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VOLUME 11 EDITION 9

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Maple Leaf School hosted its annual Cuddle Up and Read night Feb. 26 to close out I Love to Read Month. Families were invited to come dressed in their PJs to hear from guest readers that included Mayor Brandon Burley, health professionals, police, and hockey players.



**Cuddle up and read**

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMAGH/VOICE

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# Winkler's rapid growth on track to continue: mayor

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler continues to grow in leaps and bounds and its leaders are intent on ensuring the proper infrastructure is in place to support that growth, said Mayor Martin Harder in his annual state of the city address last week.

Speaking to the business community at the Winkler chamber's annual general meeting Feb. 27, Harder emphasized that the city has come a long way indeed in recent years.

"Winkler, by all stretches of the imagination, is unrecognizable to people who come to visit us who haven't been here for the last five or ten years," he said, likening the city's rapid advancement in residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational growth to the television show *Extreme Makeover*.

That makeover is only going to continue.

"When I look at the growth forward ... if we grow at the same rate we have in the last ten years Winkler will have a population between 18,000-20,000 ten years from now, which is an incredible number," Harder said.

No single aspect of the city's growth happens in isolation, he added.

"The changes have been the result of the collaboration of many people, including the public, including our council, our business owners, our volunteers, all working together



Major projects like the Meridian Exhibition Centre means the City of Winkler will be raising taxes by 3.9 per cent in 2020, Mayor Martin Harder said in his state of the city address last week.

with the City of Winkler to make it happen.

"The City of Winkler continues to focus on improving the quality of life for our residents," Harder said. "The core beliefs that make up our strategic plan is that having a healthy mind, a body, and a spirit, really, that's what drives the improvements to the quality of life in our city.

"Growth is collaboration," he continued. "Our goal in collaboration is to build our region's strengths, to enhance the city's products, services, and resources. We believe that we can do more together than doing it alone."

Harder went on to highlight some of the collaborative successes of the past year, including new residential developments going up in the city's north end, the startup of the local Habitat for Humanity chapter, industrial expansion to the east, and continued discussions surrounding the makeover of the Southland Mall ("Yes, that is coming eventually," the mayor joked about the revitalization project that has been promised for years), among many others.

Harder lauded Central Station in particular for the work it has done to help build a sense of community with some of the city's most vulnerable residents, including through its relationship-based management of the city's public housing units as well as the Community Care program that works with at-risk families.

"The lives that are impacted from families to singles to seniors through Central Station's programming has left an indelible mark," he said, pointing out that making people feel like they belong here and have something to contribute has far-reaching impacts.

One of them is the fact the city is actually seeing crime rates go down. The Winkler Police Service reported 400 fewer files opened last year over the year before.

"[That] is in part the result of dealing with people's issues before they get to court or the police department," Harder said. "I've always said we cannot hire enough police officers in order to eliminate crime. We have to do something else. And we see that we have embarked upon that and it is working."

Harder wrapped up his speech with a discussion of the city's financials, which are being heavily impacted by the under-construction Meridian Exhibition Centre. The arena expansion is currently 10 per cent over budget but on track to open later this year.

"This is the biggest single project the City of Winkler has ever embarked upon," Harder said, explaining the city has borrowed approximately \$17 million for the project. "The purpose is to support our children's entertainment as well as add a healthy option for all age groups and a gathering spot for our community.

"This project has been made particularly challenging without other levels of government involvement," he said, noting the city has received no provincial or federal dollars for it. "But it had to be done. We couldn't wait any longer. If we had waited another year those costs would just simply continue to go up."

Another big project on the horizon for Winkler is the regional wastewater plant, which Harder stressed is a necessity to accommodate the area's projected population growth.

The city is ready to put shovel to ground just as soon as the higher levels of government get on board.

"Our plan is ready for construction. Engineering and design work is done," Harder said. "We are ready, we are waiting."

Every dollar spent on these types of projects is an investment in the community's future, the mayor said.

"In Winkler, we are planning ahead. We are investing in sustainable infrastructure projects that will improve our overall services we offer to our community and provide long-term benefits to our future generations."

Still, the debt load is contributing to the city's need to raise taxes by 3.9 per cent in 2020—a jump from the average increase of 1.9 per cent in past years.

"We have looked at the impact to our businesses and our residential base and we are convinced the rewards these projects will bring will in fact pay off," Harder said.

The city's detailed financial plan will be outlined at the March 24 council meeting.

In closing, Harder quoted the book *Love Where You Live* by Peter Kageyama, which stresses "we are all city builders.

"We share ideas, we share options, and what makes Winkler successful is that we do that in spades and we are the envy of many," Harder said. "Individually, we can all make a difference. But together we can shape our city and our region."

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# Bunker team lend aid, make connections in Puerto Rico

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Staff and volunteers from The Bunker Youth Ministry in Winkler recently returned from an eye-opening aid trip to Puerto Rico.

Harold Espinosa, Alycia Hildebrand, Anita Rudi, and Kayleigh Peters spent a week on the Caribbean island last month.

The Bunker sends teams of volunteers down to their southern sister ministry every couple of years, but this trip came about rather unexpectedly in response to a series of powerful earthquakes that have been rocking the island.

On Jan. 7, a 6.4-magnitude earthquake wreaked havoc in Puerto Rico. Aftershocks of varying degrees of

intensity have been rattling already damaged buildings and displaced residents ever since.

Hearing about the destruction and uncertainty moved Espinosa to action.

"A while back, when I started hearing all about the earthquake, I prayed and I just felt the good Lord say, 'Go,'" he says.

He put a call out for help to make an emergency trip possible and, through the generosity of local businesses, churches, and individuals, The Bunker was able to raise more than enough to purchase emergency supplies for the people who need them most.

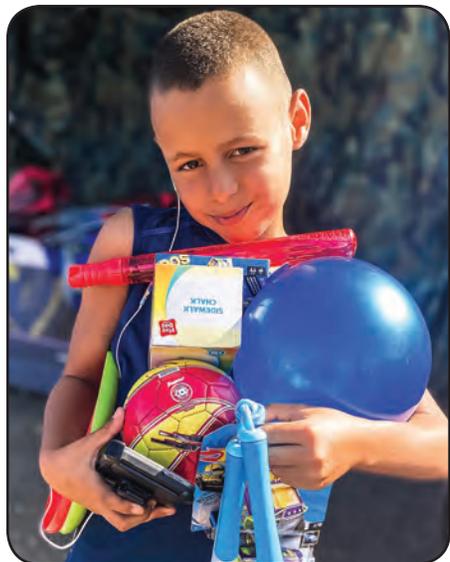
"I said, 'God, help me to raise \$5,000,'" Espinosa recalls. "God supplied that in five minutes through a company ... and then before we left God had raised \$10,300. That was an amazing gift."

A few weeks later, the quartet touched town in Puerto Rico and headed south to witness the damage and do what they could to help.

"We bought blankets. We bought food, toys, tons of things to help people," Espinosa says. "The most important thing was connecting with people, and that we did with the help of a local church in Fajardo."

What they saw as they toured the hard-hit Yauco and Guanica areas was sobering.

"My heart broke for the people of



Continued on page 4



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The Bunker's Harold Espinosa hands out aid packages to people living in tents in Puerto Rico in the wake of the earthquakes plaguing the island. Left: Aside from the necessities, they also handed out toys to children who have lost everything.

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southern Puerto Rico," says Hildebrand. "Nothing is safe. The rumbling still hasn't stopped.

"They have on average 30 earthquakes in a 24 hour period. While they don't have the magnitude to do a lot of damage, because they're still happening, people can't move forward with rebuilding/repairing. The southern part of the island is on hold until this all stops.

"It's hard to put into words the devastation that we saw," Hildebrand says. "Families with minimal possessions, all crammed into small camping tents. They have no home to go back to. It's gone.

"A lot of the homes that we saw completely destroyed still had FEMA tarps on them from when hurricanes Irma and Maria struck the island 2.5 years ago. They couldn't even replace their roof, and now 2.5 years later they have to somehow replace a house."

Espinosa shared a conversation he had with one senior who had lived in his home for 58 years. He's now sleeping near the rubble of that destroyed house, turning down his family's offer to fly him out of the country.

"He said his home is here ... 'This is home, and I will make due with what I have,'" Espinosa recalls. "I'm praying for that man."

On top of the prayers, the Bunker team handed out toiletries, tents, school supplies,

food, gas, and toys to the people living in the camps.

"The look of joy on their faces when they saw us open up the van with all of our supplies is a look that will stay with me forever," says Hildebrand. "These people were just so thankful for just a simple bar of soap. The kids were in complete awe of the toys that we were handing out. ... It all warmed my heart to no end."

But the trip was about more than distributing supplies. For Espinosa and the others, it was also a way to actively show God's love.

"We connected with people, hugged people, emotionally connected with them, and spiritually talked with them," he says.

"[This trip] was about showing these amazing people the love of Christ," says Hildebrand. "We didn't have to beat them over the head with a Bible for them to know who God is. We just had to show them a little love and kindness for them to see that we were doing what Christ called us to do."

The Bunker will continue to do what it can to send aid to Puerto Rico in the weeks and months ahead.

"We are connected with the local church in Puerto Rico that is still going south and helping people," Espinosa says. "So if anyone wants to donate they certainly can send funds to The Bunker toward the relief work and we will make sure that it gets there."

Harold Espinosa, Alycia Hildebrand, Anita Rudi, and Kayleigh



Peters spent a week on a mission trip in Puerto Rico last month to help with the aftermath of the earthquakes the island is suffering.

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

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# WSD proposing \$22.5M budget for 2020-2021

By Lorne Stelmach

An increase in provincial funding made the process of drafting a \$22.5 million budget for the next school year somewhat easier for Western School Division.

With such continued strong growth, however, it is no less difficult to keep pace with the resulting rising costs, officials stressed as the financial plan was introduced at the division's annual budget expo last Wednesday.

"Western School Division got a fairly substantial increase compared to others in provincial funding, however it's overshadowed by the additional students that we have and that we need more staff and so on," said secretary-treasurer Carl Pedersen.

"We just have bigger numbers to work with this year, so the difficulties were still there in putting together a draft budget and seeing what we could do to support our students and figure out what we couldn't do this year," he continued.

"It wasn't made a lot easier by our increase in funding because we have matching or greater expenses to deal with to try to staff for all of the students we have and so on."

The 2020-21 budget represents a 4.8 per cent increase from the \$21.4 million for 2019-20, and it is supported by provincial funding that will be about \$542,000 or 4.8 per cent more than the 2019-20 funding.

About 65 per cent or \$14.7 million comes from provincial support with another 33.3 per cent or \$7.5 million coming from municipal taxes.

The division set out an 8.4 per cent decrease in the mill rate for the 2020 school tax levy, but it is also a reassessment year so the amount raised through the special requirement in total will increase by two per cent — a level mandated by the province.

The tax impact will vary but a home reassessed from \$275,000 to \$304,288 will see its school tax increase by \$26.64 from \$1,895.85 to \$1,922.49.

On a quarter section of farmland revalued from \$1 million to \$1,134,900, the school tax will rise by \$159.64 from \$3,983.20 to \$4,142.84.

For a business with an assessment that rose from \$500,000 to \$555,700, the school tax will jump by \$446.04 from \$8,154.25 to \$8,600.29.

The priorities for the budget revolve around meeting enrolment growth that was over seven

WSD's budget expo gave the community a glimpse at some of the programs and technology their tax dollars go to support.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

per cent for this school year and is projected to be similar again for this fall.

The budget addresses a number of priorities including the addition of six full-time teachers. As well, there are increases for areas such as resource and guidance time, educational assistant time, and vice-principal time at Minnewasta, Maple Leaf, and École Morden Middle School.

"This is a value conscious budget," suggested Robyn Wiebe, vice-chairperson of the WSD board of trustees.

"We wanted to focus our limited dollars in the classroom," she stressed. "We are seeing huge growth with our population of students and our diverse needs among those students, so we wanted to make sure that the dollars we spent were in the classroom, so you'll see a significant increase in staffing."

"We want to make sure that our students are supported and our teachers are supported," Wiebe said, adding as well that they continue to cope with the challenges of a lack of space. "We see our staff responding well to the challenges of our space limitations."

The biggest pressure remains the issue of space with two additional modular classrooms for École Morden Middle School. A request for another one at Maple Leaf School was denied by the province.

The division will be at 16 portable classrooms while forecasting that it could need 15 more by 2024.

A new K-8 school in Morden has been included in the provincial government's 10 year plan, but there's no commitment yet as to when it will be built. In the meantime, the division is also looking for approval of an additional three classrooms at Morden Collegiate (see story on Pg. 9).

"That's one piece of the pie is dealing with the lack of space in a lot of corners within our divi-



sion and the increasing student population," said Pedersen. "The space itself is one piece and then the other is the operational piece ... keeping our schools staffed and the buses running ... there's always increases in those costs."

Wiebe noted that the division aims to have a collaborative approach in developing the budget, noting that they recently not only had a student forum but had met with the parent advisory councils as well.

As part of their priorities around communication, the board developed the idea of a budget expo where staff and students can showcase the range of programs offered in the division.

"We were the first in Manitoba that was doing the budget exhibition," said Wiebe, who felt the community had embraced this as a way of "learning about what is actually happening in the classroom, where are those dollars actually going ... this shows you."



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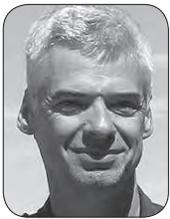
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# It's not about the slushball

**W**hen I was younger, between the ages of roughly 11 to 14, I was the subject of regular, daily bullying of varying types and intensity.

The bullies were as varied as the bullying. They were dealing with their own issues that created a set of criteria that would set them off on me and people like me—the shy, withdrawn, geeky, hiding in the shadows type.

It could be the kind of clothes I was wearing, the colour of my coat, the condition of my shoes. Once it was simply the colour of the siding on my house that set one of them into a mocking rage.

It is odd that how others treat us can change a person and odder still how long it can take that person to overcome the impact ... years. In fact, I can honestly say that 36 years later I still feel the effects in me sometimes.

Over time I developed a bit of a hypersensitive hair trigger to potential threats. A strange look, a tone of voice, anything could put me on the defensive, ready for fight or flight depending upon what happened.

Trust became a significant issue in that I had a hard time giving it, which meant relationships were non-existent or awkward and strained at best.

After enough time you become very protective of the little that you know is yours. By my early teens I can remember being as grumpy as an old man about “kids” cutting through our backyard when going to and from school.

I would stand at the back window preparing to run to the side door to confront, blockade, and/or chase them

away if even a small sign of them appeared. It was a weird and disturbing frame of mind.

One memory I have that has stuck with me typifies the frame of mind bullying put me in. It was winter, not long after the school day was done but before dinner. I was watching cartoons in the living room (either *G-Force* or *Thundercats* likely) when the doorbell rang. I got up to get it and as soon as I opened the door: SMACK! A have frozen slushball straight in the face from two unknown little jerks about 11 or 12 years old who were already running away.

Without thought I was engulfed by maybe the greatest rage I had and have ever felt in my life. I took off after them in my socks through the ice and snow and was closing in when in the distance behind me the banshee shriek of my mother stopped me dead:

“PETER!!!! GET BACK HERE NOW!!!!”

Such was her authority that I halted without thinking, turned and stalked back, realizing the little jerks were long gone now.

My response may seem reasonable, but how I felt and what I would have done had I caught them would have been enormously disproportionate to the crime. Why? The rage I felt was not about the slushball. It was never about that ... that simply uncapped years of repressed anger and shame that came pouring out in an uncon-

trollable gush from the bullying I had been subjected to.

In our country these days there are blockades cropping up along railways, on highways, and elsewhere. Protests led by our First Nations over the prospects of a pipeline crossing Wet'suwet'en land.

But here's the thing: It's not about the pipeline. I mean, it's about as much about the pipeline as my rage was about that slushball to the face. It hurt and it triggered something much, much deeper.

Canada's First Nations have been subjected to systematic racism, bullying, aggression, violence, poverty and more for centuries. There's a lot of pent up anger over constant attempts to have their issues taken seriously only to be met with bureaucratic red tape or simple attempts to deal with complex problems.

Was my over-the-top rage a reasonable response to a couple of little jerks throwing some snow in my face? Not really. Was my rage a justifiable response to years and years of bullying? Absolutely.

If someone had worked with me and taken my issues seriously (and many were aware) to end the cycle of bullying it would have gone a long way to bringing me to a place of contentment and peace.

It's not about the slushball. It's not about the pipeline. It's about so much more.



**By Peter Cantelon**

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# Morden United Way gives back over \$76,000

By Lorne Stelmach

The United Way of Morden and District last week celebrated both the past year and what is to come for the organization.

It officially distributed over \$76,000 raised in its 2019 campaign as 20 grants to 18 agencies at a reception held last Thursday at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden. The year's distributions include three program grants going through the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

President Alex Fedorchuk also called it the swan song of the Morden United Way, as it now prepares for a merger with the Winkler and District United Way.

"This is our grand finale ... April 1 will see a new entity emerge," said Fedorchuk, a long-time director of the Morden agency.

"It just makes a lot of sense, I think, in terms of efficiency," he said of the merger. "We have a lot of common agencies that we support."

Meanwhile, Fedorchuk was pleased with the results of the past year despite coming short of the \$90,000 goal. When taking into account its scholar-

ship and bursaries, the organization is handing \$80,400 back to the community.

"We decided to have some of our regular donors make the presentations to some of these agencies," Fedorchuk said of the grant reception, suggesting it was a good way to connect key supporters and recipients.

"We feel like Santa Claus at this time of year. We just love allocations night. It really makes it worthwhile," he added, noting it's always special when they hear feedback from agencies that basically say, "If it wasn't for United Way, we wouldn't be here."

A few other speakers also paid tribute to the United Way movement in general as well as the idea for the two local organizations to join forces.

"The United Way chapter in Morden is so generous and it has made such a difference in our community," said Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen, who praised United Way as following the idea that "we're not going to wait for someone to come and help us to do the things to grow our community and do the right thing—we're going to do it ourselves."

"I think that as communities that

are doing more and more to be interconnected, it makes sense [to merge]. I think we can leverage, I think we build trust and community by doing this together, and I applaud you for your efforts to bring this to be a regional enterprise."

"I'm very thankful for the spirit of co-operation and community that they bring to the region and to the city," said Morden Mayor Brandon Burley. "We're very excited for what a joint effort might mean in terms of co-operation between the city of Morden and the city of Winkler."

"I just believe so passionately in this notion of being united ... we often say, well, give to the United Way, and I prefer to say give in a united way," said Connie Walker, president of the Winnipeg United Way.

"When we put our dollars together as communities, it's something that is very special," she said. "It's special because it allows us to provide some sense of stable funding to a network of organizations that are so critical in communities."

"It's special because it allows us to address community issues that may not be on the radar of individual



Morden United Way president Alex Fedorchuk said the agency is grateful for the donations they received this year.

donors, but they're on the radar of volunteers," Walker added. "It's also special because it simply brings us together from across communities, from all walks of life ... and being united is more important than ever."

Continued on page 8

***On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the Bunker youth ministry, I would like to thank the following businesses for their support in the past year:***

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***Thank You,***  
**Kevin Hildebrand** Executive director



Bunker Youth Ministry

# Daffodil Days on the move from March to April



By Ashleigh Viveiros

Local residents eagerly awaiting one of the first signs of spring will have to wait a little longer than usual.

The Canadian Cancer Society's annual Daffodil Days fundraising campaign is on the move this year.

Instead of being held one week in mid-March, the sale of fresh daffodils has been moved back to April 6-9.

Morden area coordinator Neha Kohli said the change was made across the country in part to avoid overlapping with spring break.

"They decided to move it all to April and see how it goes this year," she says, noting she and her team of fellow volunteers are trying to get the word out so people don't think the campaign isn't happening this year.

Canvassers have already been making the rounds at local businesses to secure advance sales.

For everyone else, details about when and where to purchase daffodils in the Morden-Winkler area will be released in the coming weeks.

Daffodil pins will also be available at select local businesses throughout the month of April.

The local daffodil campaign routinely brings in upwards of \$8,000 in support of the Canadian Cancer Society's support services and programs for patients and families dealing with the disease.

The agency also funds research into more than 100 different types of cancer.

# Garden Valley SD proposing deficit budget

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Garden Valley School Division's board of trustees have some tough decisions to make.

At its public budget consultation meeting last week, GVSD unveiled that it is looking at running a deficit budget for the first time in years.

"In my 10 years as a school board trustee we have not ever done a deficit budget," board chair Laurie Dyck told the assembled GVSD staff and parents on Feb. 27. "But we've also never had less funding from the government to begin with."

Garden Valley is proposing an operating budget for the 2020-2021 school year of nearly \$52.3 million. Meanwhile, the division is expecting to receive \$114,000 less in public schools funding from the province for 2020-2021, a drop of 0.4 per cent.

The Conservative government has also directed school divisions to limit local education property tax increases to 2.0 per cent, which means GVSD will be able to increase its tax reve-

nues by no more than \$407,000.

That puts the projected additional revenue over the current school year at \$293,000. However, the division is also projecting additional expenditures to hit \$841,000, owing in large part to a more than \$638,000 increase in staff wages and benefits (caused by staff moving up the pay scale under their collective bargaining agreements) as well as over \$100,000 in property taxes on the new Pine Ridge Elementary School.

As a result, the budget has a shortfall of \$548,000, leaving trustees to try and figure out what cuts they can make moving forward that won't affect student learning.

"The goal is to try very hard not to impact the classroom," Dyck stressed.

To that end, the board does not intend to cut funding to programs related to its strategic goals, including its student literacy, numeracy, and mental health initiatives.

But GVSD will continue deferring replacing aging school buses, reduce its information technology budget,

and enforce a two per cent drop in discretionary budgets across all departments.

Further cuts could be made in the operational budget to areas identified as "extras," Dyck said.

"We have vulnerable children, learners, families that rely on some of the things that we do because it makes life easier for them, which means education is better for their children," she said. "Those all add up. They're all extras. Winter school bus in town is an extra. At this point, those are some of the things we've talked about as possibilities for cuts in the operational costs.

"Staffing pieces are also part of operational and we are exploring whether there are some programs where maybe it's run its due course," Dyck added, noting the division regularly makes these kinds of program assessments; a few years ago it eliminated its English as an Additional Language coordinator as the number of immigrant students to the area dropped from the heights of previous years. "From that we were able to start funding numeracy and literacy coordinators."

But whittling down the budget by way of a million tiny cuts and various project deferments is not a sustainable way of operating long-term, Dyck said.

"How long can you defer buying a bus?" she pointed out.

"We're not panicking," Dyck stressed of the board's attitude toward the current financial situation they find themselves in. "We feel that we are

being diligent in getting the job done, in the money we have spent, and it's always good to take a step a back and make sure you're doing that—is there room to change some things?"

That said, it's still a challenge, and simply dipping into the division's \$1.5 million accumulated surplus is not a solution in the long run.

"Is it sustainable to draw down your budget by half a million?" Dyck asked. "We'd be done in two more years. You start running out of surplus."

"That would become a whole other issue," she said, explaining the division relies on that surplus fund for things like opening up future schools that will be needed as the community continues to grow.

Whatever the board decides to do when it comes to the expenditure side of the budget, the property tax increase restriction means that, for most people, the school tax portion of their tax bills will continue to drop in 2020.

The mill rate is expected to be 13.74, down from 15.02 last year. As a result, a house valued at \$250,000 (keeping in mind 2020 is a reassessment year, so home values have increased) can expect to pay about \$12 less in education property taxes, a business valued at \$500,000 will pay \$177 more, and farmland valued at \$1.2 million will pay nearly \$70 less.

The GVSD board will approve the 2020 special levy at its March 10 meeting and submit the approved 2020-21 budget to the province by the end of March.

## > UNITED WAY, FROM PG. 7

Local non-profits receiving funding from the Morden United Way this year included the Arthritis Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters, BTHC Foundation, Diabetes Canada, Cerebral Palsy Association, Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, Child and Family Services, Eden Mental Health Services, Gateway

Resources, Genesis House, Kidney Foundation of Canada, Morden Christmas Cheer Board, Morden Youth for Christ, Parkinson Society, Pembina Counselling Centre, Pembina Valley Humane Society, Pembina Valley Child Care Centres, and the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre.

# BSI, Boston Pizza step up to support Genesis House

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Genesis House got a big funding boost from two local businesses last week.

On Feb. 24, the regional shelter for the victims of domestic violence received an \$800 donation from BSI Insurance in Winkler and a \$1,500 gift from the Boston Pizza restaurant in Morden.

BP's funds come through the Boston Pizza Future Prospects charitable foundation, which allocates money for local restaurants to donate to their communities.

With another \$1,500 having also gone to the Central Station Commu-

nity Centre, manager Kenton Hoepfner said they appreciate being able to give back.

"Those are two deserving organizations in the community," he said, "and we're excited to be able to support them."

Kari Kauenhofen, who does community and resource development for Genesis House, said donations like this are vital for the organization.

"With no [provincial] funding change in 12 years, all these donations that we receive are just helping us keep the lights on and provide assistance to those who need it," she said. "To see different organizations and individuals and businesses come



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS AND LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Genesis House's Kari Kauenhofen received donations of \$800 from BSI Insurance's Kim Lebrun and Lukas Pazer (above) and \$1,500 from Boston Pizza manager Kenton Hoepfner last week.



to support us is huge. It helps us also get the word out there as far as our services."

BSI Insurance's gift, provided through the company's Because We Care granting program, helped the shelter purchase a pair of lamps for its living room and a third lamp for its staff room.

The common living space sees a lot of traffic, Kauenhofen noted, and more sturdy lighting was long overdue.

"At any point we could have five women and 11 children in our shelter if all the rooms are full ... so there's a lot of action going on in our living room," she said. "We were struggling with lights that were not particularly secure or stable, and so this money is going towards floor lamps that can't be knocked over so easily and that really brighten up the room.

"This is a space that, for some women, is their home for a period of time, so it was a big deal for us to make it feel like a home, to provide a measure of comfort."

Kim Lebrun, BSI insurance broker, said the company was pleased to be able to support the women's shelter with its lighting project.

"We want to always stand for that 'Because We Care' motto," she said. "We're not just here as insurance brokers but we want to give back to our communities."

"It always warms my heart ... to be on the receiving end of this kind of giving," said Kauenhofen. "We absolutely just thrilled that our community, all the communities in our catchment area, are so generous to us."

— with files from Lorne Stelmach

# WSD asking province for collegiate expansion

By Lorne Stelmach

Western School Division continues to look ahead to its future capital needs while also hoping to address the immediate issues.

The Manitoba government earlier this year made a commitment to a new Kindergarten to Grade 8 school in Morden, but it came without any firm timeline beyond sometime within the next decade.

In the meantime, the division continues to add more modular class-

rooms with two more now set for École Morden Middle School, bringing WSD up to 16 portable classrooms in total while forecasting that it could need 15 more by 2024.

In the years ahead, the division will also be looking for permanent space for its piping trades program as well as yet another K-6 school, but for now it is hoping the province will lessen the pressure in the short term by approving a plan for three more classrooms at the northwest corner of

Morden Collegiate.

The collegiate expansion had previously been denied by the Public Schools Finance Board when WSD first raised the idea in 2018.

Board vice-chairperson Robyn Wiebe said the board maintains the permanent addition of three more classrooms would be the most cost-effective solution to address crowding at both the high school and the connected ÉMMS.

"We know that they are a good val-

ue over a portable-based situation," said Wiebe.

"We are already seeing programming and timetable challenges between the shared classrooms between École Morden Middle School and the high school, and so we want to make sure that those space needs are addressed while the growth is happening," she said. "The three stacked classrooms would address growing needs that will come even before a school would be built."

News tips?

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# Chamber announces 2020 biz award winners

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The recipients of the 2020 P.W. Enns Business Awards were unveiled at the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce's annual general meeting Feb. 27.

"There were many worthy nominations," said chamber president Darren

Heide. "The gala award winners are businesses that demonstrate excellence in their industry or sector, and we are excited to recognize them."

Tapped to be honoured at the awards gala next month are Icon Technologies with the Business Excellence Award, Canadian Tire as a Community Builder, Winkler Plumbing and

Heating with the Customer Service Award, Precision Land Solutions as a Business Builder, and Regional Connections Immigrant Services as the Non-Profit of the Year.

"These award winners, I'm just so excited because they are such great leaders in what they're doing," Heide said. "It's very exciting to be able to recognize them in this way."

Tickets to the gala, held at the Days Inn Conference Centre on April 16, are limited and can be purchased through the chamber office or online at [winklerchamber.com](http://winklerchamber.com).

The evening's keynote speaker is Janet Bannister, founder of Kijiji and a partner at one of Canada's largest venture capital firms.

## EXCITING YEAR FOR CHAMBER, COMMUNITY

Also at the AGM, Heide took a moment to look back on a fruitful year for both the organization and the community at large.

"A highlight for the City of Winkler and the business community was be-

ing recognized by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business as second in Canada for entrepreneurship," he noted. "That's a great sign for the success we have here, the environment that we have here. It's just such a great place to start and grow a business."

The chamber itself saw its outreach efforts in the community pay off in 2019, Heide said.

"Membership went up, [we saw] a lot of engagement in the various events that's we're putting on—our main events that we put on year to year as well as some of the new and different things ... we've been putting on," he said, pointing to various lunch and learn sessions and networking events. "Based on the attendance and the engagement that we're having we know we're doing some of those things right."

"It's great to see the business community have faith in us in that way," Heide said, "and we continue to work hard to provide the value that they all expect from us."



Winkler chamber president Darren Heide says the gala award winners are businesses that demonstrate excellence in their fields.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

# Forums with employers, immigrants helping PVLIP chart its course

By Lorne Stelmach

Two recent forums are helping chart a course for the region to better address the needs of its newcomers.

The Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) met last month with employers to talk about their experiences related to immigration and then with newcomers themselves to address mental health concerns.

The information from both events will help determine what's needed for people to better adapt to life and work in Canada, said PVLIP co-ordinator Elaine Burton-Saindon, explaining the feedback will be compiled and used by PVLIP members as they plan out the next steps.

"We'll definitely be able to come out with some good recommendations and suggestions that came from those discussions," said Burton-Saindon.

CPHR Manitoba, which is the governing body of human resources pro-

professionals in the province, teamed up with PVLIP and Regional Connections Feb. 5 to find out what employers have to say about their experiences related to immigration.

Employers and human resources/hiring managers who have newcomer staff were invited to share experiences and challenges related to the growing newcomer demographic in the workplace. Burton-Saindon was pleased with a turnout that included 27 people representing 20 different businesses.

"It was a good opportunity to hear from an employer's perspective," she said. "What have they been experiencing as a result of the growth of immigration throughout the region?"

"Overall they were very positive towards the newcomer employee base, very impressed with the eagerness and hard working nature ... lots of positive comments," Burton-Saindon said. "There's still things that they're adjusting to, though, with language

barriers, transportation, housing ... things like that are still very much impacting employers.

"So the question for us now is how can we be better able to work towards finding solutions for any of those things they have identified," she added. "How can we help them achieve a welcoming inclusive community in our workplaces?"

PVLIP then hosted a focus group on the issue of mental health on Feb. 11.

Despite poor weather, there were 23 people in attendance representing about 15 different cultures as well as medical personnel involved in mental health from Winkler and Morden.

Burton-Saindon suggested it is important for them to get a better idea of "how newcomers are adjusting with the stress and strain of everything that goes on when you move."

A big part of that is getting an understanding of how mental health is perceived and approached from their cultural perspective, and she noted

one question about their experiences with racism or discrimination provided a surprising answer.

"There was a shockingly overwhelming response to that question," she said, noting that many of them felt they had experienced something like that here, including at their workplaces.

"So there's a connection there that we will make eventually and see how we can offer resources to improve that experience in the workplace."

"THE QUESTION FOR US NOW IS HOW CAN WE BE BETTER ABLE TO WORK TOWARDS FINDING SOLUTIONS."

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# PVHS reports on banner year, future challenges

By Lorne Stelmach

By all accounts, the Pembina Valley Humane Society had a successful year, but challenges exist as the organization works to have many more good years in the future.

That was the message as the regional animal shelter held its annual general meeting last Tuesday at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden.

"I think our board is really excited about moving forward with growing the shelter," said Stephani McLean, who stepped into the role of board chairperson for a two-year term.

"We're also looking at growing the education potential to the community ... so growing our capacity, growing our ability to handle animals better so that they're having shorter stays in the shelter while waiting to be adopted and less likely to be returned.

"Our group is really progressive and looking towards the future ... we're looking at five years from now and how we're going to get there."

The humane society had a solid year financially with revenues exceeding the budget by 4.5 per cent and com-

ing in at over \$176,000, which left the organization showing a net surplus of around \$9,800.

Grants, fundraising, and retail revenue were all under budget, but donations made a big difference by coming in 22 per cent above budget while expenditures were also kept in line.

Visitors to the shelter in Morden were down from 2,442 to 2,009, while visitors for specific programs increased from 362 to 804. Overall, about 61 per cent of visitors were from the Morden area while Winkler accounted for 21 per cent.

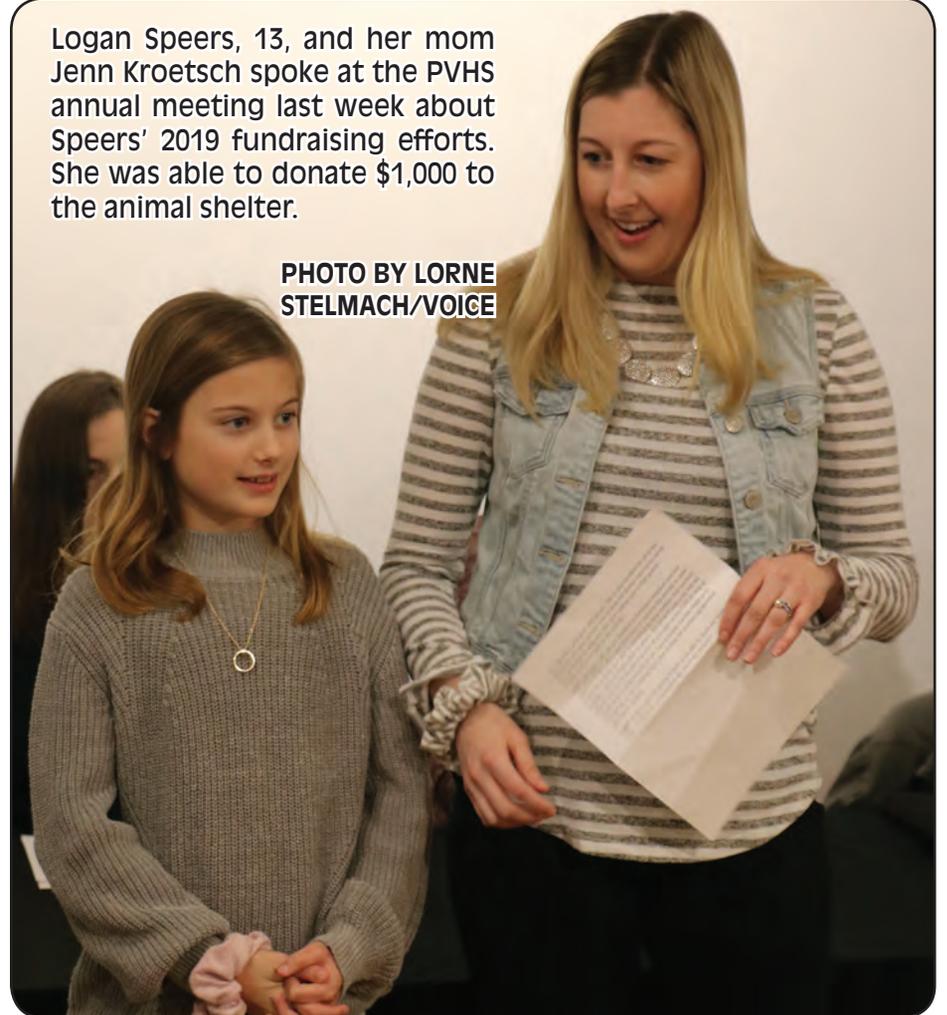
There were 152 animal intakes and 147 adoptions in the past year, down from the year before. About 75 per cent of the animals originate from the Pembina Valley region, including 30 per cent from Morden, 19 per cent from Winkler, and seven per cent from the RM of Stanley.

One of the biggest success stories in 2019 was the foster program, which placed 35 dogs and 25 cats. Of those, 48 were eventually adopted.

The board meanwhile undertook a number of key initiatives in other areas including developing a number

Logan Speers, 13, and her mom Jenn Kroetsch spoke at the PVHS annual meeting last week about Speers' 2019 fundraising efforts. She was able to donate \$1,000 to the animal shelter.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



of specific board positions to oversee volunteer survey to help identify where sponsorships, grants, retail, and education. Other efforts included a vol-

Continued on page 13

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# Letkeman looks back with his first solo show

By Lorne Stelmach

It is only in retirement now that Wayne Letkeman has really become an artist.

He's always been interested in creating art, he says, but it was stepping away from work that gave him not only the opportunity but the time to truly explore it.

"There's always been an interest on my part to do it ... it was just something I never knew I would really be able to do or capable of," said the Ashern resident. "I started painting in February of 2017 ... so it's just something that came late in life, something that started out as a hobby, and it's become more a passion."

His relatively short artistic journey has led to *Looking Back*, which is the featured March exhibit at the Pembina Hills Gallery in downtown Morden.

It is fitting that Letkeman's first solo show is in Morden, as he grew up on a farm near the border south of the

city.

He left in 1977 and moved to Lac du Bonnet, where he worked in the mining industry until 1997. From there, he then got into a lodge and outpost business until that led to him taking up flying at age 46.

He worked as a commercial pilot until last December, and it was that work which played a role in him deciding to pick up a paint brush in his spare time.

"Early on, I started doing a lot of northern lights pictures," Letkeman said of what inspired many of his initial painting projects. "Flying in the north, if you're in a remote area anywhere, the first thing you see at night is there's just tons and tons of northern lights. So I had a passion for northern lights, and I created a lot of northern lights paintings."

Letkeman paints with oils and he creates his own images rather than painting from a photograph or other image.

"I can't look at another painting or



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The work of Wayne Letkeman is on display at the Pembina Hills Gallery in downtown Morden this month.

a photograph and copy it. It's something I have never had that talent," he said.

"I start and I finish, and I don't know how I get there," he added, noting he might finish a work within about a three hour window.

"I'm doing this in one evening ... from the time I start, I sort of have a concept of what I would like to do,

but seldom does it turn out like that ... so it's sort of a journey that is just put in front of you."

One method he employs which is different from most artists is that probably 90 per cent of his paintings are done on a black canvas, which he said is a means for creating a greater vibrancy in the colours.

Continued on page 13

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# An evening of elegance

Volunteer Betty Peters, a home school liaison worker in Morden, looks over the selection of gowns and formal wear that was available at the annual Evening of Elegance last Tuesday night. Now in its 11th year, this initiative gives graduating Morden students access to donated new and gently used clothing and accessories to help lighten the cost of preparing for graduation. Around a dozen students find their perfect gown or suit through the program each year.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

## > LETKEMAN, FROM PG. 12

"When you do it on to a white canvas, you're only seeing approximately 25 per cent of what the human eye would see ... the minute you use a black canvas, and you put colour on to a black canvas, that enhances it by about 10 per cent," Letkeman suggested. "That does change a lot in how that painting then will turn out. It just becomes a very much brighter colour."

Having his first solo exhibition is an exciting step for Letkeman, who has previously shown his work as part of a joint exhibit.

"Most of the stuff I will have in Mor-

den will be things I would have done within the last two years," he said. "It's all relatively new."

He appreciates not only the opportunity offered by the gallery here but their support and encouragement as well.

"They are very, very organized, and they are great people to work with," said Letkeman. "They are amazing in what they do there, and they've really helped me through to prepare for it."

*Looking Back* is on until March 31. An opening reception takes place this Saturday from 3-5 p.m.

## > PVHS, FROM PG. 11

the society can do better as well as developing new fundraising ideas.

"We had a wonderful year ... a lot of new people, so we had some new ideas come aboard," said Kathy Ward, who just finished her term as board chair.

"The part that I like the most is the youth participation in our mission. We had kids having birthday parties with us as the theme," she noted.

"I think our public relations really jumped on the social media ... we also used it as an opportunity to educate, which is one of the things that we really want to focus on moving forward."

Goals for the year ahead include continuing to build their financial sustainability and further developing educational opportunities, but a top priority will be expansion of the shelter.

"The one that we want everybody to get excited about is that we're moving forward to have a better facility that's going to help the communities surrounding the Pembina Valley Humane Society," said Ward.

"It's going to be an opportunity to partner with some of the other animal charities that are around," she added. "We're always looking for opportunities to partner and collaborate with groups like Furever Friends out of Altona and Kat's Kritters ... all of us have the goal of making sure that the animals in the area are going to have a good life.

"The building is going to be a big project, but I think it's something that needs to happen," Ward continued. "We are outgrowing our current facility, and we need to have something that is going to allow us to serve our communities better and also be able to handle a growing population."

The annual meeting was also briefly addressed by Logan Speers, a 13-year-old animal lover who spent most of 2019 making and selling scrunchies in support of the humane society. She was able to donate almost \$1,000 to the shelter through her sales.

"We chose the humane society because we love animals and we now have a dog and a cat," said Speers.

"It's really nice to know all the people who help out in the Pembina Valley Humane Society, who give up their free time to help take care of the cats and dogs to find happy furever homes," she said, adding they plan to be part of a number of craft sales again this year and would be excited to donate more money down the road.

"What we try to teach our kids is to learn to give back, and this was one of the places they decided was important to them because we love animals," said Speers' mother Jenn Kroetsch.

"We were really happy they were able to choose a place that's important to them and to us as a family," she added.

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# March is Pharmacist Awareness Month

## What is the role of a pharmacist?

You may have noticed that things have changed in terms of what your pharmacist can do for you. To sum it up best those changes, we now no longer focus on dispensing products but rather on dispensing "pharmaceutical care" to our patients and in our communities.

Pharmacists always work in concert with primary-care doctors. In fact, we are considered to be the most accessible members of your healthcare team, especially those of us who work in retail-chain and independent pharmacies. When your doctor prescribes you a medication, we all work together to monitor any specific risks, including interactions with pre-existing medical conditions and adverse reactions. We also advise patients about the more than 300,000 over-the-counter drugs that are on the market. In some cases, we can also give advice about natural



supplements and how they may interact with your other medications.

In our expanded role, we can now work with doctors in monitoring chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, administering vaccinations, adjusting medication dosages and doing patient assessments. And in several provinces, we are now authorized to provide emergency prescription refills, initiate or change drug dosages and formulations, prescribe for minor ailments, renew and extend prescriptions and more.

## Immunity-boosting tips for a healthier you

We all have a good reason to say, "I can't get sick right now." Getting the flu obviously takes a toll on our physical health, but it can also interfere with our busy lives and the lives of others in our communities. And, while it is difficult to find any absolute guarantee that you won't get sick this flu season. Ask your pharmacist about the many options available to you to help combat the flu this season.

### Alternatives to help boost your immune system

Wash your hands well and often. Colds and the flu are spread most via direct contact, either from person to person or from person to object. Simply shaking hands with or touching the same door handle as an infected person can expose you to a virus. Your best defense is washing your hands well – for 20 seconds or more each time -- and washing them often.

Drink lots of fluids. Staying sufficiently hydrated can help flush toxins from your system and keep your body healthy. Eight 8-oz glasses of water a day is commonly recommended for optimal hydration, but other fluids also count as long as they are not diuretics like coffee or tea.

Vitamin C: Citrus fruits and many fresh vegetables are packed full of vitamin C, which supports a healthy immune system. Try putting fresh lemon juice in your water, reaching for an orange or adding another serving of daily vegetables. You can find many of these items at your local pharmacy.

Vitamin D is preventative therapy for the cold/flu season. Vitamin D3 therapy has been shown to protect against the cold/flu season. In the "Epidemic influenza and vitamin D" study highlighted below, 2,000 IU vitamin D3 daily versus 800 IU and placebo was shown to significantly reduce the incidence of the cold/flu. That



is just with 2,000 IU of vitamin D3. Much higher vitamin D therapy is required to increase vitamin D levels to achieve optimal therapeutic levels. The flu and even the cold are acute respiratory tract infections.

Silver nanoparticles: They have been shown to have broad, direct, antiviral activity against many viruses. In addition to the direct killing effect of viruses, silver has been shown to (1) block the binding of a virus to the human host cell, (2) block the penetration of the human host cell by a virus, (3) direct inactivation of a virus prior to cell entry, and (4) block viral replication.

Stay home from work, school and other public places until after your fever is gone to avoid infecting other people. Most people feel better within a week of becoming infected with the flu virus, although coughing may last for another one or two weeks.

Finally, get enough sleep. Sleep is your body's time to recover from the stresses of your day, both mentally and physically. Get seven to eight hours each night whenever you can. "Sleep doesn't just feel good," says Sohal, "it's our body's way to clean up, rest and restore all of your defenses. Do your best to get as much as you can."

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

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

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

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# Roland band workshop, concert on March 14

By Lorne Stelmach

Roland will play host to its community band workshop and concert next weekend for a 23rd consecutive year.

The fact that this annual event has not only lasted almost a quarter of a century but continues to be a big draw is testament to the appeal of this style of music as well as the community band, say organizers.

"There's musicians who come from all over, and they have a great time," said Tom Neufeld. "They're presented with quite an eclectic choice of music—from marches to show tunes to folk tunes and you name it—so they like coming for that.

"Most of them are involved in community bands back in their own communities," he noted. "So it's a great opportunity for people to come together from all over the province. They see each other once a year unless they play in the same community band as someone else."

Musicians will be coming from across Manitoba to participate in the day's workshop and then perform at the free evening concert.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Musicians from across Manitoba will be in Roland next weekend for the Community Band Workshop.

The day begins next Saturday, March 14 at the Roland United Church with a daylong session under the direction of Bernard Helfter that is open to all adults and senior students with a band instrument.

Music selections will range from easy to challenging, and it's always a great day of music, said Neufeld, who noted Helfter has a lot of experience with bands throughout North America and parts of Europe.

"So he kind of brings a lot to the table with regards to music selection, with regards to working with such a

variety of people ... and he's able to put together quite a concert in the evening."

The Roland Community Big Band Concert gets underway in the church hall starting at 7 p.m. It is open to the public. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Special musical guests will also be performing in addition to the big band, noted Neufeld.

New at the event this year will be the Bob Day Memorial Community Band Scholarship Awards for local high school students.

Eight high schools in the region with band students will be eligible for two scholarships to each school to support having the students be able to participate.

"This is an opportunity to get more young people involved," Neufeld said. "And I think Bob Day would have liked it. He was a community band member for many years."

More details on the day are available on the Roland Community Band Workshop Facebook page or call 204-343-2358 to register for the workshop.

# City of Winkler creating secondary development plan

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The City of Winkler is taking a proactive approach to the projected growth of the community.

Last week, the general public were invited to a pair of open houses to share their thoughts on exactly how Winkler should grow over the next quarter century. The city

has also been in talks with local developers, businesses, and other stakeholders.

The input will be used to create the Growing Winkler Secondary Plan, which will guide development throughout the community moving forward.

"We have to plan so that we can grow," said Mayor Martin Harder, pointing out that if the growth rate of past years continues, Winkler, which currently has about 14,000 residents, could hit a population of 20,000 in the next decade and potentially as high as 35,000 in the next 25 years.

"Now you see the importance of having the infrastructure in place, spending the money on the exhibition centre, spending the money on the wastewater [project], because we are building for the future," Harder said. "We're not here just simply to pacify who we are and what we do today. If we lose the sight of the future we've lost sight of our community."

Having a detailed growth plan in place will aid city planners when it comes to preparing undeveloped land for future projects and in addressing zoning requests.

"Once we have the secondary plan in place, with the input of the developers, then you can start putting up the basic infrastructure in order to service those developments," Harder explained. "But the basic picture needs to be in place first."

At the consultation events, Winklerites were asked to consider what sorts of developments they'd like to see in various parts of town, be it residential, commercial, industrial, or recreational.

The city also asked people what they thought the future residential neighbourhoods should look like in Winkler. Should they include mainly single-family homes? A mix of multiple family housing? Should certain types of commercial developments be integrated into neighbourhoods?

A draft of the plan will be unveiled to the public in April for further input before it is finalized in May.

If you missed the forums, the survey can still be filled out online at [cityofwinkler.ca/p/economic-development](http://cityofwinkler.ca/p/economic-development).

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## File your taxes: a last minute reminder

Tax deadline: **APRIL 30**



### 4 tips for last-minute tax filers

Are you scrambling to try and file your taxes before April 30? If so, here are four tips to help you meet the deadline.

1. Make sure you have the right documents. You need a T4 slip from all employers you've had during the year, as well as statements for investment income. If you misplaced a tax slip, you can request a copy from the issuer or access a duplicate on the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) My Account portal.

2. Take advantage of online services. File your return using CRA's electronic filing service to avoid the hassle of getting an envelope postmarked by the deadline.



If you're registered for My Account, you can also use the agency's auto-fill service, which completes sections of your return using information and statements that the CRA has on file.

3. Don't overlook potential deductions. Millions of dollars in deductions and tax credits go unclaimed by Canadians every year. Commonly overlooked deductions include moving expenses, charitable donations, medical expenses and money spent on public transit passes and tutoring services. Many Canadians also forget to claim a tax credit for interest paid on a student loan.

4. Explore payment arrangements. Waiting until the last minute to file can impact your ability to pay your tax debt in full before the deadline. If you're eligible, CRA may allow you to make smaller payments over time. The agency's Payment Arrangement Calculator can help you formulate a payment plan based on your financial situation and the applicable interest.

Keep in mind that hiring a tax professional is an effective way to ensure you file your return on time, avoid expensive errors and identify the deductions you're eligible to claim.

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## MWM gives back

MWM Environmental gave back to the community last week with a donation to the Rocking W charity barrel race in support of South Central Cancer Resource. MWM sales rep Larry Klein presented the \$1,696.05 donation, which is based on five cents every time a cart was tipped in Morden. "Without our supporters, we wouldn't be able to put on an event like this," said event organizer Dusty van der Steen, who noted over \$18,000 was raised at the race last year. "The more support we have, the better event we can put on." Rocking W wasn't the only regional project to get support from MWM last week. The company also presented the Morris and Area dog Park with \$312.15. Volunteers are currently fundraising for fencing and other features to build the off-leash park.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

# SERC reworking emergency response plans

By Lorne Stelmach

The region's emergency response plan is being tweaked in light of last October's winter storm.

The impact from the storm including the subsequent power outage has led to several changes in the 2020 municipal emergency plan, according to a recent report to Winkler council by Darin Driedger, municipal emergency co-ordinator for the Southern Emergency Response Committee.

The changes were made based on feedback from debriefings that took place with SERC and municipal staff after the early snowstorm, and Driedger noted they continue to review response options to severe winter storms and particularly in regards to the accompanying power outages.

"This represents one of the most severe hazards facing all three municipalities," he wrote in the report.

In early 2019, SERC had already contacted several local churches in both Winkler and Morden to see if they would agree to have their facilities used as potential community reception centres and shelters.

After the October storm, this idea was expanded to include a dozen different requests to facilities in the two communities, Driedger indicated, and the emergency plan will be updated once those locations have responded.

"These changes include preemptive measures prior to a winter storm arrival such as contacting local churches or other suitable facilities to inquire on availability should a larger warming centre or reception centre be needed, as most municipal buildings are not suitable or have limited capacity for use in these situations,"

Driedger noted.

As well, SERC has contacted local vendors who supply generators and heaters about the possibility of having equipment on standby prior to a storm.

"One of the biggest challenges to address is a lack of generators, specifically permanently installed standby generators for larger facilities (both publicly and privately owned) that are suitable for use as shelters," said Driedger, adding that SERC "continues to explore mitigating options to

deal with this challenge, but this vulnerability is likely to continue unless significant capital investments are committed."

SERC is also looking to improve upon its emergency operations centre through new software made available for municipal use by the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization at no charge.

Winkler Mayor Martin Harder said it is prudent that emergency plans are reviewed on a regular basis.

"It reviewed some of the procedures

and some of the potential implications if we would have had a longer power outage ... where do people go and that kind of thing," he said. "They reviewed it more in detail and they came up with a revised plan."

The mayor also praised the ability of emergency personnel in the region to operate so well collaboratively.

"They work very well together as a group in the region, and I think it's imperative that we work together."

## Stanley crash sends 10 to hospital

A two vehicle accident at an uncontrolled intersection southeast of Morden Sunday morning sent 10 people to hospital.

Among the injured was an eight-year-old who was airlifted by STARS air ambulance and at last report at press time was in critical condition.

RCMP say the accident happened on Road 26 West about five kilometres south of Hwy. 3 when a van going east on Road 10 North collided with another van travelling north on Road 26 West.

The van going east was driven by a 34-year-old male with passengers that included a 29-year-old female and four children. The van travelling north was driven by a 34-year-old male with passengers that included a 33-year-old female and two children.

RCMP indicated alcohol and speed were not factors in the accident. They continue to investigate

the incident.

Other items of note in the weekly police reports:

- Morden police were asked Feb. 24 to check on the well being of the caller's elderly sister-in-law. Family members had not been able to reach her in over a day. Officers arrived to find the woman had fallen on the floor and was unable to get up. Police stayed with her until the ambulance arrived.

- Morden police received a report of a hit and run Feb. 26 in the 100 block of 7th Street. A driver returned to her white 2011 Honda Ridgeline and noticed damage to the front bumper. A witness provided the victim with details regarding the vehicle.

- Police were called Feb. 27 to a Morden home about a disturbance. The homeowner told police his adult daughter had assaulted her 11-year-old daughter, and the victim said

her mother pushed her down and kneed her in the back. A 29-year-old Morden woman was arrested and remanded into custody.

- Winkler police on patrol Feb. 26 stopped a vehicle for having inactive registration, which carries a fine of \$298, and officers also learned the driver only held a learner's licence and that the passenger was not eligible to be a supervising driver. The driver subsequently received a ticket as a novice driver operating a vehicle without a supervising driver, which carries a fine of \$203. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

- Winkler police responded Feb. 26 to a domestic dispute, and officers learned from the man that he was assaulted during an argument. Police arrested the woman, who was heavily intoxicated, for assault. She was held and then released the following morning.

# Distance challenge sets new skiing record

By Lorne Stelmach

The Boundary Trails Nordic Club set a new all-time record recently with its annual distance challenge.

A total of 158 members of the skiing fraternity joined forces Feb. 22 to collectively cover 5,204 km on their skis in one day.

Organizers marveled at that distance in the 13th running of this event for the club.

"It was just amazing that we accumulated enough kilometres to ski from Tofino, B.C. right though to Cape Spear, Newfoundland right in 24 hours. It was quite noteworthy," said Vera Froese.

"We had people from Winnipeg, Neepawa, all over ... it's a ski community. It's a lot about community," she said.

"A lot of our junior racers were the ones who pulled in a lot of the kilometres. I couldn't believe some of

them how many kilometres they did."

There were a number of notable achievements on the day including having 17 skiers, many of whom are on the club's junior ski team, tally distances of over 100 km.

Aaron Warkentine topped the field with 153 km, and there was also the Wiens and Boorberg family that retained their ski family of the year title with a whooping 628 km total.

The youngest participant was Aubrey Martin at just 11 months and the first time on skis, while the most senior skier was 87-year-old David Lumgair.

A large part of the draw for all of them is the picturesque Burwalde setting. The most popular trail was the inner circle (422 laps) followed by ice road (378 runs), the roller coaster (365 rides), and the outer limits (340 loops).

For the skiers, it is also just about the camaraderie, said Froese.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Over 150 skiers came out to the Boundary Trails Nordic Club's annual distance challenge last month, collectively skiing 5,204 kilometres.



"I don't know if it's stalwart skiers, it's more just for the fun of it. A lot of people use it as a personal best kind of thing ... but you're working toward a group goal," she said.

"Skiing is also a bit of a solitary occupation ... the people who love skiing also really enjoy the chance to get together and do something as a

group. And it's non-competitive, so a lot of skiers just do it for enjoyment."

You can find out more about the Boundary Trails Nordic Club on Facebook or at [btncski.wordpress.com](http://btncski.wordpress.com).

# Morden Festival of the Arts begins this month

The 45th annual Morden Festival of the Arts gets underway this month.

While the traditional band session was cancelled last month due to lack of entries, all the other festival sessions are ready to go, including strings, sacred, piano, French and English speech arts, and vocal.

There are 566 entries this season, which includes everything from solo, duet, and trio performances to ensembles, small groups, and large choirs.

The schedule begins with the strings session March 15-17 at the Morden Church of God starting Sunday at 7 p.m. and continuing on the Monday and Tuesday at 9 a.m., 1:15 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. There are 149 entries ranging from beginner to Grade 10 who will be performing on violin and cello as solos or duets.

The session will be adjudicated by cellist Andrea Bell. Bell is the founding member and cellist of the Rembrandt String Quartet, director of the string orchestra program at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate, and is in her second season as conductor of the Winnipeg Mennonite Community Orchestra as well as in her 22nd season as conductor of the Winnipeg Youth Concert Orchestra.

The festival then continues with the

sacred evening of piano, vocal, and strings performances March 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church.

Following that will be the piano sessions March 23-25, also at Christ Lutheran Church, with sessions running on the Monday and Tuesday at 9 a.m., 1:15 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. and the Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Serving as adjudicator for both sacred and piano is Everett Hopfner, who toured across Canada as winner of the 36th Eckhardt-Gramatté national music competition. He currently serves as director of the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music and

teaches at Brandon University.

The festival continues in April with its vocal session April 15-16 at the Morden Mennonite Church followed by speech arts April 20-23 at the Morden Alliance Church.

Finally, the highlights concert wraps things up with performances at the Morden Alliance Church on Sunday, May 3.

Festival programs containing the complete schedule and adjudicator information are available at Pharmasave, the library, and all festival venues for \$5.

All festival sessions are open to the

public. Admission is free for kids and \$2 for adults.

You can support the festival financially with donations to Morden Festival of the Arts, Box 493, Morden, MB, R6M 1A5. Two free passes to all festival sessions including the highlights concert will be given for all donations of \$20 or more.

Anyone interested in assisting in individual sessions should call volunteer coordinator Marlene Britton at 204-822-5794.

General information about the festival is available at [www.mordenfestivalofthearts.cfsites.org](http://www.mordenfestivalofthearts.cfsites.org).

# RRC students hosting a 'Night in Tuscany'

By Lorne Stelmach

A student project at Red River College aims to do some good for the community later this month.

For their event planning course, the Winkler campus' administrative assistant students are putting on a fundraising evening that includes dinner and entertainment.

Night in Tuscany will support Mend the Gap, which is an organization that supports initiatives, programs, and

services to help alleviate poverty in Winkler.

"We had to find an organization that maybe a lot of people have never heard of or one that doesn't get as many funds as what they need," said Daisy Kauenhofen, one of the students planning the event. "We are raising money in order to be able to support them in having a website."

Kauenhofen said they appreciate the opportunity that this project offers in providing students with prac-

tical experience with all of the various aspects that go into planning an event

"Everyone has their own part in it ... event planning is where they make everything very hands-on."

Night In Tuscany will include a three course meal alongside live music by Mel and Regan and a performance from Fun & Fire. It takes place on March 21 at Winkler Arts and Culture from 6-9 p.m. Tickets are \$45 and can be purchased by calling 204-823-2284 or 204-362-7676.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN



## Flyers trounce Steelers

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler's Cameron Critch slips the puck past Selkirk's Rory Dumelie to score the Flyers' second goal of the game Saturday. Winkler got the win 6-0 and are now slated to face the Virden Oil Capitals in the first round of MJHL playoffs.

### By Ashleigh Viveiros

With their third place finish secure, the Winkler Flyers had nothing riding on their final game of the regular season on Saturday.

That didn't stop them from decimating the visiting Selkirk Steelers, who needed a win to make the playoffs.

Thanks to a flawless performance from goalie Dorrin Luding and a strong third period special teams push, Winkler ended their regular season with a shutout 6-0 victory.

Everett Bestland got the ball rolling with a shorthanded goal five minutes in followed a minute and a half later by a marker from Cameron Critch.

Period two saw Ian Tookenay make it 3-0, while Luding, who had slapped away 14 shots on net in the first, denied seven more Selkirk attempts to get on the board.

The final frame saw Winkler outshoot the Steelers 13-8, with Drake Burgin, Mateo Albinati, and Nathan

Poolman all scoring on the power-play while Luding continued to stonewall in net.

Overall, the Flyers outshot the Pistons 35-29. Luding earned his second shutout of the season.

With that, Winkler's record for the season stands at 38-17-2-3 for 81 points, putting them nine points be-

hind the Portage Terriers in second place and 11 below the Steinbach Pistons in first.

The Steelers, meanwhile, now join the OCN Blizzard and Neepawa Natives in missing out on the post-season.

The Flyers will now face the Virden Oil Capitals, who finished the sea-

son in sixth place, in the first round of playoffs. Game one is in Winkler Friday night.

The other first round series pit the Pistons against the Winnipeg Blues, the Terriers against the Dauphin Kings, and the Swan Valley Stampeders against the Waywayseecappo Wolverines.

## Hawks win first two over Bruins

### By Lorne Stelmach

The male Pembina Valley Hawks were a game away from the Manitoba AAA semi-finals this week after opening their best of five quarter-final last weekend with two solid victories over the Winnipeg Bruins.

The Hawks had a chance to close out the series Tuesday after taking game one 4-1 Friday and game two

5-1 Sunday. The result of game three was not available at press time.

In game one in Morden, Pembina Valley came out strong, outshooting the Bruins 23-9 in the first period alone as they took a 2-0 lead which they expanded to 3-0 after two.

Riley Goertzen scored twice for the Hawks while other goals came in from Daniel Isaak and Justin Keck. Shots on goal were 49-33 in

the Hawks' favour, with Reid Dyck's shutout bid getting spoiled by the Bruins' lone goal with just over two minutes left on the clock.

In Winnipeg Sunday, Pembina Valley jumped out to a 3-0 first period lead that became 4-1 after 40 minutes.

Continued on page 22

# Pembina Valley Twisters still tops in the MMJHL

By Lorne Stelmach

Three of a possible four points on the weekend locked up the regular season title for the Pembina Valley Twisters.

The first place ranking for the playoffs belongs to Pembina Valley after a 5-3 win over Fort Garry Fort Rouge last Tuesday and a 4-3 overtime loss to the Raiders Friday.

Against the Twins, the Twisters led 2-1 after one period but were in a 3-3 tie after 40 minutes and then sealed the win with two goals in the third.

Scoring for Pembina Valley were Jordan Keck, Brendan Keck, Nicolas Burmeyer, Nick Hatley, and Elijah Carels. Martin Gagnon made 36 saves as the Twins held the edge in shots 39-37.

On Friday, the Twisters overcame 2-0 and 3-2 deficits to at least gain a point,

but the Raiders took the extra point by connecting for the winner 2:33 into overtime.

T.J. Matuszewski, Burmeyer, and Carels all scored for Pembina Valley. Gagnon made 28 saves as the Twisters outshot the Raiders 45-32.

Monday night the team played their second-last game of the season, soundly defeating the St. Boniface Rielers 7-2.

The list of scorers included a hat trick from Brendan Keck and singles from Tristan Day, Jordan Keck, Travis Penner, and Matuszewski.

With that, Pembina Valley remains in first place at 34-7-3 for 71 points, which leaves them eight ahead of second place St. Vital.

The Twisters close out the regular season schedule this Sunday when they host the Charleswood Hawks.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## 8-ender for Morden foursome

A team of Morden Collegiate students got a rare eight-ender at the Morden Legion Bonspiel at the Morden Curling Club last month. The Owen Storey rink, which ultimately won the D-Side, included Storey, Rylan Didkowski, Jennnah Derksen, and Meghan Sandercock. For the uninitiated, an eight-ender is a perfect score within a single end of curling, with all eight rocks thrown by a team earning points.

# Zodiacs honoured with hockey awards

Two Zodiacs were honoured at the final game of the Zone 4 high school hockey championships Feb. 26.

Garden Valley Collegiate's Logan Enns received the league's Top Goal-tender Award. Teammate Michael Heppner received the Lew Mueller Defenceman of the Year Award.

All the other league awards went to players and coaches from the Mountain Mustangs, the Morris Mavericks, and the Altona Aces.

The Mustangs swept the series against the Mavericks with wins of 4-1 and 4-3 to earn the title.

Meanwhile, in SCAC Tier 2 varsity basketball, both Nighthawks teams were slated to play the first round of playoffs Tuesday night. The ladies faced the Béliveau Barracudas while the boys took on Léo-Rémillard CSLR. Results were not available at press time.

In Zone 4 action, the Morden Thunder boys lost to the Carman Cougars 59-54 in an exhibition game Feb. 27. The Thunder were scheduled to start the AAA playoffs against Sanford Tuesday night. Results were not available at press time.

## Bugden shines at nationals

Chelsey Bugden of the Winkler Wizards Special Olympics team gave it her all at the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Thunder bay last week.

Bugden, who competed in snowshoeing for Team Manitoba, brought home a silver medal in the 4x100 metre relay event and ranked fourth on her own in the 100m and 200m

races.

Other regional athletes at the Games included Altona area snowshoers Jonah Ginter and Kira Owen. Ginter clinched first in the relay and also won two bronze medals in the 100m and 400m events. Owen won silver in the relay alongside Bugden and placed fifth in the 100m and sixth in the 200 m races.



Winkler's Chelsey Bugden, left, brought home silver from the Special O Canada Winter Games.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MANITOBA PHOTO

## Hitting the ice with style



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Winkler Figure Skating Club held its spring carnival on Saturday. Left: Sheridan Penner, Kami Spent, Coral White, Stella Klassen, Jordyn Peters, and Alexis Enns perform a routine inspired by the musical Annie. Above: Jessica Heinrichs, Rebecca Giesbrecht, Brooke Kuhl, and Daniela Heinrichs strike a NASA-themed pose.

## Red River Mutual launches new community sponsorship

Red River Mutual has launched a new sponsorship program designed to renew and protect community spaces throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The insurance agency announced the creation of Spruce Up Your Story last month by putting out a call for funding applications.

“At Red River Mutual, we are deeply connected to the communities we protect. Through the policies we write and the claims we respond to, we’re part of the impactful stories that

shape our communities,” said Brian Esau, company president and CEO.

This program, Esau explains, isn’t about bringing a brand new rec. centre or library to life but rather honouring spaces that are well-worn and well-loved—spaces where community stories are already being made.

To that end, Red River Mutual is offering up to \$40,000 to help restore select community spaces. Supported projects will be decided upon by an all-staff vote. There is no limit to the number of communities that can win.

### > HAWKS, FROM PG. 20

Goertzen scored his third of the playoffs and assisted twice, giving him a share of the scoring lead with five points in two games. Roux Bazin scored twice while Michael Hlady and Isaak each contributed singles.

Brock Moroz picked up the win this time with 26 saves as the shots were 42-27 in favour of the Hawks.

If the Bruins managed a win Tues-

day night, game four is set for Thursday in Winnipeg followed by game five back in Morden on Saturday.

In the other quarter-finals, the Winnipeg Wild were up 2-0 over Central Plains after the weekend while the other series were tied 1-1 between the Winnipeg Thrashers and Eastman and Southwest and Yellowhead.

## Team Titchkosky at provincials this week



SUBMITTED PHOTO

One more local team is off to the provincials in Minnedosa this week. Team Titchkosky qualified for the U18 provincials taking place March 4-8 by winning the regional playdown in Pilot Mound last month against Team Pauls. The foursome also competed in the U21 provincials in Dauphin in January. They were 5-2 in the round robin there and just narrowly missed the playoffs. From left: Thomas Titchkosky, Rylan Didkowski, Kelby Carson, Owen Storey, and coach Gord Titchkosky.

The *Winkler Morden*  
**Voice**

What's *Your* story? Call 204-325-6888

# Agriculture

## Pulse crops roundup shows a drop in acres

By Harry Siemens

Dennis Lange, who serves as the pulse crops specialist with Manitoba Agriculture, predicts soybean acres could drop even further in 2020 from a high of 2.3 million in 2017 to under a million.

Edible bean acres at 155,000 seeded acres in 2019 could also drop to about 135,000-140,000, based on the slightly lower attendance at several edible bean meetings, one in Altona and the other in Portage la Prairie.

"If prices maintain themselves and increase a little bit, we might see that number rise a little, but I'm thinking in that 135, 140 range," said Lange.

In 2019, Manitoba farmers planted about 1.3 million acres of soybeans, and interest so far isn't as keen as previous years because yields have dropped the last couple of years because of the hot, dry conditions in summer and the struggles growers had last fall.

Yield estimates are around 28 bushels per acre for a provincial average compared to the five-year average of 35 bushels an acre.

With early projections and the talk in the industry, Lange is thinking somewhere around a million acres, perhaps 900,000. It will depend on what prices do from now until spring.

Lange said, for the most part, farmers remain positive, especially looking at the rough fall harvest and the struggles many growers had trying to get soybeans off the fields. But everything's in the bin now and growers are happy about that.

Lange said at one point Manitoba grew 2.3 million acres, prices were steady, lots of interest in soybeans, and reasonable yields, especially coming out of 2016 with a provincial average of 42 bushels an acre.

Looking back, the summer of 2016 was wet and warm, and things worked out well. In '17 acres increased, but the yields dropped off because of the heat and dry in July and August. Same for '18 and for '19.

"Things go up and down, so we'll see what happens in the end," Lange said. "Growers will make some final decisions in the next couple of months of what's going into the ground."

He said acres, crop rotations,

"IF PRICES MAINTAIN THEMSELVES AND INCREASE A LITTLE BIT, WE MIGHT SEE THAT NUMBER RISE A LITTLE."

keep shifting ever so slightly. With Roquette coming to Manitoba, field peas acres will resurge a little. In 2019 growers planted about 110,000 acres. This year could see acres 130,000-150,000 acres of peas.

While seeing shifts in acres during more difficult times, when prices are all equal, rotations typically stay the way they are rather than significant changes one way or the other, which is good.

"I think we need to pay attention to our rotations for various reasons," Lange stressed. "But for long term sustainability, keeping those rotations in check to make sure that we're not going too close with certain crops so that we don't run into any potential pest problems and weed resistance issues."

The Roquette pea processing plant

in Portage la Prairie has some unique quality parameters. Soybeans are a food allergen in dry beans, too, where companies state any soybean contamination. Roquette has the same parameters, wanting no risk of contamination in that product. So they put quality parameters in place, but growers are aware of that going forward.

For peas, it's not as hard to do because the volunteer issues aren't quite the same. After all, the peas come off in August, and the soybeans in late September and October are not mature enough to cause a problem.

Lange said it's imperative the farmer does a good, thorough combine clean-out because soybeans would be the last crop harvested last fall and peas the first thing next summer.

## Watershed districts, partners offering workshops

The Pembina Valley and Redboine Watershed Districts are partnering with the Harvest Moon Society and Living Laboratory Project partners to host a series of workshops this month.

Sessions in Morden (March 12, 10 a.m. to noon), Swan Lake (March 16, 10 a.m. to noon), and Clearwater (March 17, 1-3:30 p.m.) will focus on *Pollinators, Predators, and Vegetation Management*.

The topics covered in this workshop will include Manitoba's native bees, vegetation management by landowners and roadway managers, and predators and four-legged wildlife and how to deal with them if they are impacting your operation.

"We are going to talk through assessments of different parts of operations to provide concrete examples of management practices that we are going to try, how we are going to eval-

uate the impact they have, and how we can tweak these approaches as we go," say organizers.

These events are open to producers, interested people, RM council members, and public works staff. Organizers say the time will be conversation-heavy, with participation expected from everyone in the room.

## Ag. museum looking for farmers' stories

The Manitoba Agricultural Museum is excited to announce the Farmers of Manitoba - Collecting Stories project, supported by Manitoba 150.

As Manitoba celebrates 150 years as a province, the Manitoba Agricultural Museum invites Manitobans to showcase a Manitoba farmer by sending in a farmer's portrait and their story. They can feature themselves, a farmer

"We would ask that you come prepared to discuss what you are interested in trying and need more information on," they say, "what has worked for you in the past, and what you could share with neighbours and researchers and any hard earned wisdom that you have that could save folks from wasting valuable time and

resources.

"We will be looking for feedback on the things we are going to try and suggestions on hands-on learning and discussions going forward."

For more information or to sign up for a session call the Pembina Valley Watershed District at 204-242-3267. Admission is free.

they know, or even one of their ancestors or the future generation of farmers.

The photos and stories will be added to the museum's collection and preserved to tell the story of agriculture in Manitoba. The museum will use these materials for the Farmers of Manitoba exhibit, with a tentative opening date on May 16, 2020.

"It is an exciting opportunity for the museum to further our mandate to collect, preserve, interpret and demonstrate Manitoba's agricultural heritage," said executive director and curator Anaïs Biernat.

The museum will be accepting con-

Continued on page 24



# Classifieds

The Winkler Morden Voice

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 325-6888 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

## WORK WANTED

Available to do renos, repairs, maintenance, painting, siding, roofs, fix-ups. Residential or commercial. Call Bill at 204-362-2645 or leave a message at 204-822-3582.

Do-it-yourself project gone bad? Need help to start or finish? I can help. Call 204-362-2645 or lve. message at 204-822-3582.

## HELP WANTED

Needed for a summer operated crusher. Perfect for individual looking for seasonal contract or for semi-retired. Very good compensation. Adrian 250-486-0006.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Batteries for everything. Automotive, farm, construction, ATV, marine, motorcycle, golf carts, phones, tools, radios, computers etc. Reconditioned, obsolete and hard-to-find batteries. SOLAR equipment. The Battery Man. Winnipeg. 1-877-775-8271 www.batteryman.ca

## MISCELLANEOUS

Spring is coming! Are you ready for success? Advertise now, to get the jump on selling, hiring and promoting your events! The blanket classifieds reach over 400,000 Manitoba readers weekly. Let us work for you. Get results! For as little as \$189 + GST, you could book now! People rely on these classifieds to find what they need in your area and across the province. Catch them looking at your material in our 48 weekly community newspapers. Call us at 204-467-5836 or email classified@mcna.com for details. MCNA 204-947-1691. www.mcna.com

## WANTED

Cast iron cauldron (AKA feed cooker). Call 1-204-494-0517.

## LIVESTOCK

Two year old Black Angus Bull Sale March 20, 2020. Wawota, SK. 306-577-9141. www.gbtagus.com

## EVENTS

The Manitoba Community Newspapers Association will be holding their 101st Annual Better Newspaper Competition Awards Gala in May 2020, and is now seeking Corporate Sponsorship/Partners. To become a sponsor of the event, please call 204-947-1691 or email classified@mcna.com for more details on how you can become a part of the 101st Premier Gala Event.



## 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 stone.woodelkranch@mymts.net



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Class 1 license &  
2 years highway  
experience

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• \$27 per hour  
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Call Nadia at  
**306-651-5426**  
or apply at  
**DriveWithWBT.ca**

## PUBLIC NOTICE



## Public hearing 2020 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 2020 Financial Plan at a public hearing to be held on:

**March 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**City of Winkler Council Chambers,**  
**185 Main Street, Winkler, MB**

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

Copies of the City's 2020 Financial Plan will be available at the Reception Desk at the City Hall for anyone wishing to get a copy prior to the meeting.

## EMPLOYMENT



## TRUCK DRIVER Class 3 with air endorsement

Penner Waste has an immediate opening for full time truck drivers that have either Class 1 or Class 3 with air Driver will:

- Ensure that service is completed in accordance with established policies, in a timely and safe manner.
- Responsible for daily pre and post trip inspections
- Complete an assigned daily route
- Daily route consists of driving to customer sites, setting, lifting and emptying bins into front load truck, and returning the bin to the original location.
- Perform driver check-ins at day's end to ensure complete and accurate paperwork completion.
- May perform some additional responsibilities as assigned by Dispatch.
- Must be willing to drive standard

### Position requires someone who:

- Is physically fit
- Is able to get in and out of the truck frequently
- Can work efficiently while unsupervised.
- Can meet load quota for the day
- Is a team player with a positive attitude
- Strong communication, interpersonal skills and commitment to customer service
- Must supply own gloves, steel toed boots and be dressed for all weather conditions

Knowledge of industry an asset. Wage is dependent upon experience and willingness to drive various trucks. Penner Waste offers group benefits.

Please send your resumes to  
**Melinda at hr@pennerwaste.com**

## TENDER

## THE R.M. OF THOMPSON IS ACCEPTING MOWING TENDERS FOR MOWING WITHIN THE LUD OF MIAMI TENDER WILL BE FOR A 2 YEAR PERIOD FOR THE YEARS 2020, 2021

ALL SEASONAL MOWING/TRIMMING/MAINTENANCE/WEED CONTROL AS WELL AS WATERING OF FLOWER BEDS IN THE MEMORY GARDENS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

MEMORY GARDENS  
CENOTAPH GROUNDS  
LIONS PARK

TENDER MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:  
ANNUAL COST FOR SERVICE PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES  
BRIEF HISTORY OF WORK RELATED EXPERIENCE  
LIST OF EQUIPMENT OWNED TO COMPLETE REQUIRED TASKS  
3 LETTERS OF REFERENCE

\*\*SUCCESSFUL TENDER WILL SUPPLY CONFIRMATION OF WCB COVERAGE/INSURANCE\*\*

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF THOMPSON RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY PROPOSAL AND DOES NOT CONSIDER LOWEST PRICE TO DETERMINE ACCEPTANCE.

SUBMIT TENDER ON OR BEFORE MARCH 20, 2020 @ 4:00 P.M. TO:  
R.M. OF THOMPSON  
P.O. BOX 190, MIAMI, MB R0G 1H0  
PH: 204-435-2114  
FAX: 204-435-2067  
E-MAIL: info@rmofthompson.com

## TENDER

## R.M. OF THOMPSON MATERIAL HAULING TENDER

Tenders are being accepted by the R.M. of Thompson for hauling of gravel and shale for the 2020, 2021 season. Price will be based on cost per yard per loaded mile (no fuel cost adjustment), approximately 10,000 loaded miles of gravel and 3,300 loaded miles of shale, average haul per load is 16 miles. Must own middle dump trailer.

### Tender must include the following:

Breakdown of cost per loaded mile (Gravel/Shale)

List of Equipment

Letter of good standing from WCB Manitoba

Proof of liability insurance coverage minimum \$2,000,000 with the R.M. of Thompson listed as additionally insured.

Council reserves the right to reject any and all tenders.

Lowest bid not necessarily accepted.

Submit Tender on or before March 20, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m. to:

R.M. of Thompson

P.O. Box 190

530 Norton Avenue, Miami, MB R0G 1H0

PH: 204-435-2114

FAX: 204-435-2067

info@rmofthompson.com

## TENDER

## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF THOMPSON IS ACCEPTING MOWING TENDERS TENDER WILL BE FOR A 2 YEAR PERIOD FOR THE YEARS 2020, 2021

ALL SEASONAL MOWING/TRIMMING/MAINTENANCE/  
WEED CONTROL FOR THE FOLLOWING:

ROSEBANK DUNSTON AND MIAMI CEMETERY GROUNDS  
EIGHT HISTORIC AND SCHOOL CAIRN SITES  
(MAP AVAILABLE)

WEATHER STATION SITE

ALEXANDER RIDGE PARK GROUNDS  
(MOWING AND WASHROOM MAINTENANCE)

BALL DIAMONDS

GREENSPACE AREAS IN ROSEBANK  
GREENSPACE AREAS (OLD RAILBED) LYING BETWEEN NORTON AVE  
AND HWY#23 IN MIAMI

PROPERTIES ALONG NORTON AVE BEING LOTS B, C, D AND PORTION

OF E KNOWN AS MIAMI RAILWAY MUSEUM, R.M. OF THOMPSON

CIVIC CENTRE, RECYCLING SHED AND TRUCK PARKING AREA

TENDER MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

ANNUAL COST FOR SERVICE PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES

BRIEF HISTORY OF WORK RELATED EXPERIENCE

LIST OF EQUIPMENT OWNED TO COMPLETE REQUIRED TASKS

3 LETTERS OF REFERENCE

\*\*SUCCESSFUL TENDER WILL SUPPLY CONFIRMATION OF WCB COVERAGE/INSURANCE\*\*

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SUBMIT TENDER ON OR BEFORE MARCH 20, 2020 @ 4:00 P.M. TO:

R.M. OF THOMPSON

P.O. BOX 190

MIAMI, MB

R0G 1H0

PH: 204-435-2114

FAX: 204-435-2057

E-MAIL: rmthomp@mts.net

# Classifieds The Winkler Morden Voice

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 325-6888 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### MORDEN COMMUNITY HANDI-VAN CLUB 300 LGA Winners 2019

MARCH 29/19		
245	Moonlight Construction	\$150.00
19	Larry Freund	\$150.00
221	Scott Robertson	\$500.00
APRIL 26/19		
250	Myra Mayor	\$150.00
53	Elda Schroeder	\$150.00
110	Elite Crushing	\$500.00
MAY 31/19		
79	Bernie's Backhoe	\$150.00
49	Howard Pauls	\$150.00
41	Quality Finishing	\$500.00
JUNE 28/19		
163	Otto and Susan Hamm	\$150.00
111	Marie Peters	\$150.00
190	Robert J. Friesen	\$500.00
JULY 26/19		
222	Sheldon or Ron Warkentin	\$150.00
257	Shirley Titchkosky	\$150.00
170	Tanis McIntosh	\$500.00
AUGUST 30/19		
116	Little Morden	\$150.00
196	Morden Swaybacks	\$150.00
210	Tim & Carla Blach	\$500.00
SEPTEMBER 27/19		
174	Ray Dyck	\$150.00
4	Tania Sigurdson	\$150.00
277	Clare Agnew	\$500.00
OCTOBER 25/19		
144	Gary Graboweski	\$150.00
283	Triple E	\$150.00
247	Ruth Friesen	\$500.00
NOVEMBER 29/19		
219	Tio Bellisario	\$150.00
183	David Lumgair	\$150.00
281	Triple E	\$500.00
DECEMBER 27/19		
213	Kathy Friesen & Barb Klatt	\$150.00
270	Dean & Shauna Richards	\$150.00
100	Kyle Loutchan	\$500.00
JANUARY 31/20		
249	Chris Willsey	\$150.00
15	Morden Motor Inn	\$150.00
203	Leanne Bellisario	\$500.00
FEBRUARY 28/20		
248	David Lumgair	\$150.00
166	John Elias	\$150.00
184	Irvin Wolfe	\$500.00

Thank you for supporting the Morden Community Handi-van through the purchase of a Raffle Ticket. Tickets are on sale now. Please continue your support by purchasing a Raffle Ticket.

*The Winkler Morden Voice* Call 325-6888 Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

## AUCTION

### Estate of Ken Pashke

**SELLING FARMLAND 160 ACRES**  
20-2-8 SE in the  
**RM of Pembina, approx. 30-40 acres**  
cultivated, balance slough.

This quarter sells at auction Monday, March 23, at 11 am on site. Reserve bid \$100,000. Terms are \$10,000 non-refundable down on site auction day. Payable to Jaret Hoepfner Law office, Morden, MB. Balance upon closing on or before April 23, 2020. This land auction conducted on behalf of the estate of the late Ken Pashke of Morris, MB Driving location from Jct hwy 3 & Kaliada Road PR 528, 3 mile south, 1 mile west, 1/2 south, you are now at the NE Corner of 20-2-8 SE.



**Bill Klassen Auctioneers**  
204 325 4433 or cell 204 325 6230

**Remember Your Loved Ones**  
with an Announcement in the *The Winkler Morden Voice*  
204-325-6888

## COMING EVENTS

### La Riviere Raptor Festival

Central MB Tourism's 2019  
Event of the Year Award Winner!

### 9TH ANNUAL LA RIVIERE RAPTOR FESTIVAL

**April 19, 2020**  
**10:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
www.pembina.ca

## CAREERS

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PEMBINA VALLEY WATERSHED DISTRICT

#### SEASONAL JOB OPPORTUNITY

**TERM:** May – August 2020 (40 hours per week)

**DUTIES:** The position requires water testing, computer work for watershed planning, shelterbelt maintenance, trail maintenance, educational events and tours, newspaper article writing and assisting with water and soil projects within the district including surveying, hauling supplies and materials to job sites.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- Be between 16-29 years of age
- Have a valid drivers license
- Be able to start work in early May
- Have the ability to work independently
- Experience with operation of quad, various mowers, trimmers an asset
- Good oral communication skills are necessary
- Must meet the requirements as specified under the federal "Canada Summer Jobs" and "Hometown Green Team" Programs.

Please submit resumes with 3 references to:  
Pembina Valley Watershed District  
Attn: Lexine LeBlanc  
Box 659 – 261 Main Street  
Manitou, MB R0G 1G0  
Phone: 242-3267 Fax: 242-3281  
E-mail: pvcd@mtsmail.ca

**Application Deadline: Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
PVCD would like to thank all applicants, however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Please note: offers of employment will be contingent upon submission of satisfactory Criminal Record and Child Abuse Registry Checks

### 1648 SqFt RTM Showhome For Sale

3 Bedrooms (ensuite), Maple Kitchen, Quartz Countertops, Walk-in Pantry, Island. James Hardie Siding, Huron Tripane Windows. Pictures available

www.giesbechthomes.ca  
or phone  
204-346-3231



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Invest in Manitoba's North. Join us April 15-16, 2020 as we travel to Thompson & Nisichawayasik Cree Nation on a fully-organized Economic Development Tour. You'll visit Vale, UCN, Wuskwatim Generating Station, and more, while networking with business & community leaders. Space is limited to 25 delegates.

Registration: \$995 + GST/person. Visit [tours.jointhechamber.ca](http://tours.jointhechamber.ca) for itinerary and application. For more info: 204-948-0111

### HIP/KNEE Replacement? Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING?

The Disability Tax Credit allows for **\$2,500 yearly tax credit** and **\$20,000 Lump sum refund.**

**Take advantage of this offer.** Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide!  
**Expert Help: 204-453-5372**

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Hwy #1, MacGregor, MB  
**1-888-685-3127**  
www.kaldecktrailers.com

### McSherry Auctions

12 Patterson Dr., Stonewall, MB

### Quality Fancy Antique Auction Along with Estate & Moving

Sat March 7th @ 10 AM

### Spring Gun Auction

Sat March 28th @ 9:30 AM

### Vintage Service Station & Coca Cola Sign Sale

Sun April 5th @ 10 AM

Consignments Welcome!

Call For Free Consultations on 2020 Farm Sales!

**(204) 467-1858 or**

**(204) 886-7027**

www.mcsherryauction.com

### Get up to \$50,000

from the Government of Canada.

All ages & medical conditions qualify. Have a child under 18 instantly receive more money.

Call Manitoba Benefits **1-(800)-211-3550** or send a text message with your name and mailing address to **204-808-0035** for your free benefits package.



### Response Builder Advertising WORKS!

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- Starting at \$239.00 (includes 35 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 48 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at **204.947.1691** or email [classified@mcna.com](mailto:classified@mcna.com)

www.mcna.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### AGASSIZ MEDICAL CENTRE

130-30 Stephen St  
Morden, MB

Ph. (204) 822-4474

www.agassizmedicalcentre.com

Dr. Ockie Persson and his wife Diana are relocating to British Columbia. His last day will be March 10, 2020.

**We wish them all the best in their move!**

## CAREERS



WESTERN School Division  
Morden, Manitoba  
"Rooted In Caring. Committed To Learning"



"Committed to Excellence: Learning Today - Building for Tomorrow"

Garden Valley School Division & Western School Division (Morden & Winkler MB)

Has a job opening for the following:

### Head Mechanic/Shop Manager

Permanent, 8 hours per day,  
Centre-Line Pupil Transportation  
Posting # 01-HM-19 Start Date: ASAP

Please visit our website at [www.gvsd.ca](http://www.gvsd.ca) for additional information regarding this employment opportunity or contact:

Human Resources, Garden Valley School Division  
Box 1330, 750 Triple E Boulevard Winkler, MB R6W 4B3  
Tel: (204) 325-8335; Fax: (204) 325-4132; E-mail: [hr@gvsd.ca](mailto:hr@gvsd.ca)

# Announcements

The Winkler Morden Voice

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 325-6888 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Evelyn Giesbrecht**  
1931 - 2017

God gave to us a precious gift,  
A gift beyond compare;  
He gave to us a Mother,  
Of love and tender care.  
Dear Mom:  
May the winds of heaven blow softly,  
And whisper in your ear;  
How much we love and miss you,  
Every day of every year.

-Forever in our hearts,  
your family

**BOOK YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT**

- BIRTHDAYS
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- IN MEMORIAMs
- ENGAGEMENTS
- BIRTHS
- THANK YOUS
- GRADUATIONS

The Winkler Morden Voice

CALL: 325-6888

**OBITUARY**



**Peter Wiebe**  
1991 – 2020

Peter Wiebe passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 28 years old.

He is survived by his parents, Jacob and Elizabeth Wiebe, two sisters, four brothers and their families.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2020 at the Chortitz Old Colony Mennonite Church with interment at the Church Cemetery.

We would like to thank family and friends for the love and prayers as well as the doctors and staff for

the care they provided at BTHC.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Peter's memory to the BTHC Foundation designated to Palliative Care.

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



**OBITUARY**



**Daniel (Dan) Thiessen**  
1939 – 2020

On Saturday, February 22, 2020 at Salem Home, Dan passed away peacefully with family by his side at the age of 80 years.

He is survived by his wife, Helen; daughter, Monica (Dave), daughter, Rhonda (Craig), son, Stefan (Leanne), brother, Grant (Jan) and niece, Christina. He was predeceased by his nephew, Ryan.

Dan was born at home in Lowe Farm and grew up in the Lowe Farm area. He attended Kane and Kronsweide schools, finishing grade 8 before leaving to work on the family farm. On October 10, 1964, he married Helen Martens and settled in the Lowe Farm area. In 1967, they welcomed their first-born child, daughter, Monica. In 1971, they had another daughter, Rhonda, and in 1973

came the birth of their son, Stefan. Dan spent 18 years with the RM of Morris, serving as both Councilor (1977-1983) and Reeve (1983-1995). He enjoyed his time on council and always found time for meetings. He continued farming his land until 1998 and moved to Winkler in 2007 with Helen. After retirement, he enjoyed working as a custom applicator. He spent his retirement years volunteering his time with the Winkler MCC in the electronics department. In his spare time before and after retirement, he enjoyed helping his children with various building and construction projects; always ready and willing to lend a hand or equipment. Dan enjoyed the outdoors and as a family, enjoyed going to the lake for camping, boating and fishing. He and Helen enjoyed a number of trips to Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, as well as a trip overseas to tour around Europe. In later years, he and Helen would spend time each winter in Phoenix to get away from the Manitoba winter weather. He loved his family dearly and we'll all miss him greatly. He had a huge, giving heart and never-ending faith in his Lord. His absence will leave a large void in our lives. Until we meet again.

Thank you to Wiebe Funeral Home and to Salem Home and their staff for their compassionate care.

Memorial service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at the Morden Sommerfeld Mennonite Church 5 Parkwood St. with interment prior to the service at Westridge Memorial Gardens in Winkler.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Daniel's memory to the Salem Foundation Inc.

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



**OBITUARY**



**Edward William Lambrecht**  
1927 - 2020

Edward Lambrecht passed away peacefully at 92 years of age on Sunday, February 23, 2020 at his home in The Villages West - Buhler Active Living Center in Winkler, Manitoba.

Ed leaves behind to mourn wife, Kae (Penner); daughter, Jeannie (Howard) Pauls grandchildren, Joel Nickel (Cori Bezan) and Jordan Nickel and son, Jim (Kelly) Lambrecht, grandchildren, Ashley, Natalie (Frank Banman) and Monica and Claudia and great-grandsons, Keenen and Dominick, Mel and Betty's kids, Ken, (Sharon), Donny, (Barb), Curtis (Tiggi) and Connie along with numerous family and friends. Ed was predeceased by his parents and siblings, Carl, Lorne, Ken, Emma, Fred and Mel and son, Will in 1994 after short battle with cancer.

Funeral service was held 2:00 p.m. on February 29, 2020 at Westside Community Church in Morden, MB.

Special thanks to Dr. Persson and Dr. Bob for wisdom and attention over the years, Karen Schaak and Palliative Care Team, Tanya Rempel of homecare BTHC and Dr. Johnston team at HSC as well as Cancer Navigation services, Cindy Funk. Thanks to Villages West Staff for truly making #206 his comfortable home.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Ed's memory to the Winkler Villages for Older Adults designated to the Second Floor Rooftop Terrace building project which may be dropped off at the Buhler Active Living Centre or mailed to BALC 101-650 South Railway Ave. Winkler, MB R6W 0L6 or to the charity of your choice.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
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