everyone was believing what actually was going on, and we basically have had war since 2014.

"We didn't really expect that from them ... we didn't anticipate; didn't know they were capable of doing something like this," he said. "Now we can basically see that Russia lied to the whole world, not just us."

They remain very concerned for their family and friends living in the warzone.

"They are quite anxious. They are planning for what to do next," he said, citing how they have to worry about such things as how they will provide heat if the power is cut off or how much food can they store if it's not safe to go outside.

"The only thing I think which could prevent that is a strong reaction from western countries ... I think they should immediately invite Ukraine into NATO," Barvinok said. "Even if all these steps were done, this won't prevent further invasion.

"I think there's war crimes happen-



ing right now in front of the whole world," he suggested, adding that many people like his own brother want to stay and fight for their country.

"And he's not alone," said Barvinok, who held out little or no hope for a peaceful resolution.

"You don't understand these people who basically rule Russia ... basically they give this ultimatum ... we basically think it is inevitable.

"I thank Canadians and the Canadian government for the support that they are providing to our country."

"I THANK CANADIANS ... FOR THE SUPPORT THAT THEY ARE PROVIDING TO OUR COUNTRY."

Tania Sigurdson hired as Morden Collegiate's new principal

By Lorne Stelmach

A familiar face will step into the role of principal at Morden Collegiate this fall.

Now into her sixth year as vice-principal, Tania Sigurdson will take on the top job as of this September as she takes over from Janice Bonner, who has served as the interim principal for the last two school years.

"I've had the privilege of working with some great principals to help mentor me and to help me feel confident to take this next step," said Sigurdson, who moved to Morden in 2011 to teach at the high school.

A parent of two Morden Collegiate alumni, she is also a volunteer community soccer coach and a member of the board of the Pembina Valley Humane Society.

Sigurdson studied at the University of Manitoba and completed her Bachelor of Arts in drama and Indigenous studies, Bachelor of Education post-baccalaureate diploma in education,

and a certificate in school leadership. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in education with a focus on educational administration.

So Sigurdson brings with her a career in leadership with a focus on building relationships and connecting with community, and she said there will very much be a focus on re-connecting with staff, students, and the community as the school continues to emerge from the pandemic.

"I certainly know a lot more about technology and Zoom meetings," Sigurdson said of the last two years under pandemic restrictions.

"You're kind of figuring out a new way of doing things and still focusing on learning and making sure kids are successful despite whatever might come," she said. "To go through it together as a staff, as a school community, and a parent community certainly brings us all together. Any time you go through something difficult, you grow stronger together, and so that has been a huge impact."

It is an exciting time for the school in many respects, including having work underway on a three-classroom addition that will help meet the continual increase in enrolment.

"We're going to be seeing increasing population for sure," said Sigurdson.

She sees the most vital priority right now being reconnecting as things continue to open up and return to normal.

"We need to make sure we reconnect as a school and as a parent community ... I think Morden and the Morden community have always been a strong community, and we have felt it," said Sigurdson. "It's been awesome having sporting events open up again and having kids be active as teams, and we're just looking forward to continuing to rebuild that community."

"Blended learning last year was tough. We're happy to have kids here again every day," she concluded. "Being able to have the kids here every day when they were back has been a



TANIA SIGURDSON

real gift, and it has given us as a staff a real sense of where kids need additional support, and so we're making sure we meet them where they're at and help them move forward."

MB. does away with most proof of vaccination requirements

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba's return to normal sped up this week, with proof of vaccination in public spaces no longer required as of Tuesday.

Public health officials further announced at a press conference Feb. 24 that the province has also removed the proof of vaccination and testing requirements for designated public sector employees, including education, child-care, and health-care workers.

Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief public health officer, said this continued relaxing of restrictions is possible now that the fourth wave of COVID-19 in Manitoba has peaked and is on the decline.

Hospital and ICU admissions have both stabilized, he said.

"These are the projections, among other indicators, that public health continues to monitor very closely, giving us that confidence to continue on our plan to loosen restrictions in Manitoba," Roussin said.

"We are moving from public health rules to recommendations," he stressed. "We've always known that these rules were in for a temporary amount of time."

While proof of vaccination is no longer mandated by the province to eat in a restaurant or enter other public entertainment spaces, businesses and venues will still have access to

the Manitoba immunization card and verifier app should they chose to continue requiring their patrons be fully vaccinated.

The mask mandate in public spaces, meanwhile, is slated to expire on March 15.

LOOKING FORWARD

Health Minister Audrey Gordon said the province is working on returning the health-care system back to more normal operations in the weeks and months ahead.

"This pandemic has taken a significant toll on all Manitobans," she said. "Together, we can look forward to a

coordinated and cautious plan to recover from the intensive demands that COVID-19 has placed on our health system."

Part of that plan is the gradual return of health-care workers who were redeployed to care for COVID patients, the minister said, allowing for a phased resumption of surgeries, diagnostic procedures, and outpatient or community services that were reduced as a result.

"There are currently more than 500 health-care workers across the province who are supporting COVID-related care in an area where they would not usually work," noted Da-

vid Matear, health system co-lead, Unified Health Sector Incident Command. "As COVID admissions to hospital, including critical care, continue to decrease we will be able to return many of these staff to their usual duties, allowing for the quick resumption of many services that we know Manitobans have been waiting for."

On Monday, there were 474 people in hospital with COVID-19 (204 of them contagious) and 30 people in ICU (14 contagious).

The number of deaths due to the virus was at 1,680, up 31 from the Monday before.

Rules for visitors to long-term, acute health care facilities loosen

By Voice staff

Long-term and acute health care facilities are taking a phased approach to broadening in-person visitation in the coming weeks.

Shared Health announced on Tuesday, Feb. 22, that it was enacting phase one of expanded visitor access.

In this phase, fully-vaccinated general (social) visitors are allowed in long-term care and acute care facilities. Photo ID and proof of vaccination is required.

Unvaccinated visitors or those who do not wish to provide proof of vaccination are allowed to visit in designated visitor shelters and spaces (long-term care only).

In emergency departments and urgent care centres and for outpatient appointments, patients may now identify one fully vaccinated essential care partner to accompany them. Access is subject to the ability to maintain physical distancing from all other patients and essential care partners. Proof of vaccination and

photo identification is required.

"The decision to expand visitation reflects recent changes to public health orders and takes into consideration current COVID-19 hospitalization rates and the number of active outbreaks at health-care facilities," Shared Health said in a statement.

Future phases will be rolled out in the weeks ahead.

"Timing of these changes may vary by health region and individual fa-

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PVHS reports on a solid year of animal care

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Humane Society remains in sound shape despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

And, as restrictions now ease, directors of the non-profit organization dedicated to humane and compassionate animal care and welfare remain heartened by not only the support for the work of the humane society but especially for providing homes for animals that come into their care.

"Everyone seemed to be adopting animals last year, perhaps because they were at home so much with all the restrictions," suggested outgoing board chairperson Selena Ducharme ahead of Monday night's AGM.

"We had expected there to be perhaps a slight decrease in adoption numbers and maybe even sadly more returns ... surprisingly, we didn't have that much of it ... it really surprised us, given the world is returning somewhat to normal," she said.

"I think it's amazing, being able to get that many animals into new homes," Ducharme continued. "It's awesome to see animals get into the 'forever' homes ... we do still have some animals that are becoming long term shelter members, but we're doing our best to advertise them and find the best home possible for them."

There wasn't much change in the past year in terms of the 168 animal intakes at the Morden shelter.

About 65 per cent of the 2021 intakes came from within the Pembina Valley, but the shelter took in 23 dogs from



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The Pembina Valley Humane Society is looking for homes for a host of pets, including Amaretto (left), who has been in their care for over a year, and Dino (right) who came to the shelter with some health issues but is now on the mend.

partnering rescues, which was substantially more than any other year. This was in part due to a lack of dogs in the region needing to be surrendered, but there was also a need to assist other animal rescues, especially in northern Manitoba.

It was a successful year for adoptions with 133 in total including 89 for cats and 44 for dogs, which left 35 who otherwise either remain in care or were transferred elsewhere.

Another factor that came into play was a ringworm outbreak amongst

the cats that started in August 2021 and continued well into 2022. This put a hold on both adoptions of affected cats as well as new cat intakes unless they had foster homes.

In total, 110 animals were placed in foster homes in 2021 (73 cats and 37 dogs) and 68 of these fostered animals were adopted before the end of the year with another 23 scheduled for adoption at the beginning of 2022, so the continued success of the foster program is something that the organization celebrates and highlights.

"We recognized it wasn't being used to its full potential, so we really started to promote it ... if we can get them in a foster home, that's ten times better," said Ducharme.

Under the circumstances, the humane society fared well financially with a very minor deficit on revenues of \$187,970 and expenses of \$188,597.

Annual revenue exceeded the budget goal by 7.7 per cent with major revenue sources including donations and fundraising under budget but grant numbers at 115 per cent of budget.

There was a 1.2 per cent revenue decrease compared to 2020 due to lower adoption and donation revenue, but

"WE HAVE A LOT OF IDEAS ON PROGRAMS WE WOULD LIKE TO IMPLEMENT."

the organization also worked to limit spending where possible, and it is aiming this year for increased revenue from fundraising and to break even overall with a five per cent growth in annual revenue.

As for the shelter, visitation numbers decreased significantly in 2021 compared to other years due to pandemic restrictions dictating the allowed number of people in the building.

Of those people who did come, residents of Morden accounted for 41 per cent with Winkler second at 17 per cent, while visitors from Winnipeg represented 10 per cent—an increase of four per cent from 2020.

Ducharme said they were glad to be able to welcome their cat and dog care volunteers back in early 2021, and they were also grateful to have supporters donating not only much needed supplies to keep the shelter operating but monetary donations as well.

They now look forward to what will be possible this year, including being able to do more community outreach such as school programs once again.

"For 2022, we're really hoping to start expanding that further. We're going to be bringing back our care home visits," Ducharme noted. "Hopefully, with all of this, we can bring back attending community events so we can raise awareness of the shelter and our cause."

And for the long term they also continue to look forward to either expansion of the shelter or a new building, and they see having done a community needs survey as being very much connected to that goal.

"We have a lot of ideas on programs we would like to implement, but we want the community's input," said Ducharme. "That will be translated into how can we incorporate that into either a building expansion or a new build."

> VISITATIONS, FROM PG. 11

cility," the agency noted. "As has been the practice throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, access to health-care facilities may vary from changes to public health orders. This is due to the increased vulnerability of residents and patients to the most severe effects of the virus."

Medical masks are still required at all health-care facilities. They are provided to visitors as they arrive.

Salem Home in Winkler and Tabor Home in Morden both posted up-

dates on their websites addressing the visitation changes.

"We are very pleased to see the provincial situation stabilizing and look forward to once again welcoming family and friends for visits, celebrations and activities," those updates stated. "Visitor access will expand gradually over the next several weeks and we thank you for your patience, cooperation and respect for the guidelines as they change."

Try your hand at crokicurl

By Ty Deillo

Last week, Altona's Recreation Department made available the game of crokicurl for residents to get outside and play as the extreme cold weather begins to ease up.

The new crokicurl ice surface is located between the Millennium Exhibition Centre and Gallery In The Park.

Crokicurl combines two iconic Canadian pastimes: crokinole (knipsbrat) and curling. The object of the

game is to accumulate the most points through shooting the rock into the center button and positioning rocks on the playing surface so they remain within the highest-scoring circle at the end of the round.

The rocks are available through the Millennium Exhibition Centre. To book the rocks and reserve a playing time during the week, call the Recreation Office at 204-324-9005. Outside of office hours, call MEC maintenance staff at 204-324-6973 or 204-304-2180.



PHOTO BY TY DELELLO/VOICE

Recreation operations foreman Stacy Harder throws a rock on the new crokicurl sheet in Altona. The ice and rocks are available for the public to enjoy.

Upcoming art talks run the gamut with topics

By Lorne Stelmach

There are varied themes lined up in the months ahead as the Pembina Hills Arts Council continues its monthly series of art talks.

The Third Thursdays series kicked off again last month with a session that focused on the connection between art and mental health, and it is a good example of how art can be used as a means to delve deeper into all sorts of important topics.

"It's also just a fun forum to exchange ideas and to just talk about things ... and it's a good chance to just connect and engage with others about art," said programs and outreach coordinator Tye Dandridge-Evancio.

The discussion Feb. 17 touched on the idea of art therapy as an example of how art and mental health can be connected.

That connection can go deeper and be varied, noted Dandridge-Evancio, whether it is artists using their work as a way of coping or as a way of perhaps expressing something about a trauma or personal experience.

Whatever the case may be, viewing the artwork can immerse yourself in someone else's perspective in a meaningful way.

"I think it's sometimes easy to take

for granted ... whenever you're looking at a piece of art, you're not just looking at the art itself," he said. "You're not just necessarily looking at the objects themselves or the landscapes or the people just as themselves, you're looking at them through the eyes of the artists."

The plans for the upcoming sessions include women in art in March, the artistic process in April, LGBTQ+ artists in May, hope as a theme in June, and then the paranormal in art for July.

For women in art, they were hoping to have a few artists on hand to share a bit about their experiences as female artists in an industry that can be still quite male dominated.

In April, focusing on the artistic process could perhaps offer a few examples of different practices and approaches to how artists create.

"I'm really excited about that one because I think that in particular doesn't always get a lot of attention," Dandridge-Evancio suggested. "There's actually many different ways that artists use to get from point A to point B, and it's really interesting when you sort of flesh out and see how they go about doing their work."

He also saw the May focus on LGBTQ+ artists being important as it

will coincide with the gallery featuring a PRIDE exhibit.

And then the June theme of hope in art is something that should resonate with everyone.

"I think it may be especially poignant right now," Dandridge-Evancio said. "I think hope is something that people really need right now."

He also very much looks forward to the July focus on the paranormal in art.

"I suspect that one will be fun. It could be a chance to look at the way ghosts and spirits and mythological creatures appear in art.

"I've been told even that the clocktower here is haunted," he added.

Dandridge-Evancio hopes it all offers an entertaining lineup that will attract people to participate and go a bit more in depth into some different areas of art.

"It's a forum to exchange ideas and maybe spark an interest in some of these topics. It can be a good forum to open up some discussion about these areas, some of which I think are really important."

Head to pembinahillsarts.com for more details on the upcoming art talks.



Pembina Hills Arts Council has a varied lineup of topics for its 2022 Third Thursdays art talk series. The next one in March focuses on women in art.

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Manitoba



SCREENSHOTS
Randy Galfo (above), Eram Manzoor (left), and Olga Krahn (below) were part of PVLIP's art exhibition at the Pembina Hills Gallery, which invited artists to share work revolving around the theme of being a welcoming and inclusive community.



PVLIP celebrates our region's diversity

Second annual "Connecting Cultures and Communities" online event held

By Lorne Stelmach

An online event last week both celebrated and raised awareness of the growing diversity of the region.

The Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) held its second annual Connecting Cultures and Communities Celebration Feb. 24.

This year it involved a partnership with the Pembina Hills Arts Council, with the virtual celebration putting the spotlight on newcomer and community artists who were part of an exhibit at the Morden art gallery through February.

In addition to a video featuring some of those artists, the online event also featured cultural trivia as well as information on how PVLIP is working in our communities. A number of

volunteers from PVLIP's seven different working groups also took time to touch on how it is making such a difference for people across the region.

"It's such a pleasure to be part of this group ... it's so wonderful that it gives immigrants space and a place and a voice," said Lana Alencar, who comes from Brazil and is involved with the mental health working group.

"The community experience has greatly improved thanks to the combined efforts of the community partnerships," said LJ Barquilla, who works with the welcoming and inclusive committee. "It does not mean that we are where we need to be ... the challenge is to keep moving in making the Pembina Valley the most wel-

Continued on page 24

> **March 1, 2022**

No longer required to have proof of vaccination

> **March 15, 2022**

Mask Requirement will be removed

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Manitoba

Winter Explorer Ideas

Chase the northern lights

You can witness this natural phenomenon from vantage points across the province, but one of the best places to see the northern lights is Churchill due to its ideal spot under the aurora dome.



↑ Churchill Northern Studies Centre



SCAN THIS QR CODE to open the Winter Explorer Guide on your phone.

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Keep yourself and others safe as you explore Manitoba. Remember to:

- ➔ Wash or sanitize your hands frequently
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- ➔ Practice physical distancing
- ➔ Stay home when you're sick
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- ➔ Follow all local travel restrictions

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FROM AN OPERATING RESEARCH CENTRE

📍 MANITOBA NORTH

The Churchill Northern Studies Centre, situated 30 minutes outside of the town of Churchill, provides ideal conditions for viewing the night sky. There are a few options for viewing the aurora borealis, from the heated dome at the top of the centre to the outdoor observation deck.

FROM AN AURORA POD

📍 MANITOBA NORTH

Book your northern lights trip with Natural Habitat Adventures in Churchill and get exclusive access to the warm and comfortable Aurora Pod, specially designed for viewing the aurora borealis with 360-degree views of the sky via innovative glass construction and cushioned seats.

FROM A NATIONAL PARK

📍 MANITOBA WEST

Riding Mountain National Park is known for its regular aurora activity in the depths of winter. Book a stay at a hotel in Wasagaming, Elkhorn Resort or a winterized Parks Canada oTENTik and watch the night sky light up.

FROM A WILDERNESS SETTING

📍 MANITOBA NORTH

Best suited for the DIY traveller, Nanuk Operations in Churchill offers Nights Under Lights, a guided photography outing for the chance to shoot the aurora with the backdrop of a yurt tucked deep in the boreal forest. All guests get a clear view of the lights from the yurt's large, wrap-around deck.

FROM A FISHING LODGE

📍 MANITOBA NORTH

Book a stay at Baker's Narrows Lodge, located outside Flin Flon where the northern lights will be highly visible. Book an ice fishing package for a multi-night stay and hook a catch while taking advantage of the north's wide open skies.

FROM THE CITY

📍 WINNIPEG

It's possible to see the northern lights as far south as Winnipeg when the conditions are just right. Download an aurora forecasting app and keep an eye out for clear nights with a high chance of discovery. We recommend heading outside the perimeter to ensure the city lights don't impact your view.

PHOTO: ALEX DE VRIES



↓ Aurora Pod

PHOTO: @JUBUCAPTURES



↓ Churchill

PHOTO: WILDHOUSE MEDIA



↓ Poplar River

PHOTO: JIRENE MOORE



↓ Churchill

Find more ways to see the northern lights at manito.ba/winter-explorer.

Manitoba encompasses Treaty 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Territory and communities who are signatories to Treaties 6 and 10. It is the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anish-Ininiwak, Dakota, Dene, Ininiwak and Nehethowuk and the homeland of the Métis. Acknowledging these original caretakers is a reminder of our unique heritage, our important relationships and our obligations to and shared responsibilities with Indigenous peoples.



Habitat for Humanity aiming high in 2022

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler-Morden chapter of Habitat for Humanity has some big dreams for the year ahead, and they need your help to make them a reality.

The group is looking at possibly being able to build new houses in both Winkler and Morden between now and spring 2023.

These would be the third and fourth builds in the area, as their second house is nearing completion in Morden right now. The chapter's first house was completed in Winkler in 2019.

The reason they're even considering taking on two houses at once is thanks to affordable housing funding from the federal government that has been made available to both communities, explained chapter rep. Christina Falk.

"Winkler has wanted to contribute part of that money to a house build for us to do in Winkler, and Morden has expressed interest as well, although we haven't finalized things there yet," she said.

There are a few catches, however. First, the money comes with the stipulation that the builds must start this year and be completed in 2023.

There's also the matter of finding a place to put these houses.

Falk explained the federal dollars coupled with a generous donation from the City of Winkler and other Habitat grant money should cover almost the entire cost of construction in Winkler, but not the cost of a lot.

It's unclear how much funding may be available for the Morden build,



WINKLER-MORDEN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PHOTO

As work on the Morden Habitat for Humanity home nears completion (hopes are the family can move in for April), the Winkler-Morden chapter has a chance to secure funds to build two more houses in 2022-2023. But first they need to raise a couple hundred thousand dollars to purchase the lots.

but there too they expect to have to at least raise enough for a lot purchase.

"So that's where we're at now—we need a lot in Winkler and we need a lot in Morden," Falk said. "We basically need to raise a couple hundred thousand dollars just to be able to buy the lots and then we should be able to build the homes."

Moving forward so fast on more homes is not a situation the non-profit expected to be in so soon after their second build, but Falk is grateful for the opportunity and feeling good about their chances.

"I'm super optimistic we'll be able to do at least one," she said. "To do both communities is a little bit more of a stretch, but Dwayne, my husband, is

the chapter chair and he always believes we can do the impossible.

"If it's supposed to happen it's going to happen."

The chapter has to have its plans for the year ahead into Habitat for Humanity Manitoba by May, so they're really going to be ramping up fundraising efforts in the weeks to come to see if they can reach that lofty \$200,000 goal.

"We're going to be reaching out to local businesses and asking for some larger donations," Falk said. "We're still a bit restricted in how we can do fundraisers but hopefully that will open up in the next few months. In the meantime, those personal donations and business donations would

be very much appreciated.

"How amazing would it be if we could do it all and just get more families into these homes?"

You can support these efforts by making a donation online at habitat.mb.ca/chapters/winkler-morden or mailing a cheque to Box 241, Winkler, MB R6W 4A5. Make cheques payable to Habitat for Humanity Manitoba and put "Winkler-Morden Chapter" in the note section line.

FAMILY APPLICATIONS

As the chapter works out the funding for its third and possibly fourth builds, it has also putting out a call for family applications.

"We really would love more people to apply," said Falk, noting the last few rounds they only received a handful of finished applications each time.

"We have heard from some people that they feel somebody else deserves it more than them, which is not always the case," she said. "The basic thing is we are looking for families that are currently renting. So if you have young children and you're renting a house or you're renting an apartment, that's who we're looking for."

The Habitat program is meant to help families who might otherwise struggle to save up a down payment for a mortgage. The houses aren't free—families put in sweat equity during the build and then have a zero interest mortgage with Habitat to pay back.

"Some people actually think that

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Brad Braun
Chair of the Plum-Marais Project Management Team and Councillor of the Municipality of Rhineland

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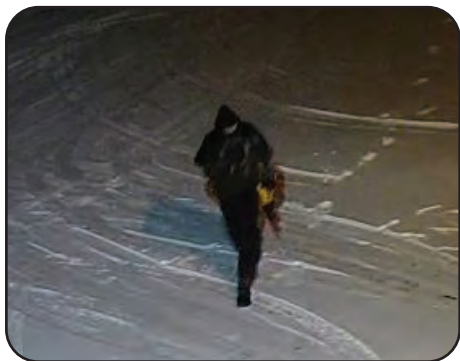
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RCMP PHOTOS

RCMP investigating thefts at Sun Valley RV

By Voice staff

Pembina Valley RCMP are investigating the theft of several catalytic converters from vehicles at Sun Valley RV on Hwy. 3 this winter.

On Jan. 29 at approximately 4 a.m., four unknown suspects entered the property in a grey Chevrolet Cruze and removed catalytic converters from six units.

Police believe a red early- to mid-2000s Honda CRV may also be involved and are currently exploring numerous leads in relation to this investigation.

RCMP are asking anyone with any information about this incident to contact the Morden, Carman, or Manitou detachments or Manitoba Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

ASH rep. asks council to tighten smoking bylaw

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler city council heard from a representative of Action on Smoking & Health (ASH) last week.

Policy specialist Stephanie Toews virtually attended the Feb. 22 meeting

to encourage council to consider taking another look at its smoking bylaw.

The Alberta-based non-profit is working towards creating a tobacco-free society. One way it hopes to do that is by making smoking and vaping less common sights in communi-

ties across Canada.

"If we model healthy behaviours we get healthy kids, and vice-versa," Toews said. "ASH advocates for comprehensive public health restrictions on all forms of smoking and vaping to keep youth tobacco- and nicotine-

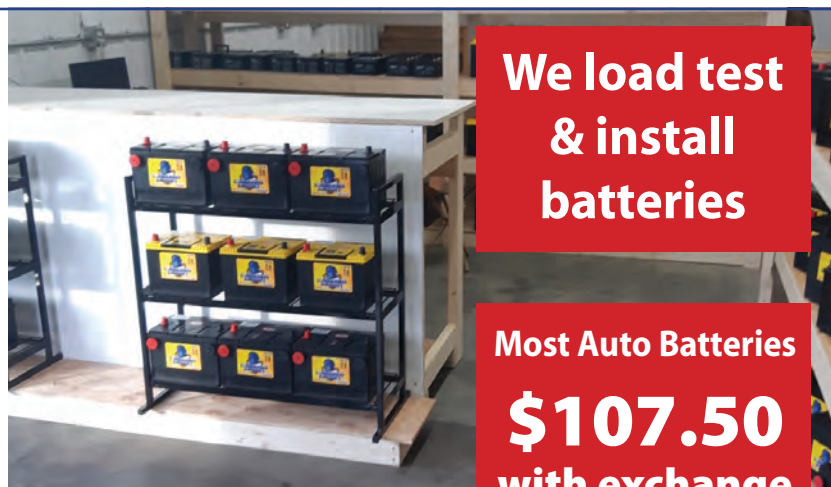
free for life."

The agency is asking municipalities to treat smoking and vaping the same way Manitoba as a whole treats cannabis use, which is not allowed to be consumed in any indoor or outdoor public space.

"Right now I can't go walking down the street smoking cannabis, and we would like to do the same thing with tobacco," Toews said. "The less likely that children are able to see someone smoking the less likely they will be to pick up smoking themselves."

ASH's gold standard for municipal smoking bylaws also includes banning smoking and vaping from all outdoor recreation spaces (parks, playgrounds, sports fields), making public events such as sports and cultural gatherings or markets smoke-free, and also making all hotels, motels, patios, and group living facilities non-smoking spaces.

"Winkler has a fairly strong bylaw," Toews noted of the current local restrictions, which, in part, ban smoking or vaping within 15 metres of public buildings and at city-owned swimming pools, wading pools, spray



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Liver Health Month 2022



LOVE YOUR LIVER

Your liver is your body's high-performance engine

Some car owners sink their time, money and effort into caring for their high-performance vehicle. Others care only the bare minimum, ignoring the oil leaks, the spreading rust or the concerning noises, just hoping that it will always start up in the morning.

Your liver is your body's engine, and the reality is that when your liver stops and breaks down, your body does too.

Your liver requires high-quality fuel, regular maintenance, hazard protection and some loving care. Filling up your liver with the wrong stuff and leaving it idle for too long can cause liver diseases like non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) to develop.

NAFLD is a liver disease which starts with fat accumulation in the liver without excessive alcohol consumption. Despite it affecting over 7 million people in Canada, close to 90% of Canadians report having little to no knowledge of the disease ever before. Unfortunately, if left untreated, NAFLD may progress to more advanced disease, such as non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). The good news is that NAFLD can often be prevented or even reversed if it is detected before permanent liver damage has occurred.



Did you know that the liver is the **LARGEST ORGAN** in the human body? It performs over 500 functions, including processing everything we eat and drink.

Keep this vital organ healthy with these nutrition and fitness tips:

DO...

Eat a balanced diet, choosing foods from all food groups.	Eat foods that have fiber.	Eat antioxidant-rich foods.	Drink lots of water.	Consult your doctor if you need to lose weight. Focus on a healthy diet, regular exercise and low alcohol consumption.	Keep your body mass index in the normal range (18 to 25)

DON'T...

Eat foods with lots of sugar, fat and salt.	Eat fried food.	Drink too much alcohol. In general, per day, women shouldn't have more than two drinks; men shouldn't have more than three drinks.	Gain excessive weight. Maintain a healthy diet and exercise regularly.



Canadian Liver Foundation
Fondation canadienne du foie

Following these tips will help keep your liver – and you – healthy.

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April showers may curb crop pests, including grasshoppers

By Nicole Brownlee

Grasshopper populations are up in the air as farmers wait for spring, but heavy rains in April and May could make this growing season more manageable than in 2021.

Weather, precipitation and predator populations are three crucial indicators of grasshopper populations.

"There are a few things at play, and sometimes it's really hard to know for sure which one of them is driving the population increases," said John Gavloski, the entomologist who compiles the annual provincial grasshopper forecasts.

In hot, dry years, grasshopper populations increase, feasting on crops struggling to mature. After spending months munching on crops, grasshoppers lay eggs in late summer, leaving their children to hatch in early spring.

"If you get some timely rains after they've hatched out, sometimes that will kill the very young (grasshoppers)," said Gavloski.

"How well can the crops compensate and tolerate grasshopper feeding is also important. A year when you've got good growing conditions, the plants can handle more grasshoppers than they can in a dry year."

Grasshopper populations soar after a few years of dry weather. Manitoba's grasshopper populations have steadily grown since 2019. The Interlake and Central Manitoba are usually targets of rising grasshopper populations.

Low soil moisture in the fall of 2020 with less than 40 per cent of normal snow accumulation made 2021 an es-



Two dominate grasshopper species in Manitoba include the two-striped grasshoppers who feed on crop and non-crop plants and the clearwinged grasshoppers who prefer grasses and cereal crops.

pecially dry growing season. By late June, many areas were at least 200 mm short of water for the growing season.

The temperature of the Eastern and the Interlake regions was also two Celsius degrees warmer than average.

Researchers surveyed 97 locations in Manitoba in August 2021 and found 45 of the surveyed areas had a light risk of grasshopper infestation. Six of the surveyed areas are in severe risk areas, one being the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton.

"We may not be hitting all the really high-density spots in our survey. We're doing this randomly," said Gavloski.

Researchers tend to survey spots near where they live or work, which can cause clusters of surveys in different parts of the province instead of an even distribution across Manitoba.

"I wouldn't let my guard down re-

"I WOULDN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN REGARDING GRASSHOPPERS IF I WAS A FARMER OR AGRONOMIST."

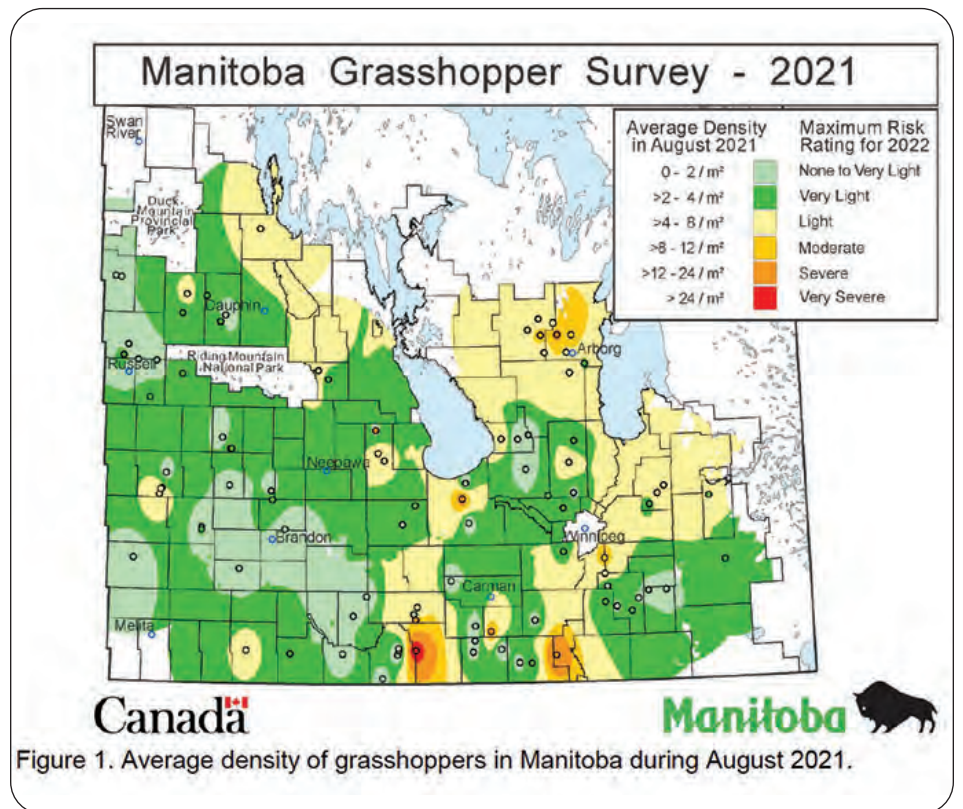


Figure 1. Average density of grasshoppers in Manitoba during August 2021.

SUPPLIED PHOTOS BY JOHN GAVLOSKI.

The province has released their grasshopper forecast for 2022 revealing high densities of grasshoppers in the Interlake and Central region of Manitoba.

garding grasshoppers if I was a farmer or agronomist," said Gavloski.

Gavloski encourages farmers and agronomists to monitor grasshopper populations along roadsides, field edges and other areas grasshoppers tend to gather.

The Central region and Interlake generally had the highest counts of grasshoppers while surveying in 2021. The highest count of grasshoppers was in the RM of Pembina, where there was an average of 40 grasshoppers per square metre.

Four grasshopper species cause the most damage in Manitoba.

In the Interlake, the two-striped species was dominant, with a few locations also containing the clearwinged

grasshopper as the dominant species. Two-striped grasshoppers feed on crops and non-crop plants, but the clearwinged grasshopper primarily feeds on grass.

Insects like bee flies, blister beetles and field crickets feed on grasshopper eggs, which could also stem population growth.

"We were seeing a lot of the adult stage (of the blister beetles) in the fields in the summer," said Gavloski.

Only young blister beetles feed on grasshopper eggs, but an increased presence of adult blister beetles shows an increase in grasshopper predators. The researchers rely on observational reports of grasshopper predator populations.

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March is Pharmacy Appreciation Month



The critical role of pharmacists in public health

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Pharmacists serve the public in many ways. They can offer treatment for urinary tract infections, perform

medical assessments, prescribe medications for minor ailments, offer advice on healthy living and provide an assortment of other services.

This month, remember to thank your pharmacist for a job well done.

March is Pharmacy Appreciation Month. This event presents the perfect opportunity to recognize the crucial role of pharmacists in their communities. Here are three ways these professionals bolster the Canadian health-care system.

1. THEY FACILITATE ACCESS TO CARE

More than 42,500 pharmacists work at over 10,500 pharmacies across Canada. In fact, pharmacists are the most accessible health-care professionals in the country and help reduce pressure on the entire medical system.

2. THEY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS

If you have a minor health problem, you can meet with a pharmacist for professional advice and treatment. You may be able to avoid having to make an appointment with your family doctor or visit an emergency room. In this way, pharmacists help reduce the number of hospitalizations.

PHARMACY APPRECIATION MONTH



Pharmacy professionals have taken on a lot to help us through the pandemic over the past 2 years. Join us this March during Pharmacy Appreciation Month to celebrate the pharmacy teams that have been there every day for their patients and communities. #PAM2022 <https://pharmasave.com/store/pharmasave-morden/>

Pharmacy Appreciation Month is the annual national campaign that shines a spotlight on all things pharmacy. Celebrated each March, #PAM2022 is a time to highlight the role pharmacy professionals play in our health-care system and thank them for their extraordinary efforts!

Happy Pharmacy Appreciation Month! With a widely expanded role over the past decade, there are more reasons than ever to appreciate your pharmacist! #PAM2022

Let's help Canadians appreciate their #pharmacy teams this March!

Your pharmacy team at Morden Pharmasave has been here for you throughout the pandemic. This month we are celebrating the #pharmacy professionals that have made that possible for Pharmacy Appreciation Month! #PAM2022

You may not always see them, but pharmacists are key members of health-care teams in a broad range of settings across Canada, including community pharmacies, hospitals and primary care clinics. For more information, visit [insert your website] #PAM2022

March is Pharmacy Appreciation Month. Next time you're at our pharmacy take a few minutes to ask us how we can help you manage your health. #PAM2022

With more than 45,000 pharmacists in Canada working in over 11,000 pharmacies, pharmacists are the most accessible health provider in the country. Visit your pharmacist to learn more about the care and advice they can provide. #PAM2022



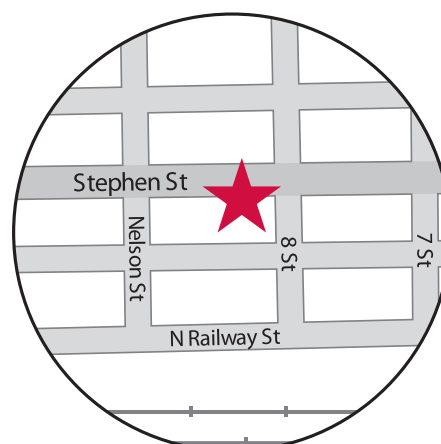
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An epic snowmobile trip

By Lorne Stelmach

A local teacher and a couple friends recently took on what may perhaps be the ultimate test for snowmobile riders in Manitoba.

Making the trek by snowmobile back home to The Pas has been on Ryan Vipond's mind since moving to Morden in 2010, but he always knew it would require a lot of endurance even for a seasoned rider, let alone one of his friends, Guilherme Vieira Fernandes, a Brazilian transplant with just a couple years of riding experience.

Nonetheless, the two of them along with fellow The Pas native Ryan Bitton not only conquered the 925 kilometres Feb. 18-19 but did so in the midst of blizzard conditions.

"I think it was just the challenge of it was the big thing and the fact that it would be just an overall neat experience to go such a long distance on

pretty much the entire groomed trail network across the province," said Vipond.

"Until just recently, there wasn't a snowmobile group network that connected the north to the south. Now that it was done, we wanted to hit it," he added. "Before, it probably would have been close to impossible, and the main reason would have been down south here because you would be crossing so many fields and farmland that is privately owned with fences, and it would have been extremely dangerous."

It's no surprise that Vipond would take on such a challenge, as he grew up around snowmobiles—his parents owned a Polaris and Yamaha dealership in The Pas.

Vipond had thought of tackling the journey in the past, perhaps during a spring break, but each year the southern trails were already partially



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

A trio of friends made the trip from the Morden area to The Pas via snowmobile last month. Left: There were a few challenging spots as a blizzard raged on around them.



closed by that time.

This year he decided they could attempt the trek, not only because snow conditions were near record-breaking but the groomed trail network was finally up and running across the entire province.

There was a week or two of planning, including contacting a lot of local clubs along the route.

"We crossed through ten local snowmobile club trail networks," Vipond noted. "We didn't have a pilot vehicle or anything go along with us. We were rolling the dice. We have good equipment.

"We had pre-planned fuel stops along the way so we knew how far we would get on a tank of fuel, and we also carried fuel with us just in case."

Their first destination was Dauphin, with plans to reach it around 5-6 p.m. But they soon realized that timing was not going to happen thanks to the

blizzard conditions that set in as they departed.

"We had almost zero visibility for about three to four hours until we got to Glenboro," he said. "We pushed on, knew from the local forecast that winds were going to die down and visibility was going to get better."

They had good mechanical knowledge and had tools along with them, but there was a major breakdown when one of the sleds took out a crankshaft. So they had to leave Bitton behind, calling Vipond's father, who lives three hours north, to pick him and his sled up.

Otherwise, one of the main challenges was when they realized that a section of trail had not been used by any sledder for about the past three weeks. Over that time, the area had received massive amounts of snow

Continued on page 24

Tax time just got easier

What is the difference between refundable tax credits and non-refundable tax credits? What are the eligible deductions for self-employed workers? It isn't always easy to answer all these questions and to know all the programs and deductions which could help you save a lot of money.

TAX CREDITS

Every year thousands of dollars are lost by taxpayers through their ignorance of the system.

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> WINKLER COUNCIL, FROM PG. 18

parks, playgrounds, and skate parks and at all athletic fields or hockey rinks during youth events.

That said, there is room for improvement, including “bringing it in line with cannabis restrictions so that there is no public place that you could actually smoke tobacco,” Toews said. “It’s about setting out that expectation for your community that we don’t accept this in public because we don’t want children or youth being exposed to smoking or smoking behaviours.”

Mayor Martin Harder thanked Toews for her presentation and noted council would consider these recommendations.

After the meeting, the mayor said he feels Winkler’s current by-law isn’t that far off the mark of what ASH is asking for.

But whether an outright ban on tobacco use in all public spaces is in the cards for Winkler is something council will have to take some time to consider.

“That’s a conversation that we need to have and that’s what we will have over the next month or so to find out whether we want to pursue it any further or whether we feel comfortable where it’s at,” Harder said.

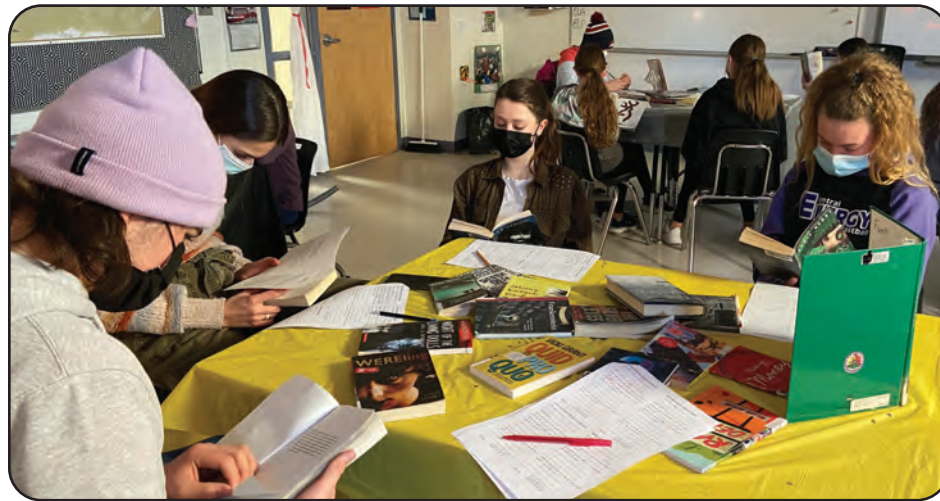
> HABITAT, FROM PG. 16

they make too much money to qualify, so we also want people to know the minimum income requirement is a minimum,” Falk said. “This year it’s \$32,000, so you might make more than that and still qualify.”

Falk also noted that some single parents have expressed concern about the sweat equity required. She stressed that while two-parent households are expected to put in 500 hours of volunteer work in the program, single parents need only do 250 hours.

“And friends and family can contribute towards those hours, so it’s not you doing it alone,” she said. “Also, those hours are not all on building the house. A lot of them are community service, volunteering in the community, and you can do that in all different kinds of ways.”

For an application and answers to any other questions you may have about becoming Winkler-Morden’s next Habitat family, email families@wm.habitat.mb.ca. The deadline to apply is March 31.



“Book tasting” at ÉMMS

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

As part of I Love to Read Month, Grade 8 students at École Morden Middle School had the chance to attend a book tasting. Set up like a restaurant, the students tried different genres and spent 10 minutes reading each category and then used an interactive menu to ‘digest’ their opinions of the books. At the end, many students reported they had added books to their to-read lists from genres new to them. One reader responded to the novel in verse that he read that he will read this sub-genre again “because I like the idea of poem-like books.”



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Super skate

Superheroes of all sorts could be spotted at the Access Event Centre recently as the City of Morden hosted another fun skating event. Spiderman was a big attraction at the Feb. 19 Superhero Skate which included a photo booth and a light show featuring Wonder Woman. Kids and parents alike were encouraged to come dressed in costume.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

“We have a variety of voices and experience around the table”

From Pg. 14

coming and inclusive community in the province.”

“It’s a place to get your voice heard,” said Beatrice Aderemi, who is part of the ethno-cultural council, which has 14 cultures represented and serves to provide the organization with first-hand experience and insight from newcomers. “It’s a place to connect with new people, get to know about more people, get to know about other people’s cultures. You always feel welcome and belonging with this group.”

PVLIP aims to identify and reduce barriers facing newcomers in the region and to create communities where everyone can feel welcome.

Considering that there are 134 different countries of origin represented in the region as well as 35 different first languages, PVLIP has a vital role to play, suggested Regional Connections executive director Steve Reynolds.

“Immigration in the Pembina Valley is a pretty recent story,” he noted. “A lot of things started to change and really diversify much more recently ... the Manitoba provincial nominee program was a new and unique project to try to help find and kind of match economic immigrants and newcomers with some smaller centres and rural communities.”

“A lot of people stayed; retention was good,” he continued, noting how it was boosted with Winkler being a pilot site for the nominee program and more recently with the Morden community-driven immigration initiative in 2012.

“The diversity has been exciting to

see ... year over year, newcomers arriving continue to be from more and more diverse countries and backgrounds.”

PVLIP executive director Elaine Burton-Saindon sees the organization as playing an important liaison role with communities across southern Manitoba.

There is much opportunity to have conversations with leaders in the region and talk about the challenges or barriers as well as share knowledge about things that are positive and that are working well.

“We have a variety of voices and experience around the table,” noted Chris Kalansky, who is part of PVLIP’s main working group called the regional partnership council. “We live in a large region with multiple communities; each has their own identity, each has their own strengths and weaknesses ... our goal is to collaborate between stakeholders and communities.”

“It is a great resource ... and I think

> SNOWMOBILE TREK, FROM PG. 22

and wind combined with very cold temperatures. This resulted in a nearly impassable trail and getting stuck multiple times. Vipond recalls one section of about five miles took them two hours to traverse.

“We got into some really rough, deep blown-in snow ... we had about 80 or 90 miles of really, really deep snow, lots of getting stuck.”

Vipond said that the trail from Glenboro through the Spruce Woods area was a highlight, and their journey into Neepawa was incredible and al-

lowed for some relaxing, enjoyable riding.

Speakers and artists alike also offered their praise and gratitude for the opportunity presented through the Pembina Hills Gallery exhibit.

Artists were invited to submit work around the theme of being a welcoming and inclusive community, and Burton-Saindon loved how it came together.

“We talked about the idea of collaborating together to showcase newcomer art as a way to connect cultures and communities,” she said. “All of the artists were just amazing, and everyone was so passionate about their work.”

“Art is one thing that doesn’t have any boundaries or divisions. It doesn’t segregate,” observed Eram Manzoor, speaking in a video about the exhibit.

“We can come together as a community, as cultures,” said Olga Krahn. “It includes the young and the old, and we can kind of dance together and enjoy each other, and that is what inspired me ... and it is nice to see differ-

ent cultures coming in and being able to integrate with other people.”

“I think it’s important for children and for adults who are coming to a new community to know that they’re welcome,” said Deb Ritchie. “It’s definitely a diversified community now.”

“Art is something that unites us all,” concluded Manzoor. “They should accept themselves and they should accept others the way that they are; they should feel that everybody is beautiful in their own way.”

Alencar offered some concluding thoughts for people.

“As immigrants, we’re always going to live in two places ... our hearts are here, struggling with everything that’s happening here, but somewhere else too because we have family and friends elsewhere, and we struggle when they struggle,” she said.

“Take the time to listen to people; take the time to connect ... that’s how we’re going to give immigrants the sense of belonging.”

the signage out on the trails.

“I cannot say enough about how important good signage is when traveling at night through uncharted territory.”

He could see himself taking on the journey again some time but would also consider venturing into other territory as well.

“I think it would be really nice to go into the eastern part of the province and the Whiteshell.”

lowed for some relaxing, enjoyable riding.

After leaving Dauphin, they were treated to miles and miles of tabletop groomed trail, including on the old rail bed, taking them up into the Duck Mountains.

“The Duck Mountain Provincial Park probably stood out ... up there in those hills was just beautiful,” he said.

One thing Vipond noted was how much they depended on guidance from the local snowmobile clubs and

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Flyers roll over Terriers

By Ty Dilello

After a pair of big wins over the Portage Terriers last weekend, the Winkler Flyers moved into second place in the MJHL's East Division.

The Flyers rolled over the Portage Terriers on Friday night by a 6-2 scoreline. The Flyers got a boost before the game when they found out that Gordie White was going to be in the stands watching their game.

Gordie, the three-and-a-half-year-old son of Flyers assistant coach Ryan White, was recently diagnosed with an incurable brain tumour. Gordie's presence in the arena certainly gave the young club a big boost.

Ryan Monais led the way for the Flyers with two powerplay goals on the night.

After the game, Monais said, "It was a big night emotionally for everyone, and it was good to get the win. It means everything. They've been there all year for us. Whitey especially and with them in the stands, there was no way we were losing that game."

Monais believes the Flyers have a squad that could bring home an MJHL championship.

"We're so fired up. We got a group that can go all the way, we think. With the fans we got, and if they're ready to see it, we'll take it all the way."

On Saturday night, Winkler finished off two-straight home games against Portage. However, it was the visiting Terriers that got off to a good start with a 2-0 lead. The Flyers fought back from there and rallied to win the game 5-2.

Malachi Klassen made 27 saves for the Flyers on the night. After the



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler Flyers goalie Dylan Meilun makes a pad save late in Saturday's game against Portage, which Winkler took 5-2, following up on a 6-2 win over the Terriers the night before.

game, Klassen said, "I thought we could have gotten off to a better start, but I know the boys and knew that we'd make a push for a comeback."

Klassen realizes how important every game is for the remainder of the season. He's also excited about the prospect of lifted capacity restrictions so that home games in Winkler can be played to a full barn.

"Every game is huge. Battling right now for home ice in the playoffs is very important to us. And it's going to be really cool to see Winkler Centennial Arena at its maximum capacity and to see everybody out there. We can't wait."

The Flyers go into this week with a 27-15-3-1 record and are poised to clinch a berth in the postseason.

They have three games this week on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Twenty-year-old Justin Svenson of the Flyers continues to lead the MJHL in scoring. He currently has 67 points in 46 games.

A GoFundMe page has been created to support the White family. A link to it can be found at www.winklerflyers.com.

Twisters' win streak halted by Railer Express

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters had a seven-game winning streak halted this past weekend by the team they are battling with for second place in

the MMJHL.

Pembina Valley had extended their run Friday with a 9-5 win over the Charleswood Hawks but were then handed a 4-1 defeat by the Transcona Railer Express Sunday.

With the victory, third-place Transcona improved to 30-11-1 for 61 points and edged within three points of the second-place Twisters, who are at 30-8-4 for 64 points with three regular season games remaining.

Nathan Ayotte and Riley Goertzen both scored twice against Charleswood as the Twisters broke open a 3-3 game after one to lead 6-3 after two periods.

Continued on page 28

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

Female Hawks fall to Ice in U18 playoffs

By Lorne Stelmach

The post season came to an end for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

The fifth-place Hawks went into their quarter-final series with high hopes, but the fourth-place Winnipeg Ice completed a three-game sweep Sunday with a 3-2 overtime victory in Winnipeg to close out the best of five.

The series had opened with a 6-1 loss in Winnipeg in game one and then saw the Ice take game two by a 5-3 score last Wednesday in Morden.

"The girls played well," said coach Dana Bell, who noted the team had a lot of players who maybe had not really experienced such an intense level of playoff hockey before.

"There obviously was a pile of nerves going into game one. Game two was a close game, but we just didn't capitalize on our chances. Then to lose it in overtime in game three to force a game four was obviously disappointing.

"The girls worked hard all the way through though," Bell said. "I think we did a lot of things right. We just didn't capitalize on enough of our



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Pembina Valley players celebrate after a goal in game two last Wednesday, which the Winnipeg Ice went on to win 5-3. The Ice swept the series with wins in game one and three in Winnipeg, ending the Hawks' playoff run.

chances.

"If you could have had more of a push in game one, the series probably looks different."

In game two, Pembina Valley had the game tied at one apiece after 20 minutes, but they then trailed 3-2 af-

ter two periods.

Jessica Anderson, Anika Braun, and Cambree Martens scored for the Hawks, while Kaylee Franz made 25 saves with the Ice holding a 30-28 edge in shots on goal.

Game three started well for the

Hawks, as they grabbed a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes, but Pembina Valley couldn't hold off the Ice in the end.

Abbey Bourdeaud'hui and Gracie Carels scored for the Hawks, while Franz did her best to keep them in the game, stopping 40 of 43 shots, while Pembina Valley managed 40 shots.

And so their playoff quest has ended, but the Hawks will still be practising for a tournament in Winnipeg at end of April that is being hosted by St. Mary's Academy.

Meanwhile, Bell sees good potential for next year's squad.

"It was a hard working group of girls. They bought in, and we had a lot of adversity this year, but we got through it and just kept battling," he said.

"We've got good building blocks going into next year ... I think we have seven graduating girls, so if everybody returns, you've got a good core to work with," he concluded. "We're watching the bantams, and they're on a run now ... there's a lot of girls standing out there that we can take a look at ... so we'll see what we've got coming up for next year."

Royals out, Bombers hanging on in SEMHL playoffs

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Notre Dame Hawks knocked the Winkler Royals out of the running for the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League title last weekend.

Game three of the best-of-three series took place in Winkler Sunday night.

Winkler had taken game one of the series 6-1 on Feb. 15 while Notre Dame eked out a 2-1 win a few days later to force the deciding match, which was delayed a week due to poor weather.

Winkler started strong, with goals from Marcus Neufeld and Steve Doell

giving them a solid 2-0 lead in the first 10 minutes.

The Hawks got one up on the board just before intermission and then came back after the break with three goals to pull ahead 4-2.

Notre Dame's lead was short-lived, though, with Brett Dudar closing the gap a minute after the Hawks' last goal and Remi Laurencelle drawing Winkler even a few minutes later.

Dudar and Laurencelle added two more goals to Winkler's tally in the final period, but the Hawks matched them point for point to force overtime.

There, it was the Hawks who got the

game-winner 53 seconds in to take in 7-6. one

Jayne Janzen guarded Winkler's net, making 31 saves as the two teams were nearly even in shots (37 for Winkler, 38 for Notre Dame).

With that, the Hawks move on to face the Portage Islanders in the semi-finals. Game one was scheduled for Tuesday night.

In the league's other semi-final series, the Morden Bombers need a win Thursday night if they're going to stop the Warren Mercs from advancing.

Warren was up three games to one

heading into game five.

Morden took game one 4-3 Feb. 22 with goals from Mike Rey, Jaden Townsend, and two from Adam Hughesman (including the game-winning tie-breaker at the end of the third period). Reed Peters made 41 saves in net as the Mercs outshot the Bombers 44-40.

Games two through four saw the Bombers struggle to match the Mercs, who posted wins of 5-2, 6-4, and 4-2.

Morden's two goals in game two came in from Mike Rey and Cole Penner in the first period. Peters made 25 saves off 27 shots.

Game three saw the Bombers ahead 3-0 thanks to goals from Rey, Tyler Peers, and Andrew Clark, but Warren drowned those out with four of their own in the second and two more in the third. Hughesman managed one more for the Bombers in the final minutes, but it wasn't enough. Peters made an impressive 61 saves this game.

Morden then found themselves two short once again in game four Sunday night. Goals from Cole Penner and Steve Mullin kept the Bombers in it through the first two periods,

Continued on page 27

The **Winkler Morden** *Voice*

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Is there someone you would like to see recognized in the newspaper for their accomplishments - athletic, academic or community service.

Locals shine at U21 curling championships

By Ty Dilello

Moosehorn's Tansy Tober was victorious at the 2022 U21 Junior Girls Provincial Championship at the Brandon Curling Club.

Team Tober (Tansy Tober, Caitlin Kostna, Lexa Sigurdson, Stephanie Feelus) playing out of the Fort Garry Curling Club defeated Morgan Maguet of East St. Paul 11-4 in Sunday afternoon's final.

Tober had taken the hard road to get to the final. After going 3-2 in the round robin, Tober first had to overcome a tiebreaker with the top seed Emma Jensen. They then dispatched Zoey Terrick in the 3v4 game before knocking out Grace Beaudry in the semifinals.

"It's all pretty surreal," Tober said. "I've honestly thought of this moment since I started curling, and I'm just trying to take it all in."

"We knew that we had to keep on winning just to stay alive in the tournament, and we did a great job of pumping each other up before each game. I don't think I've ever felt more mentally strong as I did going into the semifinal and the final today."

A very nice consolation prize for Morgan Maguet is that her team will also go to nationals, as this year Manitoba is sending two teams on the boys' and girls' sides.

Altona's Dayna Wahl was one of the stories of the girls' event, as they were among the youngest teams competing. They are all only in Grade 11 at W.C. Miller Collegiate. Wahl, who is supported by third Piper Stoesz, second Anna Ginters, and lead Gillian Hildebrand, finished the event with a 2-3 record, missing a tiebreaker game by one shot.

"We had a lot of fun," said Wahl. "We played some really great games and improved so much during the weekend, so we were all really proud of ourselves."

The highlight of Wahl's week came when they defeated Emma Jensen, the number one seed from Winnipeg, in dramatic fashion. Down two points without hammer in the tenth end, Wahl stole four after Jensen was heavy on a draw that sailed through the rings to win 9-7.

Wahl's second Anna Ginters added, "The beginning of the tenth end against Jensen was not in our favour - I had missed my first shot, and they had been making perfect tick shots on our guards. Thankfully Piper and Dayna made all their shots perfectly to steal! Although Jensen's draw to win was heavy, we all thought it would be fine. It was a nerve-racking minute. Gillian and I couldn't watch. That win definitely brought our team's confidence up, and that we are



CURL MANITOBA PHOTO

Team McDonald, which includes Winklerite Reece Hamm, brought home the buffalo from the 2022 U21 Junior Boys Provincial Championship last weekend.

capable of beating big teams."

Team Wahl will now shift their focus to training for the U18 Provincials in April and the Canada Games Trials in the fall.

"We fought hard for our berth to U18 Provincials, so everything in between now and then is practice since that is our main focus for the season," said Wahl. "We've already learned so much from this weekend and have lots of bonspiels scheduled to prepare for the U18s."

Altona was also represented in the U21 event by Katie Zacharias, who throws second rocks for the Emily Ogg team out of Winnipeg. Team Ogg finished the round robin with a 3-2 record but fell in a tiebreaker to Team Terrick 10-8 to find themselves out of the playoff picture.

play. You can't underestimate any team there because they are there for a reason."

Sunday's victory was Hamm's and the rest of Team McDonald's first victory at the U21 level, after coming close numerous times.

"Winning my first Junior Provincials is quite exciting, knowing that my name and my team's name will go down in history as Manitoba champions and we will leave our mark in the sport in Manitoba," Hamm said. "Although it is all our first U21 Nationals we are trying not to get too excited and make sure that we focus on what's important. We are going for the experience, but we also are going there to win and earn our first Canadian Championship."

The win was icing on the cake for Hamm in proving that he made a good decision to join the McDonald rink at the start of this season.

"Joining up with Jordon McDonald was a decision that I thought about pretty hard as it meant not curling with some of the guys I had been with for some time, but I realized that my Junior years are limited and I want to spend these last years having fun but also becoming the top team in Manitoba and one of the top teams in Canada."

McDonald and Van Ryssel, along with Tober and Maguet, will represent Manitoba at the Canadian Junior National Curling Championships, which are scheduled to take place from March 25 to April 1 in Stratford, Ontario.

TEAM MCDONALD WINS IT ALL

On the boys' side, St. Vital's Jordon McDonald captured his first U21 provincial championship when he defeated Springfield's Aaron Van Ryssel 6-3 in the final.

The top-seeded McDonald rink features Winklerite Reece Hamm at third and Gimli's Elias Huminicki at second. Alex Fontaine throws lead stones.

"Going in as the top seed was pretty overwhelming but there's also a lot of pressure being that you are sort of expected to win," said Hamm on Monday. "There were a couple games that we knew we had to show up and

> SEMHL, FROM PG. 26

but Warren ran away with it with two unanswered goals in the third. Peters made 45 saves overall.

If the Bombers manage a win in

game five Thursday then game six will be Saturday night in Warren and game seven is scheduled for next week Tuesday in Morden.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Team Wahl, led by Altona's Dayna Wahl, finished the 2022 U21 Junior Girls Provincial Championship with a 2-3 record.

W.C. Miller Aces out of the running for Zone 4 title

By Ty Dilello

The W.C. Miller Aces boys hockey season ended over the weekend after falling in the second round of the playoffs to the Carman Cougars.

W.C. Miller Aces head coach Matt Duda finds the overall season a success but also notes that they were lucky that they were able even to have a season in the midst of a pandemic.

"The fact that we made it to the end of the season and our guys were able to play again after last year's cancelled season was a win in and of itself," said Duda.

"Speaking on behalf of the coaching staff, we expected to be a competitive team this season, giving ourselves a chance to win on any given night during the season. We had a good group of veteran players returning and a talented group of younger players starting their Zone 4 careers. We had a really good mix of talent and physicality."

The Aces rolled through most of the regular season in the Zone 4 High School League, finishing in third place in the 10-team league with a 14-8 record bested only by Portage and Carman. A pair of Grade 12 players, Declan Bergen and Xander Buhr, led the way offensively for the Aces with 46 points in 25 games.

Duda is quick to spread the praise around as it truly was a team effort in getting the Aces to be one of the top high school hockey teams in their league this season.

"Many of our players shone throughout the season. We had a few guys amongst the top scorers in the league during the regular season – they scored or set up many timely goals for us throughout the season.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Carman's Gavin McCallum uses his body to shield Marshall Braun of the Aces from the puck. The Cougars ultimately knocked the Altona team out of the Zone 4 playoffs.

And they never quit.

"Our defence-core had a unique combo of physicality and offensive ability as they were awesome on both sides of the puck. Our goaltenders bailed us out when we needed them to; they backstopped us to our third-place finish. Our designated penalty-kill guys worked their tails off each, and every time our team was short—they caused chaos whenever they were on the ice.

"We also watched our younger players grow throughout the season and become more confident in their play. And we also had an incredible leadership group this season, which includ-

ed guys in addition to those wearing the letters on their sweaters. There were moments where each individual on our team shone, and that's something I'm very proud of."

The Aces entered the league playoffs looking at possibly bringing home a championship. In the first round, they met the Morden Thunder in a best-of-three series. The Aces won in two straight games, though the second game required double overtime to punch their ticket to the next round.

"Morden had a great team this season," said Duda. "Leading up to playoffs, they were on quite the hot streak, taking the top teams in Zone 4

Hockey to overtime before their regular season came to a close.

"It ended up being a very physical series against the Thunder, but the boys matched their physical play and stayed disciplined. We got out to a quick start in game one and managed to protect the lead, finishing with a 5-3 win. We tied up game two late in the third, scoring in double-OT to take the series. I think the momentum from this game, and the series as a whole, carried over to the next series for us."

In the second round, the Aces were forced to go up against the Carman Cougars, who had finished in second place during the regular season with a 19-3 record. The Aces stayed tough all series, but fell a goal short in both games to have their season end.

"Our matchups with Carman in the regular season were some of our tougher games," Duda said. "Our playoff matchups were the complete opposite of what we saw in the regular season. The injury bug hit us pretty hard going into the second round, but we had multiple guys step up to fill roles, both on the ice and in the locker room—many of our players played their best games of the season in round two. Our goaltender stood on his head throughout the playoffs and gave us a shot every game. This was a tough series to lose – we came within a goal each game and left everything we had left on the ice."

Despite the tough playoff exit, Duda is elated at how his team performed all year and is excited about next season.

"In the end, I'm proud of our guys for what they accomplished this season. There's always next year too."

> TWISTERS, FROM PG. 25

Jacob Carels, TJ Matuszewski, Griffin Ayotte, Carter Hynes, and Curtis Rebeck also scored for Pembina Valley, while Logan Enns made 26 saves with the shots on goal 37-31 in their favour.

League-leading scorer Matuszewski then opened scoring in the second period against Transcona with his 36th, but that was all that Pembina Valley could manage on this night. Shots on goal were 40-34 in favour of Transcona, with Enns taking the loss in goal with 36 saves.

The Twisters close out their schedule this week on the road starting with St. Vital Thursday and then St. James Friday and St. Boniface Sunday.

CancerCare MB launches new website filled with tips for cancer prevention

By Voice staff

CancerCare Manitoba has launched a new website filled with tips to increase your chances of living cancer-free.

Practiceprevention.ca went live last month to help Manitobans make informed choices and lower their cancer risk.

"The percentage of people we expect to be diagnosed with cancer has gone down in Manitoba and across Canada while survival rates have gone up thanks to advances in research, technology, screening and treatments," said Dr. Sri Navaratnam, president and CEO of

CancerCare Manitoba. "This is very good news, but we know that there is more work to be done, including steps that can be taken by every Manitoban to reduce their risk of being diagnosed with cancer."

According to the 2021 Canadian Cancer Statistics, two in five Canadians are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime—an improvement from the one in two Canadians previously reported.

In the early 1990s, the five-year net survival for all cancers combined was 55 per cent, but it has now increased to 64 per cent.

That said, cancer remains a serious health concern, with 6,900 Manito-

bans expected to be diagnosed with some form of it in 2022. By 2035, that number is anticipated to increase to 10,000.

The new website outlines specific steps people can take to better protect themselves (eating healthier, exercising more, living smoke-free, being sun safe, etc.), with links to activities, programs, and other resources in each category.

"Many types of cancers are preventable, which means we can all reduce our cancer risk," said Navaratnam. "It might seem daunting to get started on something new

Continued on page 29

Miami residents build 12-foot-tall snow slide

By Becca Myskiw

Thanks to a group of volunteers, there's a new way to have fun in Miami.

A new 12-foot-tall snow slide has gone up in the park in town just off Highway 23.

When a group of locals, some parents and some not, came to council wanting to build something for the children to do in winter, they found council wanted the same thing.

John Friesen was one of the volunteers on the project. He said they started planning for the snow slide to be built in summer, but there were delays, and it became a winter project.

The Miami Power Toboggan Club is the leading group behind the slide. They've developed the snow trail in the community and the snowmobile shack/activity centre just six miles northwest of town.

"We wanted to do something a little closer to town," said Friesen. "If people want to do something in winter, but they don't have a snowmobile, now there's this."

The slide is 12 feet tall and over 30 feet long, with what Friesen describes as a decent angle for sliders. It faces northeast, and passersby can see the snow slide from the highway, making it an attraction. The main structure is up—the slide and the tower—but there are still a few finishing touches to be done.

The volunteer group wants to add lighting to it to be used in the dark. They also have some sculpting to do at the bottom and are deciding on whether or not to add a play area underneath the tower. Most



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A group of volunteers recently built a 12 feet tall and over 30 feet long snow slide in Miami. A grand opening celebration was held on Feb. 12.

of these, with the exception of the snow sculpting, will be done in the summer.

To celebrate the opening of the brand new structure, the Miami Power Toboggan Club hosted a sort of grand opening event on Saturday, Feb. 12. People came out for hot chocolate, a wiener roast, and a bonfire dressed in their ski pants and jackets while taking their turns trying out the snow slide on to-

boggans, tubes, and anything else that would work.

As volunteers completed the project, they only had to pay for the supplies. Friesen said most of them were donated or covered by grants and the following sponsors: RM of Thompson, Miami and Area Foundation, Pembina Co-op, Miami 4H Activity Club, Ice & Fire Photo, and MWM.

Treasured artifacts from Dr. C.W. Wiebe

By Dora Hildebrand

Dr. C.W. Wiebe has been called "A Beloved Physician" by author Mavis Reimer and he certainly has been that for many people whether in the field of medicine, politics, education, or etc.

We, at the Winkler Heritage Museum are certainly grateful for the number of Dr. Wiebe's personal items that have come back to us because "they really belonged in Winkler!"



HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

The chest with the many narrow drawers that once stored Dr. Wiebe's personal records were donated by Dave and Margaret Penner in 2011 when the museum was first started. Mary Friesen, long time receptionist at the Winkler Clinic remembered it well when she first saw it in the museum. This item was stored by the doctor's niece Marjorie and husband

Jerry Hildebrand for many years until it could be displayed publicly in our museum.

Dr. Wiebe gave his "last" black traditional doctor's bag to his granddaughter Barbara Kirby in 1996 when she visited him and she had just found out that she had passed the test to become a registered nurse in California. She mailed it to Marilyn Striemer in 2012 with instructions to be placed in the museum in Winkler.

Norman and Elva Blatz purchased Dr. Wiebe's greenish leather office chair years ago at a second-hand shop in Winkler which was run by Gary Jackman of Plum Coulee. They had it professionally restored with black leather, but using the same brass nail

heads which were put back into their original holes. The furniture restorer dated the wood back to 1945, the war years. The chair came to the museum in 2016 when the Blatzs downsized to condo living.

The vision tester and glasses with the magnifier were given to Margaret (Derksen) Malinouski by Dr. Wiebe in 1971 when she worked in the Winkler Clinic.

On a personal note; I've been told that it was Dr. Wiebe who ushered me into this world one cold October day in the dirty thirties when my family lived on a farm near Horndean, Manitoba.

He also was my mother's Mary (Dueck) Blatz, 1899-1978) Grade VIII

school teacher in Schoenthal near Altona. As a result, she was invited to his wedding in 1916. Their wedding invitation is in the Winkler Heritage Archives.

Dr. Wiebe taught in the Kane Consolidated School in the months of May and June of 1921, the first year of the school's operation. I believe he taught the grades from I - X. This is the same brick school building where I had my first eleven years of education.

Heritage Highlights, supplied by the Winkler Heritage Society, introduces readers to the people, places, and things that still impact us today. Learn more about the society's work and how you can support it at winklerheritagesociety.ca.

> CANCERCARE, FROM PG. 28

like getting more exercise or eating healthier. The trick lies in knowing you don't have to go from zero to 100 all at once. You can start by making a small change and building from there, knowing that the small change is already a healthy choice that can

help reduce your risk of cancer."

Here are a few simple lifestyle changes to get you started:

- Go for a walk—don't let the snow stop you from getting outside.
- Avoid alcohol by choosing sparkling water instead.

• Move more by adding steps and moderate to vigorous aerobic physical activity to your day.

- Avoid fast food and increase consumption of fruits and vegetables, wholegrains, beans, and lentils instead.

WSD superintendent named to education funding model review team

Province aiming for improved funding and accountability: Ewasko

By Lorne Stelmach

The superintendent of schools in Morden will have a role in helping shape how education will be funded in the province.

Western School Division superintendent Stephen Ross last month was named to a team of various stakeholders that will undertake a review of education funding in Manitoba.

Ross, who was not available for comment at press time, will serve as a representative of the Manitoba As-

sociation of School Superintendents as part of the initiative that will begin consultations with an aim to ensure an equitable education system and fairness in funding.

"This is the first time in 20 years the model will be reviewed to improve funding and accountability processes," Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Wayne Ewasko said in announcing the team last week.

"Stakeholders and the public have made it very clear that we need a better process for education funding, one that supports long-term planning and gives schools and regional leaders the flexibility they need to address local needs," said Ewasko.

"These consultations will ensure we hear directly from stakeholders on what they need to address differences in programming and ensure equity in

funding across the province, particularly in rural, remote and northern communities."

Leger Research will facilitate the consultation and engagement process with education stakeholders and collect their recommendations for the new funding model, which will include the creation of a formula that allocates provincial funding to school divisions and schools.

Other key stakeholders will be included in future phases as part of the overall engagement plan, and the consultations will support developing and finalizing a new funding model for the 2023-24 school year.

Ewasko noted the funding model review builds upon other recent commitments made in response to the Commission on K to 12 Education including:

- reviewing opportunities to im-

prove inclusive education and classroom supports;

- launching a poverty and education task force;

- enhancing learning and outcomes including an Indigenous inclusion strategy; and

- a commitment to an additional \$1.6 billion in funding over four years.

It comes as the province also considers how or if it will proceed with reshaping the education system in general after it had moved last fall to scrap Bill 64, which had proposed sweeping changes to the education system in Manitoba.

The legislation, which would have dissolved school boards and centralized decision-making, drew widespread criticism and sparked a concerted campaign to keep local elected school boards.

take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

X CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Neckwear
- Fish parts
- Cooking
- Quality
- Rural delivery
- Popular superhero
- Partner to Pa
- Shivering fits
- Wrath
- Linguistics pioneer
- Large integers
- A way to prepare food
- Group of badgers
- Peyton's little brother
- Rock out
- Danish krone
- Take from with force
- Baroque musical instrument
- Zodiac sign
- Hebrew alphabet letter
- Independent member of a clone
- Type of garment
- Satisfy
- One point south of due east
- A way to wipe out
- Moved quickly on foot
- Bar bill
- An idiot
- Performed with the voice silent
- Body fluids
- Rhythmic patterns
- "__ my i's"
- Type of wrap
- It shows who you are
- Carousel
- Type of college degree
- Molding
- Closes again
- Verses
- Surface

CLUES DOWN

- Short, thick stick
- Rhode Island

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17					18						19
20			21			22				23		24		
25						26				27		28		
29					30					31		32		33
		34	35							36		37		
38	39									40				
41					42				43					
44				45	46			47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58					59			
60					61		62				63			64
65		66								67			68	
	69									70				

- Animals of the horse family
- Very important persons
- Folk singer Di Franco
- Boredom
- Long speech
- Footballer Newton
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Linear accelerator
- One quintillion bytes
- Smallest interval in Western music
- Box
- Cheese dish
- Make a mistake
- Done by all people or things
- Circumference
- Chum
- Electrocardiogram
- Sandwich chain Jimmy ___
- Showed old movie
- Important event on Wall St.
- Where wrestlers work
- Free from contamination
- Eastern Canada coastal region
- Slang for gun
- High schoolers' test
- Fathers
- Call it a career
- Productive
- Musical groups
- Yellowish-brown
- Lowest point of a ridge
- Beloved late sportscaster Craig
- Fill up
- Cardinal number that's the sum of 5 and 1
- Frost
- Jewel
- Atomic #45
- Top lawyer

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Italian Sausage Spinach and Tomato Rigatoni

16 ounces sweet Italian sausage
1 jar Bertolli d'Italia Marinara Sauce
2 cups fresh baby spinach
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
Parmesan cheese, for garnish
Bring large stockpot of water to boil. Boil rigatoni pasta until al dente. Drain and set aside.

In saute pan over medium heat, add olive oil. Add onions, garlic and mushrooms. Saute until vegetables start to brown. Add Italian sausage and cook until done, breaking into small pieces. Add sauce and bring to low boil.

Add baby spinach. Cook until spinach is mostly wilted. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Add drained pasta to pan with sausage and sauce. Toss and divide between plates. Garnish with Parmesan cheese.

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Water
1/2 box rigatoni pasta
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/2 cup onions, chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup mushrooms, sliced



Red Wine Braised Beef Short Rib Ragu

24 ounces pappardelle pasta or preferred pasta
freshly grated Parmesan cheese, for garnish
Heat oven to 350 F.

In 5-quart Dutch oven, heat olive oil over medium heat. Season short ribs with salt and ground black pepper, to taste. Place one layer of short ribs in pot. Set remaining ribs aside.

Cook ribs 3-4 minutes per side until browned. Transfer to plate and set aside. Repeat with remaining short ribs.

Add celery, carrots and onion to pot used to brown ribs. Stir and cook until vegetables are browned, about 15 minutes.

Add garlic and stir 1-2 minutes. Add tomato paste. Cook 2-3 minutes.

Carefully pour red wine into pot. Stir and scrape any browned bits from bottom of pot. Cook 3-4 minutes until wine is almost completely absorbed into vegetables.

Add rosemary, sage, thyme and bay leaves to pot. Add sauce, bone broth and browned ribs. Cover pot and place in oven 2 1/2-3 hours, or until ribs are fall-apart tender.

Remove pot from oven. Transfer ribs to plate or cutting board. Remove and discard herb stems and bay leaves. Remove bones from ribs then shred meat into bite-sized pieces using two forks or tongs. Return shredded ribs to pot with ragu. Stir to combine. Set aside.

Bring large stockpot of water to boil. Boil pappardelle pasta until al dente. Add drained pasta to pot with beef ragu and toss until combined.

Garnish with freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

Prep time: 25 minutes
Cook time: 3 hours
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 pounds bone-in beef short ribs
salt, to taste
ground black pepper, to taste
1 stalk celery, chopped
1 large carrot, peeled and finely diced
1 small onion, chopped
8 cloves garlic, finely chopped
4 tablespoons tomato paste
1 cup red wine
4 sprigs fresh rosemary
2 sprigs fresh sage leaves, chopped
8 sprigs fresh thyme
2 bay leaves
1 jar Bertolli d'Italia Marinara Sauce
2 cups beef bone broth
water

Do you have a Health or Wellness Business?

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Expert patient here to help!

By Susie Schwartz

I've had a few close calls in my life, including a nine-year-old near-death experience with Type 1 diabetes, deadly insulin pump malfunctions, and a gastric pacer implant that made it near impossible to eat. But more than once, the worst almost happened. So my tip to avoid the worst?

Ask your pharmacist.

I mean it. Ask. Or you may get unmanageably pregnant! Yes you. Even those of you without wombs. Think of pregnancy as a metaphor if you're missing that body part.

Jason, my Canadian Pharmacist, has saved me from this plight more than once. Pregnancy might have killed me, but even more so, parenthood probably would have. Let me explain.

I've rocked up to that pharmacy medicine counter more times than I've used the loo. (Yes...I'm British now.) I can recall three times Jason has said, "Just so you know, this medication cancels out 'the pill.' Whoa. I nearly fainted from relief, all three times.

Pharmacists go to school for 300+ years for a reason. It's a tricky business. 'If you take this with that your liver might fail' or, 'two blood thinners are too many blood thinners' or, 'you might get pregnant, and that child will break your heart a thousand times and sneak out of the house to deal illegal puppies and cry all night long for their first four years and grow up way too fast leaving you a sad and lonely empty-nester making you need an illegal puppy of your own,' or so they tell me.

To be clear, I love your children. I'd italicize 'your' for emphasis if my editor would let me. And also, to be



Susie Schwartz

clear, I am not one to jump all over prescription medication as I think we often overlook natural remedies. I also have a strong distaste for the profit margins of many pharmaceutical companies. (Insulin is a prime example of medication with exorbitant prices and is out of pocket for many people with diabetes in the U.S.) With that said, I'd be dead without my medication - Insulin for sure.

So best practice? Whenever you are taking a new medication for any reason, ask the pharmacist if it is safe with your pre-existing conditions and medications - even something as simple as antibiotics. (If memory serves me, it was an antibiotic that almost caused me a baby.)

Give them the chance to save you from a new life-long condition like liver disease or...

The need for an illegal puppy.

Less health stress, yes?

A published author and songwriter, Susie currently lives in the UK. Find her on FB @medicalmissstress, Instagram @susie.suschwa, and lesshealthstress.com



Creamy Italian Garlic Chicken Pasta

water
1/2 box Casarecce or preferred pasta
parsley, for garnish
Parmesan cheese, for garnish

In saute pan over medium heat, add olive oil. Season chicken with Italian seasoning and salt and pepper to taste. Sear chicken breasts on both sides until browned. Remove from pan and set aside.

Add garlic and onions to hot pan. Cook until starting to brown. Add sun-dried tomatoes, capers and basil; stir. Add sauce and heavy cream; cook until mixture starts boiling.

Bring large stockpot of water to boil. Boil Casarecce pasta until al dente. Divide pasta between two plates. Place one chicken breast over pasta on each plate and top with additional sauce, parsley and Parmesan cheese.

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 large chicken breasts
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
4 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 cup onions, chopped
1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes, cut into strips
2 tablespoons capers, drained
6 fresh basil leaves, sliced
1 jar Bertolli d'Italia Creamy Rosa Sauce
1/2 cup heavy cream

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Seasonal employment - Sabourin Lake Lodge is looking for summer staff, May thru September. Kitchen staff, serving, housekeeping, guides, yard crew and carpenters. Contact sabourinlake@outlook.com

MISCELLANEOUS

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Difficult naps and/or nights? I am a Certified Sleep Consultant, I help families discover the beauty of sleep with healthy sleep habits. www.dayandnightsleep.ca

NOTICES

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? Having a Spring/Summer event? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

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Having an AGM or online event? Advertise in the 32 Weekly Manitoba Community Newspapers to get your messaging out now! Selling something? Have an on-line store to shop at, doing curbside pickup/deliveries? Let people know in the Blanket Classifieds! Start the year off right. Don't let COVID get you down. We are now booking Classified Advertising for 2022. Call 204-467-5836 or call MCNA at 204-947-1691 for details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com



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www.mcna.com

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. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewoodelkranch@mymts.net

Still stressed about COVID-19? Try our Health Canada Government Approved solutions for stress and immune support - we should talk - Peter Marykuca, Gimli, MB. 204-641-1504.

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ken@odanah.com
with drivers abstract.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING

2022 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 2022 Financial Plan at a public hearing to be held on:

March 22, 2022 at 6:30 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 2022 Financial Plan will be available at the Reception Desk at the City Hall for anyone wishing to get a copy prior to the meeting.



CITY OF WINKLER
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CAREERS



Crop Inputs Labourer Winkler

Cargill's Agricultural Supply Chain (CASC) connects producers and users of grains and oilseeds around the globe through sourcing, storing, trading, processing, and distributing, as well as offering a range of financial, risk management, and customized farmer services. Working at Cargill is an opportunity to thrive - a place to develop your career to the fullest while engaging in meaningful work that makes a positive impact around the globe. We depend on creative, responsible, hardworking individuals like you to operate our business successfully!

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For detailed information and to apply online visit cargill.ca/careers and select "Production Jobs" OR scan the QR code with your Smartphone camera to go directly to the online posting and application.



LAND FOR SALE TENDER

FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER RM OF THOMPSON

Completed Tenders and a \$10,000.00 deposit per parcel are invited to be received up to 12:00 pm (noon) on March 25, 2022, for the land described below, at:

PKF Lawyers

71 Main St S, Carman, Box 1240, MB R0G 0J0

Attn: Mona Brown/Tammy Bisschop

Ph: 204-745-2028

mbrown@pkflawyers.com tbisschop@pkflawyers.com

Land for sale:

(Bids for one or both parcels will be accepted)

1. NE 1/4 24-5-6 WPM 160 acres (CT #3160007/4)
2. NW 1/4 19-5-5 WPM 157.52 acres (CT #3160006/4)

Conditions of Tender

1. Financing must be pre-approved.
2. Tenders to be in the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. To obtain tender form or more info, contact Tammy Bisschop or Mona Brown.
3. Each Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00 per parcel. Deposits of tenders not accepted will be returned to the tenderers.
4. Highest Tender or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.
5. Vacant Possession date and the due date of the balance of Tender Price shall be April 15, 2022.
6. The maker of any Tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the Land, independent of the representations made by the vendor or the solicitor and agent of the vendor. The Land will be sold "as is" and the bidder is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the Land.

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IN MEMORIAM



Evelyn Giesbrecht
1931 - 2017

There is a road they call remembrance,
Where thoughts and wishes meet;
We take that road in thought today,
To one we cannot greet.
So many things have happened,
Since you were called away;
So many things to share with you,
Had you been here today.
No need for words,
Except to say;
You are loved and remembered
In every way.

-Your family

PUBLIC NOTICE



You are invited to attend
The Town of Altona
2022 Financial Plan Hearing
Tuesday, March 22, 2022 - 6:00 pm
Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre

In accordance with subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, the Council will present the proposed 2022 financial plan for the Town of Altona at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 in the Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre. The presentation will include the 2022 operating costs, the 2022 capital budget and a five year capital expenditure program. The presentation will be followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed financial plan will be available after March 15, 2022 on our website at www.altona.ca or upon request at the Town of Altona Administration Office, 111 Centre Avenue during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may be directed by letter or email to our Manager of Finance or through our email address at info@altona.ca.

Terry Fehr, CMMA
Manager of Finance
Town of Altona
terry.fehr@altona.ca
Box 1630, Altona MB R0G 0B0
February 24, 2022

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OBITUARY

Jacob Hildebrand 1921- 2022



It is with profound sadness that our family announces the peaceful passing of our father, Jacob S Hildebrand on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at the Pembina Manitou Health Centre.

Dad leaves a legacy of love with his children, Rita, Ron (Gerri), Brenda, Orville (Anne), Calvin, Debbie, Cindy (Richard) and Denise as well as grandsons, Rene, Paul, Cameron, Euan, Michael Leo and Gunther and granddaughters, Janelle, Jayelyn and Nicole. Dad is survived by his brother Ed and sister Anne Peters (Abe). He was predeceased by his wife, Henrietta (Braun) in 1999 and his son, Raymond in 2019. He is also predeceased by nine of his siblings.

Dad was born in Silberfeld near Gretna on April 22, 1921, growing up on a farm with 11 siblings. He spent most of his life farming in the Mowbray area where he and his wife raised a family of nine children. In his later years he retired to Morden where he lived with his son, Calvin.

The family would like to thank all of dad's caregivers and especially the staff at the Personal Care Home in Manitou. Your efforts to keep dad comfortable during his stay is greatly appreciated.

A family service will be held at a later date. Family will be notified when arrangements are complete. In lieu of flowers donations in Jake's memory may be made to a charity of your choice.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

LIVE and IN-PERSON

Altona & District Chamber of Commerce

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



ALTONA & DISTRICT
Chamber of Commerce

March 17, 2022

Altona

Curling Club

Mixer at 4:30

and Meeting at

5:00 pm

All Members Welcome

No Mandates

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE

CITY OF MORDEN

2022 FINANCIAL PLAN



Pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act, Council of the City of Morden invites all ratepayers of the City of Morden to a Public Hearing in respect to the 2022 Financial Plan (Budget) for the City of Morden. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan.

A presentation of the Financial Plan will be made at in Council Chambers at the City of Morden Civic Centre, 100-195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba on **Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.** Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available to the public on March 7, 2022.

If you wish to be present at the hearing, please contact Michelle Braun, Executive Assistant at 204-822-2561 or email mbraun@mymorden.ca a minimum of 2 business days prior to the scheduled hearing so that we can ensure we can meet the physical distancing requirement. Anyone attending the office will be required to wear a face mask.

Remember Your Loved Ones
with an Announcement in the

The Voice Winkler Morden



Call 204-467-5836 or ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

OBITUARY



Susan Dueck (nee Dyck)

Susan Dueck (nee Dyck), 75, of the Horndean area, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, February 12, 2022, at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Mom was born to Jacob and Margaretha Dyck on October 31, 1946. She was the seventh of eight children. She was born and raised in Altona. Mom accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour at the age of 14, and her faith carried her through all the ups and downs of her life.

On September 19, 1965, she married our Dad, William (Bill) Dueck. They shared nearly 56 1/2 years of marriage and have lived on their farm north of Horndean for almost 55 years. They were blessed with five children: Maryann, Bernie, Dan, David, and Matthew, 28 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Her family meant the world to her.

She was always busy doing something, from raising a beautiful daughter and rambunctious sons, to attending and cheering for her grandchildren at all their sporting events and activities. She enjoyed volunteering wherever she could, sewing, gardening, canning, cooking, cleaning, baking, and loving on everyone she met through her service. She was also the farm "gopher" for many years and made many trips to the fields to serve lunch. She had a heart of gold.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Bill, daughter Maryann (Jake Gerbrandt) and their family - Ryan, Brittany (Ryan Reimer), Mckinli and Paige; Miranda (Tom Wolfe), Jayden, and Makayla; son Bernie (Julianna), and their family - Laurel, Kristen, Adrian, Everett, Benjamin, Eliana, Jairett, Seth, Micah, Ethan, Bethany, Mabel, Kieran, and Marissa; son Dan (Roxane), and their family - Tyson, Riley, and Allison; son David (Shannon), and their family - Belle and Felicity; son Matthew (Julie), and their family - Janessa, Landon, Jeremy, and Bryan. She is also survived by three brothers, Dad's siblings, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Mom was predeceased by her parents, two brothers, two sisters, and one sister in infancy. Funeral service was held on February 19, 2022 at the Altona Sommerfeld Mennonite Church. Interment followed at the Altona Cemetery.

In memory of Susan donations can be made to the Altona Hospital Auxiliary, Restore Connections or a Charity of one's choice

Our family would like to extend a special thanks to Drs. Meriam Basta and Chernos, the nurses at BTHC for their care of Mom in a very difficult time, to Wiebe Funeral Home for your compassionate service, and to Rev. Jeff and Julie Hildebrand for their love and support, and to Altona Sommerfeld Church and the serving group. Thank you to friends and family for your love and care for our Mom and Dad during this time. Thank you for praying for our family for the last number of years. Your prayers have been felt and answered. Mom is with her Jesus.

We love you Mom and will miss you dearly.

Wiebe Funeral Home Altona Ltd.
www.wiebefuneralhomes.com

OBITUARY



**Jim Braun
1927 – 2022**

Jim Braun, 94 of Winkler, MB passed away peacefully on Friday, February 18, 2022 at the Lorne Memorial Hospital in Swan Lake, MB.

Dad was born on December 23, 1927 to Frank and Maria Braun on the family farm north of Plum Coulee near the Blumfeld School District. He was baptized upon his confession of faith at the Plum Coulee Bergthaler Mennonite Church by Bishop Schulz. Dad spent several years serving on church committees, as a Boys Club leader and as an usher which he really enjoyed as he connected with people. His sister, Gertrude invited the new schoolteacher to the family farm for supper and so a courtship began. He married the love of his life, Anne Bueckert on September 18, 1955. Their life

together began on the farm living with his parents for the first year. They resided here until 1987 farming and raising the boys: Reg born in 1958 and Randy in 1961. Dad divided his farming hours between several jobs working at the beet loader and driving the school bus. He loved sports and spent many hours curling, bowling and playing volleyball. Dad was a people person and enjoyed his many visits with the men at the coffee shop. These past years were even more special when his grandson, Brent would come to pick him up.

One of dad's greatest joys was being a Dad, Grandpa and Great-Grandpa. He would never miss a baseball game or hockey game; stopping his tractor or combine if need be. This continued with his grandchildren; he was their number one fan! A hug and toonie were always given post-game.

Dad was a true gentleman with a kind heart. He was also a romantic and gave Mom 60 roses for her 60th birthday. One Christmas he announced that he was buying the gifts for his daughters-in-law. He bought them beautiful ruby and diamond earrings. He was known for his sense of humour. He had a twinkle in his eye and laughter surrounded him. His grandchildren can share many fun memories and times of laughter.

He leaves to share his memories his wife, Anne (they were blessed with 66 years of marriage); his sons, Reg (Fran) and Randy (Jolene); five grandsons; one granddaughter and their spouses and seven great-grandchildren.

Whenever any one of us came home from a trip, Dad would always want to know which roads we took. Well today, Dad, you have finished your journey; roads well taken. We love you and will treasure you always.

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In care of arrangements
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OBITUARY



**Olga Friesen (nee Nikkel)
1942 – 2022**

Olga Friesen aged 79 years went to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 after a lengthy struggle with cancer.

Our Mom was born on September 30th, 1942 to Henry E. and Elizabeth Nikkel (nee Klassen) in the Municipality of Morris. Mom spent most of her growing up years in the Blumstein District where she received her education. She enjoyed school and competing in sports, such as, baseball was a highlight for her. On October 15th, 1961, Olga Nikkel married Abram Friesen, of Reinfeld. The two were wed at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October of 2021. This was a special milestone for them both! Mom and Dad were marriage partners, best friends and truly enjoyed spending

time with one another. Mom and Dad spent 60 years living, working and raising their three children on the family farm in Reinfeld. Mom was an excellent and energetic homemaker! She was a skilled seamstress and provided her children with very fashionable clothes. Mom was dedicated to her work as a health care aide at the Salem Personal Care Home for 23 years, after which she retired. Even after retirement Mom was committed to caring for others that required care and friendship. Mom appreciated the many meaningful friendships she developed throughout her lifetime. Mom's servant heart was evident in the numerous ways she volunteered. This included serving in a variety of positions within the Church, leading a ladies Bible study, mentoring young women and working at the MCC store. Mom always enjoyed learning. Whether it was taking a new computer course after retirement, partaking in in-depth Bible studies or reading mystery novels, she loved learning. In their later years, Mom and Dad enjoyed cabin life where the family made a lot of wonderful memories. This included fishing, boating, eating and the annual bingo night. Mom valued family. Every grandchild or great-grandchild born was greeted with enthusiasm and love. She was an attentive and engaged mother and grandmother. As a family we have been greatly influenced by her fierce commitment and tenacity to her faith. She was an anchor for our family.

Mom leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Abe, her daughter, Tammy (Alvin) Krahn and their children, Trent (Melany) Krahn with Rayah and Grayden, Mikaela (Joel) Martens with Kira and Isabella, Jordana (Ryan) Rempel with Adeline and Aubrielle, Travis (Carly) Krahn with Mason, her daughter, Marilyn (Ron) Reimer and their children, Brendan and Jewel, her son, Jerry (Margaret) Friesen and their children, Paul and April. She is also survived by many sisters and brothers as well as brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her much loved grandson, Jared Friesen, her parents, Henry E. and Elizabeth Nikkel, her sister, Martha Kliewer, her father-in-law, Klaas Friesen and her mothers-in-law, Tina (Wall) Friesen and Mary (Dyck) Friesen, two sisters-in-law, Sylvia Petker and Bonnie Lynn Nikkel and three brothers-in-law, Eric Kliewer, Peter Foth and George Froese.

Private funeral service was held with interment at the Winkler Cemetery. The family would like to express our sincere appreciation for the committed care of Olga Friesen by Dr. Cornie Woelk and the nursing staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre. We would also like to thank Pastor Dean Huber and Hospital Chaplain Larry Reimer for Olga's spiritual care while in hospital. We would also like to sincerely thank family and friends for their support, thoughtfulness and prayers. The family would like to express their gratitude to Wiebe Funeral Home for providing supportive and caring service.

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



OBITUARY



**Henry (Harry) Dyck
November 19, 1946 - February 18,
2022**

Henry Dyck of Carman, formerly of Winkler and Stony Mountain, died peacefully at Boyne Lodge in Carman of cancer.

He was predeceased by his father, John, February 1986 and mother Helen, January 2001. He leaves behind three sisters and their families.

Henry particularly enjoyed his time working on a dairy farm where he was employed for 31 years.

Cremation has taken place, and a private interment will take place at a later date.

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www.doylesfuneralhome.ca

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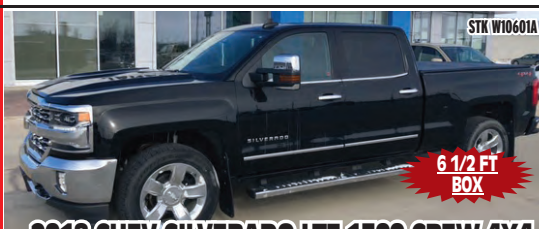
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