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The Winkler Morden Voice

THURSDAY,
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Taking the plunge

A participant braces for impact in Morden's Polar Plunge Saturday, which raised \$10,000 for Special Olympics Manitoba. See Pg. 4 for more.

PHOTO BY
LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know

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Morden affordable housing report presented to council

By Lorne Stelmach

A strategy to develop affordable housing has been laid out for Morden city council.

Councillors heard details of the strategy at their March 14 committee meeting from consultants with Scatliff Miller Murray out of Winnipeg.

The report lays out the challenges that Morden faces in coming to grips with the need for affordable housing options but also makes the case that the city is well positioned to face them.

"I would say it's nowhere near a crisis, but I think they're recognizing there's some pressures in the market and that they need to be active in addressing the affordable housing need to be a successful city," suggested Tom Janzen, one of the authors of the report. "Obviously there's an emerging need for affordable housing in the city, but they're taking a proactive approach by commissioning this study. I think this study gives them the tools and some direction to go about that."

"I do think it provides a pretty good road map for us as to where we need to be," said Mayor Brandon Burley.

"There definitely are some challenges that we know will bottleneck the ability to provide any kind of housing, let alone affordable housing."

The affordable housing strategy is the culmination of a process which included an in-depth policy review, population and demographic analysis, assessment of local housing needs, interviews with stakeholders in the housing development and social services spheres as well as a review of Manitoba Housing's portfolio of properties in Morden and precedent research on municipal approaches to addressing affordable housing needs.

The report suggests there is an opportunity and broad support for local ownership and management of Manitoba Housing's portfolio of 67 dwelling units in Morden. It cites the City of Winkler's acquisition of Manitoba Housing assets as a success attributed to the city's leadership role and partnership with an established non-profit in Central Station to manage the properties.

The report estimates that 3,089 additional dwellings will be required by 2046 if Morden's population growth stays on pace with the growth experience between 1996 to 2021.

One challenge is that there are proportionally more single-person



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Consultants Tom Janzen and Michael Blatz appeared before Morden city council last week to present the results of a report on local affordable housing.

households and couples households with no children in Morden than across Manitoba as a whole, so this increases the demand for smaller dwellings.

Another issue cited in the report is that affordable housing is needed near services, groceries, and major employers. While this would not necessarily reduce housing costs, it could reduce the cost of living by reducing transportation costs.

As well, rising land and construction prices are increasing the cost of devel-

opment and renovation and, as a result, are putting a strain on housing affordability. Morden is also currently constrained as a result of wastewater infrastructure capacity.

"Although the City of Morden is not currently facing an acute housing crisis, there are pressures that are having a direct impact on housing supply and demand in Morden," the report states. "Recognizing these pressure points, Morden has the ability to take

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Winkler tables \$22.3M budget

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Taxes are going up in the City of Winkler, but city council stresses it's the right move to best prepare the community for the years ahead.

At its March 14 meeting, Winkler city council unveiled a \$22.3 million operating budget that represents a nine per cent increase over the year before.

It means the average Winkler taxpayer will see an increase of 5.9 per cent on their municipal tax bills. The actual amount will vary based on the assessed value of your property, which likely went up given that 2023 is an assessment year. Thanks to increased property values throughout the community, the city's mill rate is actually is going down from 13.790 to 13.302.

What that boils down to is a home valued at \$275,000 in 2022 but now valued at \$299,000 in 2023 will pay a total of \$1,924.78 in municipal taxes—\$108.27 more than last year.

In his presentation, Winkler's director of finance and administration Da-

vid Martens broke down exactly how the City uses those tax dollars.

In this \$1,924 tax bill example, \$351 supports local recreation, \$337 goes to transportation (roads, etc.), \$322 funds the police, \$315 is transferred to the city's reserves, \$221 goes to cover fiscal services costs, \$135 pays for waste disposal, \$64 supports the local fire department, \$63 is for planning services, \$59 goes to general government services, and \$54 covers economic services.

Mayor Henry Siemens acknowledged that inflation is something every household is struggling with these days, but that means costs are also going up for the City.

"In a world where everything else is already going up, it is difficult to add one more thing," he said. "But the same thing we're all dealing with at home, in that everything is more expensive, is the exact same thing we're dealing with at the city level. The fuel we buy is more expensive, the equipment repairs are more expensive—it doesn't matter what we touch, it costs more."

Raising taxes was "a difficult decision to arrive at, but ultimately to be able to go back and ask for less than the cost of living as an increase, we were proud that our staff was able to help us get to that place."

Siemens noted Winkler has some big projects on the horizon that require funding, including the new wastewater treatment facility and an expansion of the water treatment plant.

The budget also includes funds for intersection improvements at Main St. and Stanley Ave. (\$525,000), the extension of Park Street beyond Hwy. 14 to Northland Parkway (\$800,000), and the Pembina East pathway project (\$450,000), which is working to connect Winkler's walking path system to Reinfeld.

Breaking down the financial plan when it comes to revenue, Winkler gets about 66 per cent from the municipal tax levy (\$14.7 million) and 34 per cent through other revenue sources (\$7.5 million).

Continued on page 13

Winkler-Stanley launch new immigration program

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After years of discussion and development, the Winkler Stanley Economic Development Corporation (WSEDC) last week launched an immigration initiative designed to address local labour shortages.

The three-year pilot project is a partnership between WSEDC and the Province of Manitoba's Immigration Pathways. It aims to bring up to 100 applicants to Winkler-Stanley in the rest of this year and another 150 in both 2024 and 2025.

What makes this program unique, explained WSEDC business development and immigration officer Mark Sawatzky, is that it will be targeting applicants with job skills that have been shown to be in demand in the two communities through an annual regional labour forecast.

"This is a community-focused approach to connecting economic needs to immigration applicants," he said. "This program allows our economic development office to put forward candidates as we see fit based on a labour forecast and a community review."

Those successful candidates (whose applications will be assessed by a local review committee) will receive a letter of endorsement from the community that will count for a number of points in their Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP) application. The more points an applicant has, the greater the likelihood they'll be invited to immigrate to Manitoba.

An actual job offer typically earns an applicant a great deal of points. A letter of recommendation from the new Winkler-Stanley immigration program will hold the same weight.

"When our office creates a letter, it has the same points value as a job offer," Sawatzky said. "This is unique to any community."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: WSEDC immigration officer Mark Sawatzky, RM of Stanley Reeve Ike Friesen, Manitoba Labour and Immigration Minister Jon Reyes, Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens, WSEDC board president Leah Klassen, vice-president Dennis Harder, and board member Ben Friesen at the launch of the Winkler Stanley Pilot Manitoba Immigration Initiative last week.

WSEDC board vice-president Dennis Harder is excited at the level of input this program gives the community when it comes to immigration.

"For businesses to provide a job offer [in advance] is not always realistic, so we wanted to have a program that replaces that but also allows us to offer support to people that fit our current labour market needs," he said.

It will be a lot of work to conduct an annual labour forecast, Harder noted, but it will paint a much clearer picture of what Winkler-Stanley businesses are actually looking for.

"We are now able to bring people in that fit the whole range of jobs that are needed in this in this region," he said. "Some of the jobs we need are skilled, but they are at different levels than what the province might have recognized we needed."

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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE
The Polar Plunge at Lake Minnewasta Saturday saw nearly 30 participants jump into the cold lake in support of Special Olympics Manitoba. They raised around \$10,000 for the cause.

Polar Plunge raises \$10K for Special O

By Lorne Stelmach

The Polar Plunge held Saturday afternoon at Lake Minnewasta raised around \$10,000 for Special Olympics Manitoba.

Nearly 30 participants were brave enough to take the leap into the icy water for a good cause.

"We're really happy with the funds raised and the number of people who took part," said organizer Sgt. Scott Edwards of the Morden Police Service and the Manitoba Law Enforcement Torch Run.

"The whole atmosphere of having it at the lake with the pond hockey tournament was neat to see, and I think it worked out well," he added. The Morden fire department hosted

its hockey tournament that same day. "The feel of all the people gathered around cheering everyone on was good.

"The weather made it a little easier. It wasn't minus 30 with a wind chill after you hopped out of the water. It was a little more bearable. The water temperature was probably no different than when we jumped in the tank in the past at the Access Event Centre.

"We took as many safety precautions as we could to make sure that everything was safely done," noted Edwards, who also added they were grateful for the support from the fire department, Earl Dyck, James Friesen, Shawn Dias, and Elite Crushing's Levi Wiens for their work to make the event safe on the ice.



Senior centre hosting care options expo April 15

By Ashleigh Viveiros

An event at the Winkler Senior Centre next month aims to equip seniors and their families with a wealth of information to address increasing care needs.

Services for Seniors is teaming up with the Buhler Active Living Centre and the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba to host the Navigating Care Options expo Saturday, April 15.

"As care needs increase, it can be a little complex to understand how things work here in our province," says BALC activity manager Stephanie Dueck.

"We see so many people who are in the midst of it and they're trying to figure it all out," she says, noting the expo aims to get people familiar with the various care options available so that "it's less stressful when the time comes."

The day will include a morning of presentations from representatives of Manitoba's home care services, Salem Home personal care home, and Silver Lining Care, which provides private home care.

Services for Seniors resource coordinator Cathleen Bergen hopes these presentations will help get seniors and their loved ones talking about the

kind of care they need and want as they age.

"Hopefully this will open those conversations as to what do I want to see happen for me when my needs increase? And what is the financial aspect of this going to be?"

"It's good at any age to think about the last years of your life and what you want those to look like and familiarize yourself with the process," adds Dueck.

Registration for the 9 a.m. to noon presentations is \$10, which includes lunch. Head online to tinyurl.com/care-options-expo or call 204-325-8964 to sign-up. The deadline to do so

is April 6.

The expo will also include information booths highlighting a variety of local providers with programs and services aimed at helping people as they age.

Those booths will be open to the presentation participants in the morning and then to the general public for free from noon to 2 p.m.

Dueck and Bergen stress this event is for families across the Pembina Valley, not just in Winkler.

"We're hoping the whole region will take advantage of this information that's available," Dueck says.

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

Corn & Apple parade returns

By Lorne Stelmach

The Corn and Apple Festival will be back in full this summer with the return of the one main feature that was missing last year.

The parade that has been touted as likely the largest in Manitoba will be part of the festival once again in 2023.

"Last year was the first festival in three years, and it was a huge success. It was right in line with our record attendance ... by any metric, it was a smashing success," said executive director Tim Hodge. "Of course, the one thing that was a disappointment for us as the organizers and for attendees was that we weren't able to do a parade."

It was a case of simply not having the manpower and resources in place in 2022 to make the parade possible, Hodge said.

"It's a massive undertaking. It takes a lot of volunteer time," he said. "We ran the festival with quite a few less volunteers than normal, so something had to go, and unfortunately it was the parade."

The parade requires upwards of 40 volunteers to pull off and a lot of hours both in advance and the day of.

"It's no small undertaking," Hodge said. "It was almost three kilometres

long in 2019. Just finding the area to stage all of the entries before the parade is a challenge."

Ready to take on the challenge this year are new parade co-chairs Tammy Duncan and Tara Ritchie.

"One good way to recruit volunteers is to unfortunately cancel an event that people love, so we were very happy to have Tara and Tammy step up," said Hodge. "They contacted us literally days after the 2022 festival and said they would love to volunteer their time to organize the parade this year, and they've really hit the ground running. So we're all very thrilled to have the parade back"

Planning overall is moving ahead smoothly for the 2023 festival.

"It's the first time since 2019 that we've had a full year to prepare for the festival," Hodge noted. "We're just finishing up a few things, like our entertainment we're finalizing now."

"We so far have a good return in terms of our volunteer committee people, so we're starting in a stronger position than we were last year," he added, noting they are still looking for people to chair the artisan vendors and craft tents as well as the shuttle buses.

"We are still looking for volunteers,"

"IT'S A MASSIVE UNDERTAKING."

> IMMIGRATION, FROM PG. 3

"Through this program ... we get to now to influence the [occupation] classifications that are being looked at or considered for approval. That's a huge victory for us."

Manitoba Minister of Labour and Immigration Jon Reyes is confident this program will not only help Winkler-Stanley but could serve as a guide for other communities in the future.

"Part of my role as the minister for immigration is to ensure to streamline immigration, because there are labour needs across this province," he said. "I'm excited that we have this pilot program in place here ... I know it's going to be successful and we're going to want to use this as a template for other municipalities in the province."

Mayor Henry Siemens reflected that Winkler is very much a community built on immigration.

"The growth that we have here comes to a large degree from immigration," he said. "We've had a lot of successes in that. In the last sev-

eral years we've struggled hard to build a program that was going to continue to build on those successes."

He's pleased to have the RM of Stanley on board with this project. The municipality co-funds WSEDC with the City of Winkler, allowing the agency to hire the necessary staff to pursue this program's creation with provincial officials.

"None of that would have been possible without the RM of Stanley at the table," Siemens said.

"We're very excited to be part of this launch," said Stanley Reeve Ike Friesen.

"We know our businesses, in order for them to grow in our region, we need more immigrants, more people to come to this area," he said. "We're excited to see the new families coming to make this area their home."

Details about the Winkler Stanley Pilot Manitoba Immigration Initiative can be found online at wsedc.ca.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden Corn and Apple Festival parade didn't happen in 2022 due to a lack of organizers. It's back for 2023.

he said. "Anybody who is interested, whether you want to help plan an area of the festival or even if you just want to donate a couple hours of your

time during the festival ... we have a volunteer sign-up page on our website."

Learn more at cornandapple.com.

HISTORIC HELP for Manitoba Seniors

Budget 2023 provides more for seniors to strengthen home care, expand seniors' housing and enhance accessible transportation.

It creates new programs to fund hearing aids, insulin pumps and diabetes glucose monitors and dedicates more to expanding and building new hospitals.

Budget 2023

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Love at the end of the rainbow

As a single mother without a lot of friends, my mum would often chat with us like peers to get some semblance of normal human interaction.

On one such occasion when I was about eight, she was sitting at the kitchen table with a coffee and cigarette when she began such a casual conversation:

"You know your uncle is gay?"

I did not.

The uncle in question was my step-father's identical twin. I continued to listen.

"Gay means he loved men instead of women," she continued. This did not remotely fluster me; she presented it as if it were the most non-controversial, normal thing in the world, and so I accepted it as such.

"He used to dress in drag," she said. "Like a woman."

The conversation got more interesting to me as it went on. I was always a good audience for mum. She would talk and talk and I would listen and occasionally nod.

"He and his friends were all gay and they all dressed like women," she said. "He was so beautiful. I lived with him and his friends for a while in Toronto and he taught me how to do my makeup properly."

She smiled as she spoke and for a few moments was looking off in the distance as if remembering.



By Peter Cantelon

"Your uncle is one of the nicest, kindest people I ever met. I always felt safe with him and his friends," she finished. And that was that. It was the end of the conversation.

This was my introduction to the LGBTQ2S+ community. An uncle who I never met and never would. He moved to the United States and passed away a few years ago.

Since then, more family and friends from the LGBTQ2S+ community have come into my life, and each has enriched it.

I have talked to a lot of people over the years about their perspectives when it comes to this community and one thing has become crystal clear: being in a genuine, loving relationship with a person makes all the difference in the world.

I talked to an Anglican minister and theological scholar who was staunchly against homosexuality until he found out his son was gay. When this happened he dug deeper into his faith and became a leading supporter of the community.

I have talked to other ministers who have gone so far as to suggest the death penalty would not be inappropriate for members of this community should the government choose to im-

plement it.

It is shocking to me how far people will go to suggest their hateful, bigoted language and actions are actually "love" and try to protect it by calling it free speech.

I have had the privilege of being able to attend several Pride events and a couple of drag shows so far and I have never experienced more love, joy, compassion, acceptance, hope and positivity ANYWHERE else than at one of these.

I think this was what my mum was recalling when she talked about my uncle. As a woman who had been subjected to pain in ways that most people could never imagine, her time with my uncle and his friends shone out like a bright beacon in comparison to the drab, judgemental, hurtful world that most often weighed in on her and others.

I would choose this bright, kind, non-judgemental, loving LGBTQ2S+ community over the darkness of people who carry the heavy chains of mockery, derision, hate, and judgement every time.

For those who may be struggling with their identity, feeling isolated,

Continued on page 7

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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View the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

Petition sent to SCRL board

By Lorne Stelmach

The debate over books with perceived sexually inappropriate content in local libraries continued this week.

A petition featuring 1,796 signatures of residents from across the region came up as part the South Central Regional Library's March 20 board meeting.

Representatives had also wanted to speak to board members at the meeting, but their request was denied.

Nonetheless, a large crowd of supporters were on hand to try to take in the meeting, interspersed with a smaller number of counter protesters showing their support for the library board's previous decision on this matter.

Winkler's Karin Banman made the formal request that she and Christine Ronceray be allowed to address the board to present the petition, which outlines the group's dissatisfaction with the decision to keep sexually ex-

plicit books in the SCRL's children's and young adult collections.

In response to the refusal to allow them to speak to the board directly, Banman has sent a letter to Sport, Culture, and Heritage Minister Obby Khan about the situation, citing "deep concerns around a breakdown in the rights of the public to have a voice with our local South Central Regional Library board."

"The public will not stand by and watch as basic, democratic rights erode in our own community," Banman said in the letter, which she provided to the Voice via email. "We will attend this Monday's SCRL public board meeting. We will say what we need to with our presence."

Reached for comment ahead of the meeting, library board chairperson Chad Collins explained "after clarification, Ms. Banman indicated she would like to formally present the information she had already previously



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Supporters of a petition presented to the South Central Regional Library regarding sexually explicit content in its collection came out to the library's board of directors meeting Monday. The event also drew a few counter protesters showing support of the library's decision not to remove the materials in question.

supplied in writing. Ms Banman was informed her information would be included in the next board meeting as it was supplied to the board.

"SCRL has had communication from a legal counsel that has indicated they represent a group of concerned citizens of Manitoba," Collins noted. "At this time, the SCRL board has no further comment on the delegation."

Banman also declined to comment

other than to cite what was stated in the petition, which requests that all "juvenile books in all South Central Regional Libraries that display sexually explicit images, contain sexually explicit content or instruct on sexual touching, be removed from library stacks and from the online library system and that a policy be put in place

Continued on page 8

Letters

FACTS, NOT HYPERBOLE

The following is in response to last week's letter to the editor by Cassandra Schaeffer, citing her concerns about the recent drag brunch in Morden.

Outside of Mrs. Schaeffer offering opinions about an event she was not at, of particular concern were her thoughts on hate speech and current laws trying to restrict it.

Factually incorrect of course was her assertion that disagreeing with the LGBTQ/drag ideology constitutes hate speech, and that therefore, churches/Christians should be fearful of prosecution for holding to their convictions.

Hate speech is well-defined in law (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-46/page-42.html#doc-Cont>) and does not include simple disagreement, expressing an opin-

ion or theological conviction.

A special thank you to the editors of the Voice for correctly pointing out that the pastor in Calgary was not arrested for his LGBTQ views, but for violating legal statutes.

I would invite anyone who is able to provide readers with the referenced list of parents who have had their children removed solely because said parents are not in favour of LGBTQ ideology. Uncorroborated fear-mongering needs to be laid to rest.

I respect our enshrined right to difference of opinion on these matters. All would be best served if we work hard at presenting facts instead of resorting to hyperbole for effect.

Greg Costen,
Altona

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

fearful and alone, for those who want to help, it is important to remember this: love, compassion and acceptance in the form of genuine relationship will always be more attractive than any alternative, no matter how angry, loud, and forceful.

People naturally know what love is when they encounter it, not in words

thrown at them in anger and disgust but embodied by the relational actions of other people.

If you or a loved one is seeking a supportive community, consider reaching out to Pembina Valley Pride (pembinavalleypride.ca) or the Rainbow Resource Centre in Winnipeg (www.rainbowresourcecentre.org).



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Petition calls for books to be removed from SCRL collection

From Pg. 7

to ensure that sexually explicit materials and materials that contravene the Criminal Code of Canada, are not made available to children and youth in the future."

The petition alleges the library allows material that fits the description of child pornography to be available and lacks adequate protocols to ensure that parents can screen for any inappropriate sexual content.

In his statement to the *Voice*, Collins addressed the importance of these local facilities being public libraries.

"As such, we have to consider the needs and the wants of all the citizens that fund and utilize the resources available through the libraries," he said. "Diversity of all these resources is what keeps our patrons coming back and attracting new people."

"SCRL has a highly regarded collection development policy that has been well reviewed. It guides the content

within our libraries to meet the needs of all our patrons," Collins continued. "Patrons enjoy the right to choose the resources offered by our library, and they also have the right not to choose materials they do not agree with or feel are not appropriate for their individual values."

"All patrons have the ability to challenge materials as indicated within our book complaint review process. That includes the opportunity to appeal."

This issue was first brought up last fall by individuals who wanted books they deemed as inappropriate for children be removed from local libraries. A review of the books in question resulted in a decision to keep them on the shelves.

In recent months, delegations have appeared before the SCRL's seven

member municipalities, calling for councils to address the matter, potentially by pulling public funding for the library. Similar delegations spoke out again at the public budget meetings hosted by the Winkler and Stanley councils last week.

Thus far, statements from member municipalities and local officials have stressed the importance of the public library system to the community and emphasized that complaints about SCRL's collection materials need to go to the library board, which has followed its protocols in reviewing and responding to these complaints.

It has also been noted that the library board consulted legal counsel who advised them these books are not in violation of Canadian law. The delegation, meanwhile, say they have legal counsel stating otherwise.

"PATRONS ENJOY THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE RESOURCES OFFERED BY OUR LIBRARY, AND THEY ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT NOT TO CHOOSE MATERIALS THEY DO NOT AGREE WITH ..."

High-risk groups now eligible for spring COVID-19 booster shot

By Voice staff

Manitobans with the highest risk of negative COVID-19 outcomes are now able to get their spring bivalent booster shot.

Following recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, Manitoba Health last week announced the shot is available for adults aged 65 and older; Indigenous people age 45 and older, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, regardless of place of residence; residents of long-term care or assisted living facilities; and adults aged 18 and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.

They recommend people wait six

months between booster doses for the best immune response.

You should also wait six months between this shot and your last COVID-19 infection. At a minimum, you need to at least be recovered from the infection before this dose.

Eligible people are advised to discuss the timing of spring boosters with a health-care provider. This is because Manitoba Health is anticipating a fall 2023 COVID-19 booster campaign. Getting a dose in the spring could affect when an individual would be eligible to receive a booster dose in the fall.

Manitoba Health also continues to encourage people to get a COVID-19 booster dose if they did not receive

one as part of the fall 2022 booster campaign.

Vaccine appointments can be made at medical clinics, pharmacies, and many other locations by phone at 1-844-626-8222 or online at <https://patient.petal-health.com/login?groupId=6032>. Walk-in vacci-

nations are also available at many locations.

As of March 4, nearly 78 per cent of all Manitobans have received at least two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and about 20 per cent of Manitobans have had at least one dose of a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine.

St. Leon break-in leads to arrest

By Voice staff

A 28-year-old man is in custody after a police pursuit last week.

On the afternoon of March 16., Pembina Valley RCMP responded to a possible break-in at a residence on

Main Street in St. Leon.

While officers were en route they were advised the suspect had left in a black truck.

Officers located the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop, but the driver refused to stop and fled.

Police continued to patrol the area and found the vehicle stuck in deep snow near Road 54W and 11N. The male driver fled on foot.

After a search the suspect was located approximately two kilometers from the vehicle and arrested without incident. He was found to have several warrants from other provinces.

He has been charged with two counts of flight from police, two counts of possession of stolen property obtained by crime, resisting arrest, and three counts of failing to comply.

RCMP continue to investigate.

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arts&culture

MTYP brings 'Frozen River' to local schools

By Lorne Stelmach

A Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP) touring production that came to southern Manitoba this past week offered a timely message for students.

Frozen River explores such ideas as broken promises, reconciliation, and connection through a story that spans centuries. It had performances in Altona last Tuesday and in Morden Wednesday.

It offered Julia Davis—who is a Winnipeg Inuk singer, actress, and composer—a great opportunity to give back to MTYP, where she started theatre classes at a young age and then as a teenager was in their musical theatre company.

"This is my first professional touring production with them, so it's pretty cool. It's a pretty cool full circle moment after being involved with them for so many years," said Davis. "It's been really cool to be going all over the province."

Davis recently completed her second year of study with the Village Conservatory for Music Theatre, where she premiered her own piece, *Aqqaq* (Northern Lights), at the year-end showcase.

She also holds a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba and is actively involved in

theatre performances, competitions, and film projects around Winnipeg.

Davis is now part of *Frozen River* as it undertakes a 12-week tour across Manitoba before heading to Young People's Theatre in Toronto and ending the tour in northern Manitoba.

Come May, the show will have been performed over 180 times across the country. It is a story that draws on history, cooperation, traditional knowledge, and reconciliation.

Grandmother Moon tells the story of two 11-year-olds born under the same blood moon but in different parts of the world.

The play follows their stories as they meet in a forest and that of their descendants who meet in the present day in what is known as Manitoba. A broken promise from the past can be righted when there is finally an openness to learn from those who have protected and honoured the waterways for centuries.

Davis likes how the story makes the connections between the different timelines.

"It's about these two girls and their friendship and how they interact, and it's told in a really exciting way. They use puppets, there's some beautiful music, and the set is just gorgeous," she said. "It's a beautiful story that I think is accessible for all ages."

"The idea is about understanding each other's cultures and making promises that are intended to be kept and the repercussions that can come from breaking those promises and the hurt that can come from not being able to try to understand a culture that is different from your own."

"It's told in a way that the kids can understand," Davis continued. "The reception has been great so far. We do a little question and answer at the end, and it's been really neat to see what they've picked up from the play and the things that they remember and the messages that they received through the story."

"We do discuss the issues, such as the water on the reserves, how a lot of reserves today don't have access to clean water ... that's an important issue that arises in the play and in real



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

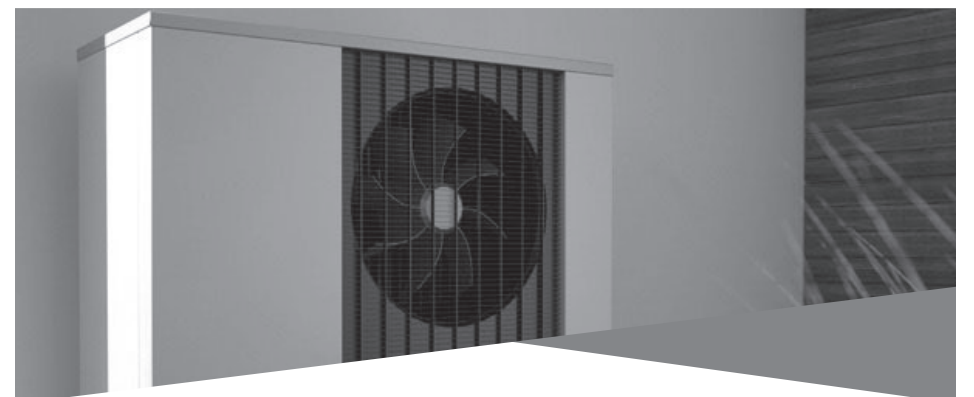
Manitoba Theatre for Young People were at schools in Morden and Altona last week to perform *Frozen River*, a play highlighting Canadian history, traditional knowledge, and reconciliation.

life.

"I hope it can really inspire them to keep having these conversations," Davis said in concluding with her thought on what she hopes students take away from the show.

"I think that the most interesting

part or the most unexpected part for me was how much the kids really pick up from the play and how they get it in a way you don't expect in kids that young ... they understand what goes wrong in the friendship and what could be done to fix the problems."



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EFFICIENCY MANITOBA



Lack of organizers cancels Morden Triathlon

By Lorne Stelmach

One of Morden's staple summer events is a no-go this year.

A lack of volunteer organizers means the Morden Triathlon will not take place this July.

"The triathlon club in Morden has seen fewer members return after the pandemic," said Heather Francis, who has been serving as race director. "I think that's not a problem unique to our triathlon club. I know many of them in Manitoba struggled this past year as well."

"At this point, we simply don't have enough members to make it feasible to organize and put on the Morden Triathlon this year."

The event has had a tumultuous few years, getting cancelled in 2018 due to a shortage of volunteers, returning in 2019, and then facing two more years of cancellations thanks to the pandemic.

The 2022 race was buoyed by serving as a qualifying event for the World Triathlon Multisport Championships taking place this year.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Too few people willing to take a leadership role in organizing the Morden Triathlon means the 2023 event has been cancelled.

The race lineup last year included a number of different triathlon and duathlon events as well as Kids of Steel races.

Francis said they felt good about the response in 2022, but they had to run the event shortstaffed.

"It went well last year but there were only as few of us doing a lot of the work, and it was a bit too much for

volunteers to take on.

"We always have great turnout for the race weekend. I don't think we've ever had a concern about having enough event volunteers, but what we are really lacking is the core volunteers who are committed and dedicated to the huge task of organizing each of the different functions that are necessary to make the weekend a suc-

cess."

Francis hopes to revive the local 3rd Wave Triathlon Club in the year ahead.

"We'll be looking to do some recruitment this year, but we just didn't have enough in place in time to ensure that the event would go well this year."

You can connect with 3rd Wave online at 3rdwavetriclub.com

ManSEA hosting sustainable energy conference April 4

By Lorne Stelmach

An upcoming conference in Morden will focus on the theme of energy independence for Manitoba.

The Manitoba Sustainable Energy Association (ManSEA) gathers April 4 at the Access Event Centre, and it will bring together leading experts,

innovative businesses, and government officials from across the province and beyond.

Discussions will explore sustainable energy solutions that could help Manitoba become more self-sufficient and less reliant on non-renewable resources.

"It really does effect everyone and

anyone ... it really does affect everyone from multi-million corporations right down to individual households," said Alexander Lavoie, ManSEA board member.

"Energy independence is not only important for our environment but also for our economy, so we are thrilled to be hosting this event to address these critical issues," he said. "We have a responsibility to future generations to ensure a sustainable and secure energy supply, and this conference is an excellent opportunity to encourage discussion and action toward that goal."

The mission of the association is to promote the sustainable development of Manitoba's energy resources. It believes that long-term prosperity and quality of life will be possible only if we transition from non-renewable to renewable energy throughout the province—a change it believes can create significant economic development opportunities.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to attend presentations and networking sessions and check out a variety of exhibitor displays.

Topics will include integrated resource planning processes, energy savings for businesses and residences, phosphorous and biochar production

from biomass, and renewable technology opportunities and challenges, among others.

"With the increased focus on environmental social governance from a variety of sectors, sustainable energy has certainly been an important piece of that," said Lavoie.

"There's a big focus on energy efficiency, making your house more sustainable," he added, noting for example the Manitoba Environmental Industries Association has an energy advisor program which can do individual energy audits for households. "And there are some programs and grants available out there, especially through Efficiency Manitoba, which a lot of people don't realize can help them save money."

"We really are hoping for individuals to educate themselves a little more on energy efficiency and the ways that we can achieve it," said Lavoie. "The other piece is to find opportunities to save money by looking at the different options with organizations and businesses that are located in Manitoba."

For more information or to register (early bird discount deadline is March 24), head to www.mansea.com.

A promotional image for a scenic flight tour. It shows a group of five people (three women and two men) smiling and posing in front of a small, white, single-engine propeller plane. The plane has the registration 'C-GHXS' on its side. The background is a bright, sunny sky. The text 'Scenic Flight Tour' is written in large, bold, red letters at the top. At the bottom, there is a red banner with the price '\$119 FOR A 3 PERSON FLIGHT TOUR' and the text 'Book Today!'. The logo for 'LS AIRWAYS FLIGHT ACADEMY' is also visible at the bottom right.

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getinformed

Winkler Community Fdn. reports on banner year

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was a banner year for the Winkler Community Foundation thanks to the generosity of the community.

"We had a really wonderful year. We had so many reasons to celebrate," said board president Corey Hildebrand at the foundation's annual general meeting Monday. "We had a really great Pay It Forward May. We heard a lot of wonderful things from our Gordon Wiebe Scholarship winners. We had our first ever cider and wine pairing event, which was a huge success."

On the giving front, the foundation was able to grant out nearly \$183,000 in 2022, including \$85,000 from the Gordon Wiebe Scholarship Fund and \$26,033 from the Community Fund.

Meanwhile, the community supported the foundation in turn in a big way.

"About three years ago we set a goal as a board of directors to reach a \$1 million community fund balance,"

Hildebrand said.

While the foundation oversees several endowment funds that issue grants in support of various causes each year, the community endowment fund is its general fund from which a wide variety of projects receive funding.

In 2022, that fund reached the \$1 million goal two years earlier than expected.

"We had our Giving Challenge this year which actually brought in \$182,000 in one week," Hildebrand said. "We were actually the top foundation in all of Manitoba during the Giving Challenge. It allowed us to reach our goal."

"It's a massive success for Winkler and says so much to the generosity of the community," he said, noting the board has not yet set a new goal for the fund but they remain committed to finding ways to continue to grow it.

"It is one of the greatest opportunities we have as a foundation to grant dollars into our community. The more



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Winkler Community Foundation board chair Corey Hildebrand with outgoing board members Justin Funk and Rob Unruh, whose nine and six-year terms with the foundation came to an end at the AGM on Monday.

money we raise, the more we can grant, so we're never going to stop trying to grow that community fund."

At the AGM, the foundation board bid farewell to two long-time members: treasurer Justin Funk and secretary Rob Unruh stepped down after nine and six years of dedicated service, respectively.

Executive director Myra Peters

thanked the pair for their "commitment in building a strong and prosperous foundation. Thank you for bringing your passion, intellect, insight, experience and vision to the table."

Joining the board to fill the vacant spaces are Chad Harder and Tena Lane.

> AFFORDABLE HOUSING, FROM PG. 2

strategic actions to get on top of these issues and address emergent affordable housing needs in the community."

The report shares what Manitoba Housing currently puts out as benchmarks for what is considered affordable housing.

The rates for rentals (rent including heat, water and sewer) are \$512 for a studio, \$701 for a one-bedroom, \$859 for a two-bedroom, \$1,097 for three bedrooms, and \$1,240 for a four-plus bedroom apartment.

The benchmarks for affordable home ownership include what it identifies as a median household income of \$71,500: monthly payments of \$1,787.50 and a home purchase price of \$191,552.

The report sets out four key strategic directions:

- Ensure protection of existing affordable housing supply.
- Increase the supply of affordable dwellings with easy access to downtown, community amenities, and major employment areas by 20 per cent by 2046—an increase of 331 dwellings for a total of 1,984.
- Increase the supply of affordable dwellings for smaller households (studios and one bedrooms) from nine per cent of all dwellings to 12 per cent—

an increase of 475 for a total of 850 dwellings.

- Elevate the community's role in affordable housing delivery.

The strategy goes on to lay out three key areas of action:

- Local leadership: Facilitate community collaboration; promote and advocate for government funding; explore a community ownership model.
- Planning, policy and development: Identify potential locations for new affordable housing development; amend the zoning bylaw; wastewater treatment system upgrades.
- Enhanced development supports: Create a suite of targeted development incentives; reduce development application fees and timelines for affordable housing proposals; offer temporary property tax reductions; evaluate the results of the first-time home buyers assistance program; develop a surplus land strategy.

Burley observed that it was especially interesting to see what the province identifies as being affordable, noting that there is little available here now at that level.

"There is work to be done probably on the assisted side of things ... what we're excited about as council is that it provides us with a variety of tools

that we can start implementing ... to start providing more affordable housing to the community.

"My belief is that over time we will develop a tool chest that we can use and we can review the progress that we're making and compare our perceptions to reality," Burley said. "It is definitely a great exercise ... and the extensive report that council received provided a significant amount of substantiation for the ideas that they put forward."

"We see some opportunity. There's obviously the existing portfolio owned by Manitoba Housing that presents a potential opportunity," noted Janzen. "We see just the benefits of the culture and community within Morden to take a community-based approach to support a broader affordable housing initiative."

"I think there's some big opportunities," agreed fellow consultant Michael Blatz. "There's also little things that the city can do quickly. There's the zoning amendment changes; there's waving development fees. Those can be done I think more quickly, so they can be thinking about long term and short term of how to get housing to be more affordable."

Shoppers supports Genesis House

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Shoppers Drug Mart staff present-

ed the Genesis House women's shelter with the proceeds of the Winkler store's "Love You" fundraising cam-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Shoppers Drug Mart staff presented Ang Braun of Genesis House with a donation of \$1,573 Friday from last fall's "Love You" fundraising campaign.

paigned last week.

Over four weeks last fall, customers were invited to give at the till in support of the regional shelter for the victims of domestic violence.

The campaign raised \$1,573.

Store owner Zahid Zehri noted donations were down somewhat, but the funds are just one part of the goal of the campaign—it also serves as a powerful awareness-raising tool.

"We have been partnered with Genesis House for many years and this partnership every year is growing stronger and stronger and more people are becoming more aware of the services Genesis House provides," he said. "It's definitely a promotional platform for them."

Zehri lauded his staff for really rallying behind the fundraiser.

"They never slow down or get discouraged," he said. "Even every 'no' to the question of donating we don't say is a no, we say it's a 'not yet' ... people remember and they come back and they do donate."

"Thank you very much from the bot-

tom of my heart, on behalf of my team, for donating," he said to everyone who supported the campaign. "Also thank you to people who thought about donating but could not—they'll definitely get another chance next year for as long as Shoppers is here."

Genesis House executive director Ang Braun said every single dollar helps the shelter cover rising costs.

"Inflation has been crazy. All of our expenses are up," she said, noting they're spending nearly double what they used to on food, for example. Shoppers Drug Mart has also been helping the shelter out on that front.

"Shoppers is also a food rescue location, so if they have things that are coming off the shelf—whether it's because of change in packaging or it's something getting close to the best by date—they let us know and we come and collect that," Braun said, sharing this new program has already resulted in thousands of dollars worth of food being reclaimed for use at the shelter in recent months. "That has been fantastic."

Stanley budget boosts spending by 10 per cent

By Lorne Stelmach

The RM of Stanley is boosting spending by over 10 per cent this year as part of a budget that will have a varying tax impact on residents.

The financial plan is a result of trying to keep pace at a time when the municipality is also facing a number of significant capital projects, deputy reeve Peter Froese said after the budget received first reading at council's March 16 meeting.

"We are trying to meet the demands ... it's hard to cut back on areas that you've been planning to move forward on," said Froese, who also chairs the finance committee.

One key factor behind the budget is it is supported by overall growth in assessment, which increased by just under 15 per cent to over \$756 million, but it is also unfortunately having more of an impact on the agricultural sector.

"Taxes are based on assessment, and our assessment has increased mostly on the farmland, so the farmers are going to see most of this hit this year," said Froese. "It's hard to soften the blow ... and when you see these inflationary increases ... I feel at this point this is a fair budget, but it was a hard budget."

The total operational budget increases by 10.8 per cent to \$7,043,723—a rise of \$688,624.

Revenues are seeing a shift of four per cent from the tax levy to other sources, although 72 per cent or just

over \$6.8 million still comes through the tax levy while 28 per cent or almost \$2.6 million comes through other revenue, including government funding.

The tax revenue overall increases by 7.3 per cent with agriculture accounting for just under \$2.7 million, residential for about \$2.9 million, commercial represents about \$1.1 million, and the remainder from institutional support.

The municipal mill rate decreases from 8.904 to 8.319, and the impact on municipal taxes, depending on assessment, will vary:

- Residential property assessed at \$276,200 with an 8.2 per cent increase—a one per cent tax increase to \$1,034.
- Residential property assessed at \$338,600 with a 4.2 per cent increase—a 2.6 per cent tax decrease to \$1,268.
- Farmland of 40 acres assessed at \$465,000 with a 23 per cent increase—a 15.1 per cent tax increase to \$1,006.
- Farmland of 160 acres assessed at \$1.7 million with a 21.2 per cent increase—a 13.2 per cent tax increase to \$3,765.
- Commercial property assessed at \$866,600 with a 13.5 per cent increase—a 6.2 per cent tax increase to \$4,686.
- Commercial property assessed at \$3.9 million with a 2.4 per cent increase—a tax decrease of 4.3 per cent to \$21,278.

From those tax dollars, the budget applies 38 per cent to transportation services and 15 per cent to reserve funds as well as 12 per cent to both general government services and fiscal services. The breakdown from there is seven per cent for protective services, five per cent to both recreation and culture and to planning and engineering, and lesser amounts to environmental services, health and welfare services, and economic development services.

Here is a look at how the spending breaks down:

- Transportation services: a 15 per cent increase to over \$3.6 million. This includes all of the key services like road work and maintenance.
- General government services: a 4.1 per cent increase to over \$1.2 million. This includes such things as the staff salaries and benefits.
- Protective services: an 8.4 per cent increase to \$723,151 to pay for policing and fire protection.
- Recreation and culture: a 14.9 per cent increase to \$472,664. This includes contributions towards services and facilities provided by Winkler and Morden.
- Planning and engineering: a 5.5 per cent increase to \$449,398.
- Health and welfare services: a 13.7 per cent increase to \$186,866. It includes contributions towards health care services in both Morden and Winkler.
- Environmental services: a 5.7 per cent increase to \$182,743. This in-

cludes costs related to waste and recycling.

- Economic development: an 11.1 per cent decrease to \$158,100.

Froese suggested the budget does a fair job of addressing the day-to-day challenges of maintaining the roads and infrastructure of the municipality.

"The inflationary costs that we have seen over the last year, it's been a challenge to try and keep the budget in line," he added. "The fuel costs, the salaries have increased; the protective services and also our contribution to recreation in the area to Winkler and Morden now ... so that's a steady incline."

As well, there are a number of big ticket items which they need to budget and prepare for, he added.

"We're working on a lot of big projects like wastewater, our corridor reservoir. We're also talking corridor sewer piping to the new treatment plant that's being proposed. There's also things like the possible corridor pathway between Winkler and Morden."

"One other thing that we're maybe going to have to pay attention to is our asset management in the future as to being able to address the replacements in the future as well," Froese added. "We've also done a projection moving forward, not just for this year only, but we've done a ten year projection kind of thing now to see where we are going to be in the future as

Continued on page 13



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Fire and Rescue put on another successful three-on-three pond hockey tournament Saturday at Lake Minnewasta. There were 28 teams in the youth, non-competitive, and competitive divisions. The day raised an estimated \$5,000 for the Morden firefighter wellness project and the burn unit at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg. "We are happy with the response," said Chief Andy Thiessen. "We had room for a few more teams, but we were close to full."



Pond tourney raises \$5K

> WINKLER BUDGET, FROM PG. 2

On the other side of the equation, 18 per cent of the \$22 million operating budget goes to local police, 17 per cent is being transferred to reserves, 14 per cent is for recreation/culture, 12 per cent is for transportation, 12 per cent is for fiscal services, 11 per cent covers administration costs, four per cent each goes for waste disposal and fire services, and three per cent each goes for economic and planning services.

When it comes to that 17 per cent going into Winkler's reserve fund, Siemens stressed the budget is about more than just ensuring the city is able to run smoothly today.

City staff have been working hard on a detailed asset management plan that outlines exactly how much it's going to cost in the decades ahead to replace vital infrastructure like roads, public buildings, water and wastewater systems, and emergency equipment.

That plan is making it very clear how important it is to put money away for the future, Siemens said.

"As we get deeper and deeper into our asset management plan, we're finding that there is a bit of a deficit," he said. The infrastructure replacement value for Winkler is currently over \$356 million. "That deficit we want to try to come up from in a way that is fair and reasonable but that also leaves our city placed to be sustainable long-term so that our children and grandchildren are not going to have to pay for things that we haven't fully funded.

"We have a growing community, it has some amenities that we all want, but at some point in time all of the things that we do are going to need to be maintained or are going to wear out and need to be replaced.

"We want to put ourselves in a position that, when that comes, whoever is at the table at that time is able to do so because we've funded reserves to allow that to happen."

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

When council opened the floor to questions from the public, Winklerite Karin Banman was among those who stepped up to the mic on behalf of a delegation seeking to see books it views as child pornography removed from the collection of the South Central Regional Library, which has branches in Winkler, Morden, Altona, Miami, and Manitou. These include books in the children's and young adult sections, available either in person or digitally.

"How does this council justify spending taxpayer dollars that they know are being used to create an unsafe environment for our community?" Banman asked. "Why does council continue to fund the South Central Regional Library, which continues to purchase and distribute materials that contain child pornography and that instruct on sexual touching for minors?"

Mayor Siemens advised Banman that the library board has retained legal counsel that contradicts the asser-

tion the books in question run afoul of the Criminal Code of Canada (the delegation, in turn, asserts it has legal counsel that says otherwise) and noted their concerns about the library's collection need to be made to the SCRL board, which has jurisdiction over these matters.

He further noted that if the delegation feels these books are criminal, they should contact local police (fellow delegate David Wall said they have done that and are awaiting the result of the investigation).

The delegation noted it has a petition of 1,796 signatures of residents in the SCRL service area asking that sexually explicit juvenile books be removed from the library's collection and a policy be put in place to ensure they not be made available to children and youth in the future. Failing that, they're asking for a public hearing on the matter.

Siemens explained that the City of Winkler, under the Public Libraries Act, is legally obligated to fund the

local library.

"We're required by law to continue to fund that library until such a time as we vote to basically reverse engineer the creation of the library," he said.

Asked after the meeting why the City of Winkler has not yet issued a formal response to this group, which appeared before council in December on this matter, Siemens said they are working on it.

"We've been doing a bunch of work behind the scenes to try to make sure that we fully grasp what the concern is and what the options are with regard to that concern," he said, stressing a response will be released in the weeks ahead. "It's just a matter of making sure that all of council has all of the information."

Representatives of this same group also appeared at the RM of Stanley budget meeting last week and the SCRL library board meeting on Monday (see story on Pg. 7).

> STANLEY, FROM PG. 12

well and if we're going to be keeping up."

The financial plan presentation ended with questions from the public that saw a delegation of people wanting to know why Stanley continues to fund the South Central Regional Library when it has what they feel are books that includes child pornography on the shelves. This same group presented at Win-

kler city council last week (see story above) and made an appearance at the SCRL board meeting Monday night (see Pg. 7).

Stanley council had previously issued a response to this group stressing the importance of the public library to the community and explaining book complaints such as this are decided on by the SCRL board of directors.

sports & recreation

Zodiacs win provincial basketball championship

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Garden Valley Zodiacs varsity boys basketball team wrapped up an already stellar season with a provincial win.

The Zodiacs captured the 2023 MHSAA Varsity Boys Basketball Provincial Championship in Thompson last weekend.

The team made short work of Leo-Remillard with an opening round win of 100-66.

They went on to down top-ranked Neelin 93-70 and then beat the Nelson McIntyre Torchbearers in the final.

"The final game was a low scoring affair between two excellent defensive teams," shared assistant coach Walter Giesbrecht. "The game was tight the whole way, but the Zodiacs were able to pull away at the end for a 61-51 victory, seeing the Zodiacs win the fourth varsity boys basketball championship in school history."

Dante Dyck was named a Tour-

namment All-star after averaging 17 points and 13 assists per game. In the final, he either scored or assisted on 53 of GVC's 61 points.

Sam Bergen was named Tournament MVP after averaging 29 points and 13 rebounds per game.

Giesbrecht also singled out a few other players.

"Ethan Wiebe was dominant inside all weekend, averaging 16 rebounds and six blocks per game," he said. "Jesse Vandenberg was a beast on defense and knocked down big shots, while Caleb Hildebrand provided excellent defense and floor spacing."

Winning provincials caps off a strong season for the Zodiacs, who finished with an 8-0 record in their league and then won the Zone 4 championship. Including the provincials, the team's record was 28-5 this season.

"This was a great group to work with. There was excellent team camaraderie," Giesbrecht said. "We knew



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The GVC varsity boys basketball team are the AAA Boys Basketball Champions.

going into the season that we had a chance to be pretty good, but you still have to go out there and do the work.

"There were a few moments of adversity during the season where a team could either fall apart a little

or come together and improve, and to the guys' credit, we came together, got better, and put in the work required to become champions."

Flyers finish season in third, face Pistons in playoffs

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers wrapped up their last week in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League regular season with two wins and a loss.

In a preview of the playoffs to come, the Flyers faced the Steinbach Pistons on Wednesday. The Pistons won it 2-1.

Daniel Isaak got Winkler's lone goal late in the first period while the Pistons tied it up in the second and then got the game-winner midway through the third. Malachi Klassen made 39 saves in net as the Pistons outshot Winkler 41-32.

The Flyers bounced back with a 3-2 overtime win Saturday night at home against the Dauphin Kings.

Dalton Andrew drew first blood a few minutes in and Carter Dittmer tied the game at 2-2 early in the third to force overtime. There, Trent Sambrook scored for the win.

Klassen made 31 saves in net this game off 33 shots on goal. His teammates had 52 shots.

In the final game of the season Sunday, Winkler dropped the Niverville Nighthawks 6-4.

Goal scorers included Andrew (with two), Gavin Waltz, Mike Svenson, Lucas Ens, and Carter Dittmer. Aidan Comeau was in net this game and made 18 saves as Winkler outshot Niverville 28-22.

With that, Winkler's record for the season is 35-16-5-1 for 77 points, which puts them behind the Portage Terriers (90 points and the regular season champs) in first place and

the Steinbach Pistons (85 points) in second in the MGEU East Division standings. Rounding out the top four and also making the cut for playoffs are the Niverville Nighthawks (56 points).

In the MGEU West Division, the Swan Valley Stampeders took first place followed by the OCN Blizzard, Virden Oil Capitals, and the Dauphin Kings.

The East Division playoffs get underway this weekend with the Nighthawks taking on the Terriers and the Flyers battling the Pistons.

Winkler heads to Steinbach for game one Friday followed by game two in Winkler Saturday. Games three and four are next week Tuesday (in Steinbach) and Wednesday (in Winkler).

SEMHL champion will be decided this week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Ste Anne finally pulled off a win in the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League championship finals last week.

The Aces took game four in front of a hometown crowd Sunday afternoon, following three straight wins by the Morden Bombers.

Morden did what it could to keep up in Sunday's game, with Tyler Peers getting the Bombers on the board midway through the second period and then Mike Rey scoring twice in

the last five minutes to tie the game at 3-3 before the Aces scored a power-play goal to re-take the lead 4-3 heading into the last intermission.

Rey scored his third goal of the night early in the final period, but it wasn't enough to catch up. Ste. Anne added two more to win their first game of the series 6-4.

Reed Peters guarded Morden's net and made 28 saves off the 34 shots he faced. Morden had 31 shots on goal.

The loss was certainly a far cry from the Bombers' efforts a few nights ear-

lier in game three, which they took 9-3.

The lengthy list of goal scorers included a hat-trick from Jaden Townsend, two from both Jory Mullen and Rey, and singles from Jay Fehr and Tyler Peers.

Peters made 49 saves in net.

Morden led the best-of-seven series three games to one heading into game five Tuesday night in Morden. If needed, game six is back in Ste. Anne Wednesday night and game seven is in Morden Saturday.

Thunder win Zone 4 championship

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Thunder are the Zone 4 high school hockey champions after completing a two game sweep of the Portage Trojans.

The Thunder won the best of three series with a 6-4 victory in game one in Portage March 6 and then wrapped it up with a 2-1 win in game two in Morden last Thursday.

Acoyen Fehr scored both Morden goals including a shorthanded marker in the first period and the winning goal at 12:01 of the third.

It was a fitting end to a season that saw Portage and Morden finish atop the standings with 20-4 regular season records, though Portage got first on the tie-breaking rules.

"They're a tough team to play against," said Thunder head coach Ryan Merasty. "On paper and stat-wise, everything was literally neck and neck. It was similar all across the board ... we maybe just had a little more depth."

Merasty thought there was a key factor that led to the team's success this year overall and particularly in the playoffs.

"The biggest thing was the team played as an entire team ... it was awesome to watch the entire team play as a team," he said.

"There wasn't a player who didn't play their position. There wasn't a player who didn't buy into the systems. It was a collaborative effort," Merasty continued. "There wasn't any individualism ... it was really one hundred per cent buy-in as a team."

The team was also led by a solid core of seven veteran Gr. 12 players along with a number of other returning players.

"They knew what to expect and were able to mentor and guide the younger players as well," said Merasty. "I've never seen a team be so cohesive."

He also noted that the Thunder very much fed off the support from their fans this season.

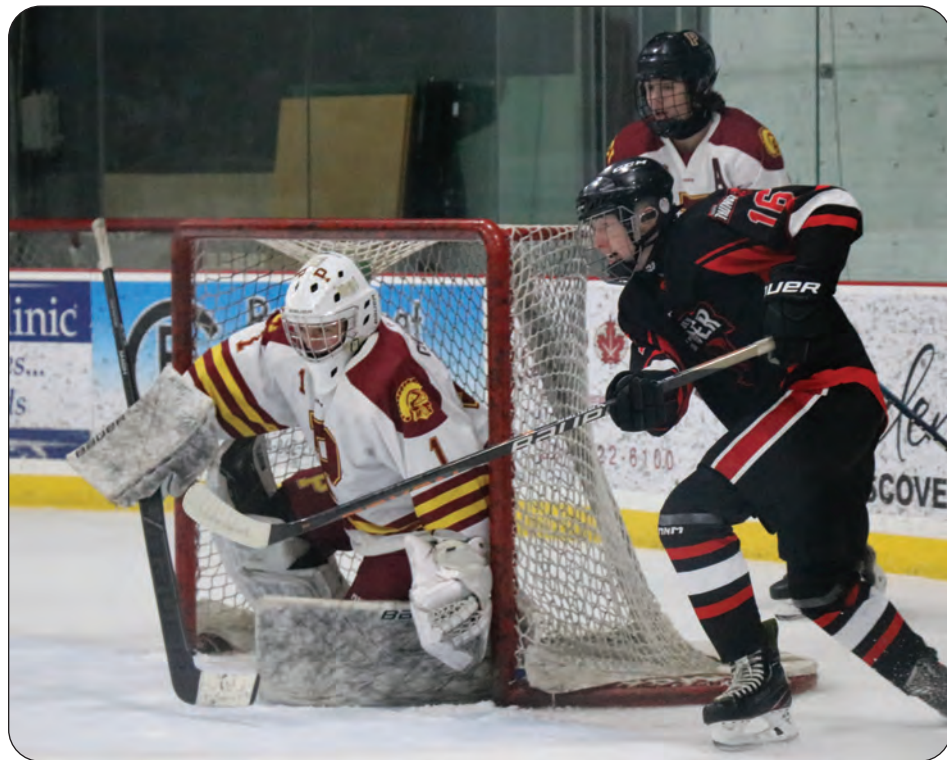


PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Thunder won the Zone 4 high school hockey championship last week with a 2-1 game two win Thursday night against the Portage Trojans, following up on their 6-4 game one victory.

"The community support has been absolutely phenomenal," he said. "It was a packed rink ... there have been tonnes of fans there ... people were dressed up ... and old players from the past who came from Winnipeg even on bad roads. I coached last year, and we had some players from last year's team show up as well."

Merasty now sees good potential for the team next year.

"We have a small core of players who are returning. Our defensive core doesn't get touched at all ... there's obviously some holes to fill ... but I think we'll have a good group for next year as well."

Legion bonspiel winners



SUBMITTED PHOTO.

The Morden Legion Bonspiel took place recently at the Morden Curling Club. The foursome of skip Owen Storey, third Thomas Titchkosky, second Rylan Didkowski, and lead Meghan Sandercock took home the top honours in the long-running community competition.

MANITOBA

School Boards

ASSOCIATION

On March 16th - 17th, 2023 the Manitoba School Boards Association recognized some of Manitoba's outstanding students, long-serving trustees and exceptional leaders.

Congratulations to

Betty Peters

from Western School Division on receiving the 2023 Presidents' Council Award.

PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL AWARD

This award recognizes Betty's significant contribution to public education in the areas of direct service to students, leadership at all levels within the education system, and community service and support to public education.

MSBA also wishes to congratulate the following individual students and student groups from across Manitoba on winning Student Citizenship Awards in recognition of exemplary citizenship in school and community.

2023 Student Citizenship Awards

Award Recipients (Grades 9-12 Individual)

Talia Iwanchysko, Mountain View SD
 Brooklyn Piasta, Red River Valley SD
 Mitchell Baker, Evergreen SD
 Darasimi Oluboye, School District of Mystery Lake
 Justine Rory Ramos, Seven Oaks SD
 Cynthia Tran, Winnipeg SD

Award Recipient (Grades K-8 Individual)

Yafa Ennabzki, Winnipeg SD

Award Recipient (Grades 9-12 Group)

Student Trustee Board, Seine River SD
 (Collège St. Norbert Collegiate/Collège Lorette Collegiate/ Ste. Anne Collegiate)

Award Recipient (Grades K-8 Group)

Team 17, École River Heights School, Winnipeg SD

For more information about the 2023 Annual Convention and Awards, visit www.mbschoolboards.ca or follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @MBSchoolboards



PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

The Zone 4 high school hockey league played its all-star game Saturday in Altona. The team faced off against the Winnipeg Elite, who won it 7-0. Representing our region were forwards Alex Van Deynze (PCI), JJ Oke (PCI), Owen Vanrobaeys (Morden), Josh Ryckman-Guilford (Morden), Rylan Keck (Morris), Awstin Suwala (Morris), Ty Tarnick (WC Miller), Tanner Anderson (Pembina), Brayden Froese (GVC), Ryan Orchard (Carman), Brett Lesage (Mountain), and Noah Bergen (NPC); defencemen Maddox Shindle (PCI), Nick Wiebe (Morden), Noah Maynard (Morris), Xander Dyck (WC Miller), James Young (Pembina), and Hudson Friesen (GVC); and goaltenders Logan Mazinke (Morris) and Rowan Cherkas (PCI).

End of the line for male Pembina Valley Hawks

By Lorne Stelmach

The season came to a crashing halt for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

The third place Hawks fell 7-2 Saturday to the second ranked Winnipeg Bruins, who took the best of five semi-final series in three straight games.

Game three in Winnipeg went awry in the opening frame for the Hawks as they fell behind 4-1 and then trailed 5-2 after 40 minutes.

Kam Thomas and Carter Campbell scored for Pembina Valley, while Raiden LeGall made 28 saves with the Bruins holding a 39-23 edge in shots on goal.

The series had the potential to be close, as the two teams had split their regular season series with two close wins each. The Bruins and the Hawks in the end were separated by just a single point in the regular season standings.

It became a different story, though, in this series as the Bruins took the opening two games with a pair of 4-0 and 7-0 shutouts.

"We went in there as an underdog, and we needed a lot of things to go right early to them feeling the pressure ... it actually went the other way around, and they got off to a good start," said Hawks head coach Dorian Miller.

"Credit to them, they're just a really good team out of the whole league,

that's the match-up that gave us the most problems ... we were always on our heels against them."

The Bruins will now face either the Brandon Wheat Kings or the Winnipeg Wild in the finals. The decisive game five for that series took place Tuesday night.

Miller takes pride in what the Hawks accomplished this year in what they had thought would be a bit of a re-

building season.

"I couldn't be happier ... the hope was to fight for a playoff spot and see what happens," he said.

"The boys became such a close knit group, such a fun group ... and they improved, so being in the final four is a great season for them," Miller said. "I have nothing but praise for the team and how they handled the year and improved and bought in and

stuck together."

As always, they will now lose some players as they age out of the program, but Miller thinks there are good prospects for next season.

"There could be a solid group back. Age-wise, I think we only lose five guys, but there's probably two or three guys who will move on to junior A," he said. "It's still a good nucleus that is eligible to come back."

Twisters to face Hawks in quarter-finals

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters will be aiming to take down the Charleswood Hawks in the MMJHL quarter-finals.

The best of seven series gets underway this week between the third place Hawks and sixth place Twisters.

Pembina Valley came into the series as the underdogs with the Twisters losing four of the five regular season games. Charleswood finished at 27-13-3-2 for 59 points. Pembina Valley was 22-17-3-3 for 50 points.

The Twisters closed out the regular season with a 5-3 loss to Transcona

Friday and then earning a 6-4 victory over the Raiders Saturday.

Two goals within about two minutes of the third period by Transcona broke open what had been a 3-3 game early in the final frame.

Merek Degraeve, Mike Heppner, and Zander Carels scored for Pembina Valley while Logan Enns made 22 saves as the Twisters won the shot battle 30-27.

The Twisters trailed 4-2 early in the third against the Raiders before firing home four unanswered goals.

Caelen Russell had a pair while singles came in from Degraeve, Jonathan

Dyck, Slade Sotheran, and Kyle Van-Denye.

Shots on goal were 38-27 for the Twisters with Matt Grysiuk getting the win in net with 23 saves.

The quarter-final kicked off Tuesday night. Results were not available at press time.

The series continues with game two Thursday, game three Saturday, and game four Sunday.

The other quarter-finals have St. James facing St. Boniface, River East against Transcona, and St. Vital taking on Fort Garry Fort Rouge.

The **Voice**

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Pembina Valley wrestlers win big at provincials

By Ashleigh viveiros

The Pembina Valley Wrestling Club stood tall at the Provincial Wrestling Championship held in Winnipeg earlier this month.

Hosted by the Manitoba Amateur Wrestling Association (MAWA), the 2023 tournament took place at Canadian Mennonite University March 4.

Four members of the Pembina Valley club came home with hardware to show they're the best in the province. Brock Becker (Winkler), Jeff Morgan (Morden), Brady Hassle (Carman), and Katie McLachlan (Morris) all won gold in their respective weight categories.

It was Becker's second provincial win in a row.

"It felt really good," he said via email last week. "I was supposed to wrestle best two out of three to decide the championship, but my opponent was injured in our first match when I headlocked him so I didn't get to wrestle as much as I would have liked."

Contact sports have been a passion of Becker's since he was a kid.

"I've been wrestling on and off since around 2018, but I've been in combat sports since I was three," he said. "I've really gotten into wrestling though these past couple years."



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Clockwise from left: Jeff Morgan (far right), Brock Becker, Brady Hassle (far right), and Katie McLachlan (centre) won gold for the Pembina Valley Wrestling Club at the Provincial Wrestling Championship March 4.



"I like that it's independent. I don't have to rely on anybody else to win, and when I mess up I know it's my fault and I can work on it."

Becker's time on the mat includes representing Manitoba at the 2022 Summer Games, where he finished sixth in his weight group.

Becker's father Peter heads up both the local club as a coach (alongside Jake Sailer) and the MAWA as its president.

The pandemic put an end to the high school team in Winkler but gave rise to this new regional club, which had about a dozen elementary-age kids and eight high schoolers taking part this past season.

The elder Becker said he and Sailer are so proud of their four provincial champions, and of the hard work all the kids put in this season.

"We just started the club last year, so everybody was fairly new to it, with a few exceptions," he said.

The club practises twice a week in Carman throughout the fall and win-

ter. Some club members will also be competing in matches in the U.S. this spring and summer.

Wrestling is a unique sport in this area but one that has a lot of benefits for youth athletes, Becker said. It not only provides high-energy kids with a fun way to burn off some steam, but also fosters discipline, commitment, and good sportsmanship.

"It's a lot of self-discipline, because it's all you—if you lose, it's your fault. If you win, it's your fault. You can't blame anybody else. If you're not putting the time and effort into it you're going to get what you get out of it."

For more information on the club, reach out to Becker at 204-384-6508 or email pembinavalleywrestling@gmail.com.

Thunder athlete honoured

By Voice staff

A Morden Thunder player was named the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Dairy Farmers of Manitoba Athlete of the Week earlier this month.

Morden Collegiate's Josh Ryckman-Guilford received the honour March 8 after wracking up six goals and 12 points in four games as the Thunder went 4-0 in the first two rounds of the Zone 4 high school hockey playoffs.

Morden went on to beat the Portage Trojans in the championship finals last week.

"Josh is a versatile player who plays forward and defence while playing even strength and plays defence on the power play all the while accumulating zero penalty



Josh Ryckman-Guilford

minutes," athletic director Nicole Rutledge shares.

The Gr. 12 students also competes badminton, golf, and baseball for Morden while maintaining a 75 per cent academic average.



get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Chick Cheese Balls

crackers
carrots
whole black peppercorns
Using mixer, combine cream cheese, garlic powder, Worcestershire sauce and lemon juice. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Refrigerate mixture 1 hour.

Using fingers, form about 1 tablespoon of cream cheese mixture at a time into balls. Refrigerate 30 minutes on small baking sheet.

Before serving, roll each ball into shredded cheddar cheese to cover. Place each ball on round cracker.

Cut small triangles from carrots for beaks and feet. Press carrots onto cheese balls. Add peppercorns for eyes.

Recipe adapted from Hallmark.com
Yield: 10 chicks
1 package cream cheese
1/4 tablespoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 lemon, juice only
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
1 cup finely shredded cheddar cheese



Carrot Utensils

Orange napkins
green plastic silverware
green ribbon

Lay napkins flat on table. Place one of each utensil in napkin facing top corner. Wrap napkin around utensils. Tie ribbon around middle of napkin. Place in bowl or basket on table.



Chipotle Chicken Flatbread

2 tablespoons cilantro leaves, chopped
Preheat oven to 375 F.

Place parchment paper on baking sheet and add flatbreads. Sprinkle cheese on flatbreads. Top with garlic, chicken and tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bake 16 minutes until cheese is melted.

In small bowl, mix ranch and chipotle seasoning.

Drizzle ranch dressing on flatbread and sprinkle with cilantro leaves.

Adapted from butteryourbiscuit.com
2 flatbreads
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1 clove garlic, diced
4 chicken tenders, cooked and cubed
1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
1/2 cup ranch dressing
1 1/2 teaspoons chipotle seasoning

Young adults living at home



Submitted by Gwen Randall

There was a time when it was common for young people to leave home once they turned eighteen. By the time children left home, parents were still in their early forties. The age of parenthood has increased over time, so now parents may be much older before their children go out on their own.

Increasingly, young adults are still living at home longer than in the past. This creates some dilemmas both for the parents and the adult child. Often boundaries become muddled, because there is still a parent-child relationship, only now all are adults.

Every situation is different; however, some general guidelines always apply. Although this may be tough to swallow, when you are living in your parent's home, your "adult" status in the outside world does not supersede your "child" status at home. Just because you are over eighteen does not give you special rights to break house rules.

What this means is that it is your parents' house, and they can make the rules. If you want to make the rules, you must get your own house! What you cannot do is to argue with them about how they want things to be in their own home, any more than you would want them to make rules once you live on your own.

Even if you are paying rent, it is

likely less than you would pay to rent your own place, so your parents are, in effect, subsidizing you. The fact that you pay rent does not mean they cannot set the rules.

Renting from parents is not the same as renting from a landlord. If you want the freedom to live as you like, it is time to become and independent adult. As long as you live in your parents' home, you are a still a dependent. A landlord would not feed you, pay for your utilities or let you borrow their car. Your furniture, Wi-Fi, and home insurance would not be covered by your landlord.

So, if parents want you in by a certain time so you are not waking them with your coming and going, you need to honor that. If they expect you to do certain chores, you need to contribute in that way as well. In fact, you should offer to help. If you are working full time, it would be nice to contribute something to the grocery budget. You should also make some of the meals.

Remember too, now that you are an adult your parents should be free of parent-child conflicts. They have undoubtedly worked hard all their lives and deserve to enjoy this time. I have seen too many adults, who, in their later life are consistently stressed by an adult child living at home. If they have generously allowed you to stay on, be thankful, and strive to make their lives easier, not harder.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and award-winning psychologist. For permission to reprint this article, or to obtain books, CDs or MP3s, visit www.gwen.ca. Follow Gwen on Facebook for inspiration.



Spring Table Centerpiece

Recipe adapted from Craftmorning.com

Jelly beans
chocolate coated candy eggs
marshmallow chicks
fresh or fake flowers
plastic or dyed eggs (optional)

Place medium bowl inside large dish. Pour jelly beans and chocolate coated candy eggs around bowl.

Add marshmallow chicks around dish on top of candies. Arrange fresh or fake flowers in center. Set on table as centerpiece. Place eggs around dish, if desired.

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SERVICES

Confidential, personal, Christian counseling, guidance by correspondence by mail: Christian Counseling, Box 39, Stonewall, MB. R0C 2Z0.

FOR RENT

Suite rental - large condo style apartment with common area. On-site laundry, 1 bdrm. plus utility room. 15 minutes from Winkler & Carman. Best deal in southern MB! \$500/mo. Ph 204-615-0676. pgriift@shaw.ca

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY BY-LAW 3-23
Being an AMENDMENT to the R.M. OF STANLEY
ZONING BY-LAW 8-18, AS AMENDED.

HEARING

R.M. of Stanley
Council Chambers

LOCATION:

1-23111 PTH 14, SW 7-3-4W

DATE & TIME:

March 30, 2023 at 10:05 a.m.

GENERAL INTENT:

To amend Appendix 1 Use Table within Zoning By-law 8-18 to allow for the use of "School" as a conditional use in the Stanley Corridor Zone

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa Groening,
Planning and Development Officer
Rural Municipality of Stanley
1-23111 PTH 14, Stanley MB R6P 0B1
Phone: (204) 325-4101
Email: mgroening@rmofstanley.ca

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



CAREERS

BUNGE

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

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

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

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

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

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

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

A job description for this position can be found online on the Bunge website: <https://jobs.bunge.com/>. enter "Altona" in the field "Search by Location". Click on "Maintenance Worker" to read the description. Applications should be made online with an attached resume.

Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

Reporter/Photographer Wanted

Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news? Carman-Dufferin Standard is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer to join its multi award-winning weekly community newspaper.

We are looking for someone who is both motivated and passionate about being the best outlet of interesting and breaking news stories and event coverage in the Carman-Dufferin area and surrounding area communities.

Qualifications:

- A post-secondary degree/diploma in journalism or equivalent experience in a related field
- Strong photography and writing skills with an interest in social media
- Self-starter with the ability to exercise solid news judgement
- Ability to establish professional relationships to consistently source and write a wide range of stories and cover events in a fair, balanced and accurate manner
- Able to work both independently and as a team on a flexible work schedule including both evenings and weekends to meet our weekly editorial deadline
- Experience covering council and school board meetings
- Knowledge of CP Style and about the Interlake and its surrounding communities would be an asset

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to:

Lana Meier
Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca

The Carman-Dufferin
STANDARD

PUBLIC NOTICE

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the purchase of the property described below will be received by:

TDS
3-175 Roblin Blvd. East
Winkler MB R6W 0H2
Attention: Matthew Bolt

Title No. 2085684/4 (40.00 acres)

LOT 5 SP PLAN 1907 MLTO
IN SE 1/4 8-1-3 WPM

Title No. 2416917/4 (62.23 acres)

THE N 1/2 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 4-1-3 WPM EXC FIRSTLY: THE NLY 792 FEET PERP OF THE ELY 660 FEET PERP AND SECONDLY: WATER CONTROL WORKS PLAN 49287 MLTO

The properties are in the Municipality of Rhineland, Manitoba. **Tenders will be received on either titled property or on both titled properties.**

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the properties and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
2. Tenders must be received on or before 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 14, 2023.
3. Each tender must be accompanied by a certified \$10,000.00 deposit cheque, per property, payable to Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP, IN TRUST. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
4. The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. The successful purchaser, if any, will sign the standard Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP agreement of purchase and sale for agricultural property within seven days of being advised that he or she is the successful bidder.
2. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid on a date no later than May 1, 2023 or evidence provided that the purchase funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the Seller. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
3. Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing May 1, 2023.
4. Possession date will be May 1, 2023.
5. Tenders are binding upon acceptance and should not be subject to any conditions precedent.
6. Title to the property will be transferred free and clear of all registered mortgages, encumbrances and leases.
7. The property will be sold as is and the purchaser is solely responsible to determine the value and condition of the property, land quality, property use, environmental condition and any other information pertaining to the property.

Please send sealed tenders to:

Matthew R. Bolt
Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP
3-175 Roblin Blvd East, Winkler, MB R6W 0H2

AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR LEASE

AGRICULTURAL LEASES BEAUDRY PROVINCIAL PARK. Sealed tenders for the right to cultivate agricultural land(s) within Beaudry Provincial Park will be received by Real Estate Services Branch, Crown Lands Act Dispositions, 308-25 Tupper Street North, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, R1N 3K1 until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, April 12th, 2023. Bids must be accompanied by a deposit (money order, certified cheque or bank draft) of 10% of the bid amount (plus applicable GST) made payable to the Minister of Finance of Manitoba. Agricultural lands available for lease for May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2028 inclusive, will include portions of River Lots 4 to 11 and 15 to 19 inclusive in the Parish of Saint François Xavier in the R.M. of Cartier. Tender forms, maps and information materials are available at the above address, online at http://resd.ca/leases_and_permits/LPproperties.aspx or may be requested by telephoning 1-866-210-9589.

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Border Land School Division invites applicants for a
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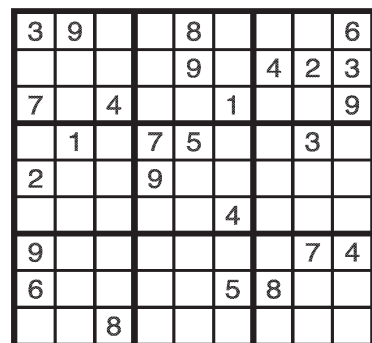
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> GAMES

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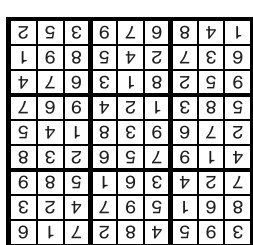
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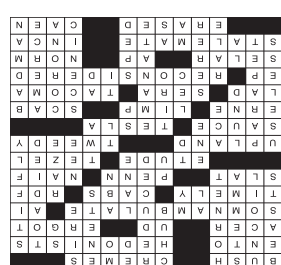
Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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



Sudoku Answer



Crossword Answer

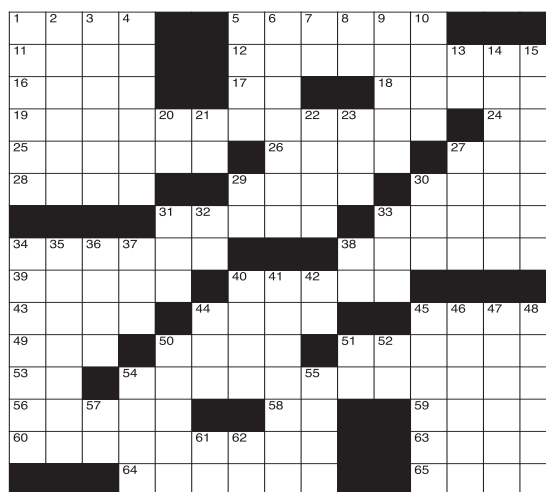
CLUES ACROSS

- Influential American political family
- Chantilly, de Menthe
- Within
- Pleasure seekers
- Computer manufacturer
- Home to college sports' Flyers
- Fungal disease
- Sleepwalk
- Spielberg sci-fi film
- Seasonable
- Taxis
- Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- Thin, narrow piece of wood
- "Mystic River" actor Sean
- Ingenuous
- Musical composition
- Turkish surname
- High or hilly area
- Wilco frontman
- Pour it on pasta
- Electric car company
- Sea eagle
- Walk with difficulty
- Sign of healing
- Boy
- Protein-rich liquid
- Washington city
- Individual portion of TV series (abbr.)
- Thought over
- Scads
- News agency
- Standard
- Deadlock
- Pre-Columbian empire
- Removed
- French commune

CLUES DOWN

- Large, dangerous animals
- Straighten out
- Family tree
- Large stinging paper wasp
- European river fish
- Cut down in size
- Denotes past
- Larry and Curly's partner
- Samoyedic ethnic group
- Male parent
- Specific gravity
- Demeaned oneself to
- Rigidly
- Yankovic is a "weird" one
- Belonging to me
- Path
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Level
- Atomic #94
- Born of
- Midway between northeast and east
- Northeastern bank
- Defunct airline
- Having no purpose

CROSSWORD



- European river fish
- Cut down in size
- Denotes past
- Larry and Curly's partner
- Samoyedic ethnic group
- Male parent
- Specific gravity
- Demeaned oneself to
- Rigidly
- Yankovic is a "weird" one
- Belonging to me
- Path
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Level
- Atomic #94
- Born of
- Midway between northeast and east
- Northeastern bank
- Defunct airline
- Having no purpose

- A low wall
- Swedish city
- Earn a perfect score
- Atomic #81
- Beginner
- Give off
- Incorrect letters
- Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)
- Idyllic
- Popular beer
- A way to fine
- Evildoer
- More withered
- Seventh note of a major scale
- Commercial
- Abnormal breathing
- Moved more quickly
- City of Angels
- Partner to Pa
- Equally

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2023-001 and By-law No. 2298-23, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2298-23, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

1650 Northlands Pkwy, legally described as Part of SE ¼ 8-3-4 WPM Being Block 4, Plan 66568 MLTO

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

FROM: "R1" RESIDENTIAL LOWER DENSITY & "R3" RESIDENTIAL HIGHER DENSITY

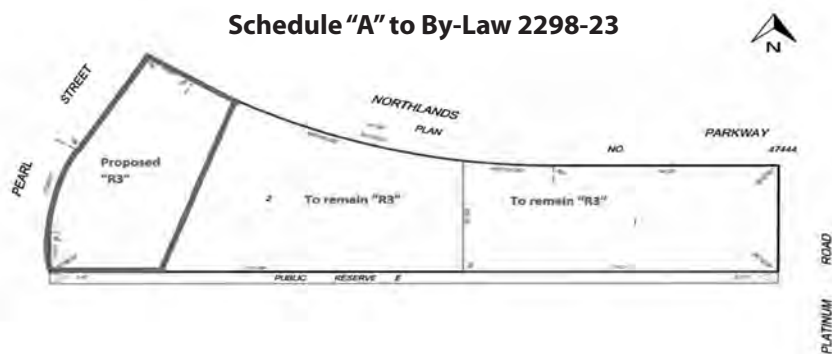
TO: "R3" RESIDENTIAL HIGHER DENSITY ZONE

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2298-23 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

Date of Hearing: March 28, 2023 (Amended from March 14, 2023)
Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Winkler Council Chambers,
185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 17th day of February 2023.
Designated Officer
City of Winkler

Schedule "A" to By-Law 2298-23



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AGM

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WINKLER CO-OP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday
April 18, 2023

7:00 p.m. Call to Order

Buhler Active Living Centre
650 S. Railway Ave, Winkler

All members of Winkler Consumers Co-operative Ltd. are invited.

WINKLER CO-OP AGM

The purpose is to consider:

1. Financial Statements
2. Report of Board of Directors
3. Auditors Report
4. Appointment of external auditors
5. Election of Directors
6. By-law changes
7. Any other business authorized by the by-laws to be transacted at the Annual Meeting of Members

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OBITUARY



Richard Friesen 1945 - 2023

On Thursday, March 16, 2023, Richard H. Friesen of Morden, MB., a beloved father, grandfather and brother, lost his battle with cancer. He was 77 years young.

An avid fan of cars, finding a good deal and coming up with new projects to ignite both passions. He was well known for always having a good story to tell, which always got funnier especially after the fifth time hearing it and having the most infectious laugh that you swear you can still hear even now.

He will be dearly missed by his two daughters, Krista MacDonald and Karla Metterle; two sons-in-law, Jarett MacDonald and Jeremiah Metterle; his four grandchildren, Jacob and Jenna McDonald and Claire and Evan Metterle; his sisters, Helen Penner

and Marion Neufeld and his brother, Abe Friesen.

Anyone that met Rick knew they had an instant friend, so we know that many people will feel the loss of such a charismatic man.

A private service will be held at La Salle Mennonite Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in Richard's memory to the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation or to his favorite place to find those deals, the Morden Community Thrift Store.

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



OBITUARY



Noel Sarrasin December 15, 1944 – March 15, 2023

Noel Sarrasin passed away peacefully with family by his side on March 15, 2023 at the Morris General Hospital.

Dad is survived by his wife Louise (nee Pelland) of 54 years; his children: Michel (Wendy), Claude (Connie), Simone (Kris), Lucette (Kevin); his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dad provided for his family by living out his true passion of farming.

A private funeral service will be held.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to L'abbi Alain and the to the staff of Morris General Hospital for all they did for Dad.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the: Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba (10-120 Donald Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4G2) or Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba (1379 Kenaston Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB R3P 2T5) or STARS Air Ambulance.

Arrangements Entrusted to:
morrisfuneralhome.ca
204-746-2451

OBITUARY



Kim Elisabeth Van Vliet October 26, 1961 - March 9, 2023

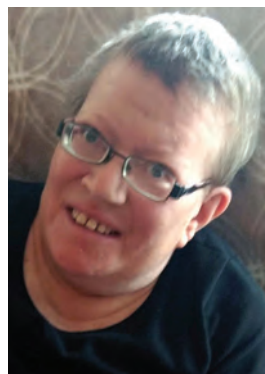
Kim Elisabeth Van Vliet was filled with sage advice and a snarky sense of humor. She was a deeply committed mother and had the remarkable gift of making people feel seen. She was a passionate reader from childhood and became an inspired librarian in her 40's. She loved days filled with canoeing, walking, swimming, sauna, and a good family crib tournament. She found solace in creativity and continued to sew and knit until the week before she passed.

Kim was born on October 26, 1961 in Toronto and passed away on the evening of March 9, 2023 in her home in Winnipeg surrounded by family. Kim continues to be loved and remembered by her partner of 36 years Andrew Vaisius; their children and partners Emily (Heinz), Ruby (Astrid), Grey (Marina), Boreal and

Demeter (Tellis), and three grandchildren Linden, Tommi Jean, and Finnley. As well as her four siblings and extended family in Canada, the USA, Holland and Finland.

She will be celebrated with tea and toast and a good dance party.

OBITUARY



Diane Margaret Fehr 1962 - 2023

Peacefully, on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 4:48 a.m. and with her Mom, brother and sister-in-law by her side, Diane entered Glory to be with the Lord Jesus.

Diane Margaret Fehr was born on January 19, 1962 at the Misericordia Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba to Bill and Susan Fehr. Diane's life was full of challenges from infancy until her passing. She struggled with many physical and intellectual limitations but lived with great courage and determination. As a Special Olympian, Diane boasts 57 medals, including a Bronze won at the Nationals in 1992. In 1999 Diane decided she wanted to live and work in Winkler, where she is very well known by the community. She could often be seen walking through downtown, greeting everyone

she knew and saying hello to those she didn't yet know. She was a dedicated worker at Gateway Resources from the time she moved to Winkler until the day before she passed away.

She will be greatly missed by her Mom, Susan; brothers, George (Brenda), Henry, John (Diane) and their families. She was predeceased by her Dad, Bill and her brother, Bill Jr.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2023 at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church with interment prior at the Blumenfeld Cemetery.

Thank you to everyone in the community of Winkler that supported Diane over the years, to all who cared for her in their homes and to the staff of doctors and nurses at Boundary Trails who showed such kindness to Diane in her last moments.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Diane's memory to Gateway Resources or Special Olympics Manitoba.

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



OBITUARY



Harold Kehler March 15, 1948 – March 10, 2023

Harold Kehler passed away peacefully on March 10, 2023. His family surrounded him with love and joy in his last days.

He is survived by his teen love Ev; his son Jim and Vicki, daughter Amber and Jeff, the best grands in the world Willow, Camryn, Josee, Fletcher and Payton; his loving mother-in-law Sue Funk; his sisters Edna and Allan and Audrey, John and Justina Krahn, Pat and Bernie, Garry and Lori Funk, his coffee shop buddies (you know who you are) and his golf partners from Oakview.

Harold was predeceased by his parents Ike and Annie (Wiebe) Kehler; sisters Irma, Joan and baby Gloria; his favourite dad-in-law Neil Funk and sister-in-law Judy, and too many friends from the coffee shop in the sky.

Thanks to the many kindnesses extended to him in his last days, the Altona Hospital superstars, Boundary Trails staff who welcomed and cared for him, St. Boniface hospital emergency staff who were absolutely out of this world great and we will not forget your kindness, to the ambulance personnel who safely travelled him many highways and were always thoughtful and kind (he loved the pj shirt from Boundary Trails). Thank you again to the Altona Hospital staff. We were and are so happy for your kindness from admission, the seven layer casserole and those last hours and minutes of care. You are all BRILLIANT.

Harold, Dad, Gigi, we will miss your face!

-Love,
The Kehler Family

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Morden Magics celebrating 35 years of gymnastics

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Magics gymnastics club is aiming to get the word out as it marks a milestone this year.

The club would not only like to raise awareness and promote itself but also get more people involved, especially as coaches.

It comes with the organization marking 35 years since it became officially known as the Morden Magics, which is short for Morden Artistic Gymnastics International Club.

"They actually had kids then who would come up from Walhalla, so that's how the name started," explained Jen Martens, who is head coach for the competitive program.

"The fact that we're still going, I think, is a big deal," she said. "Many surrounding towns don't have gymnastics club and we still do, so we support many athletes who come not just from Morden but from Winkler, Carman, Altona, Plum Coulee and Manitou ... all these places come to us.

"I think it is a big thing for Morden, so it would be nice to have a little more support and just have people be more aware."

The club currently has 175 kids registered in its three programs: kindergarten, recreation, and competitive.

Martens noted the overall numbers declined during the pandemic, which also impacted them in another key way.

"We've been very grateful to the city that we have always had a place at the

Access Event Centre. When COVID happened, we got turned away because it got turned into the vaccination supersite.

"Luckily we were able to be in the United Church, which had a gym space to rent. It was small for us, but we were at least able to keep things going."

Their ultimate dream would be to some day have their own facility somewhere.

"We have to set up all of our equipment and take it down every week. It's hard on the equipment and it's just hard work," Martens said. "The talk is always could we have our own facility? That is the dream ... I don't know how practical it would really be, though."

Right now what the club really needs to move forward is more people to get involved as coaches.

"It's unfortunate we are not able to register as many kids as we would like because we just don't have the coaching for it," Martens said. "It would be nice to find more coaches so we wouldn't have kids on waiting lists who don't get into the program."

The Magics wrap up the current season with their annual display on Tuesday, April 11 starting at 6 p.m.. There is a \$2 admission that goes to support Kidsport. Children five and under get in for free.

If you are interested in getting involved with the club, e-mail magics.coach@gmail.com.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morden Magics coach Jen Martens' daughter Lux, left, is wearing her mother's old suit, which was the club's original competitive uniform, while daughter Raelyn, right, is wearing the new suit. The Magics have been active since 1988.

A big step forward for Coulee's pedestrian bridge project

By Lori Penner

After 14 months of planning and fundraising, June Letkeman's dream of building a pedestrian bridge in Plum Coulee is about to come true.

Letkeman says the province has finally cleared the way for the project to move forward.

"We're very excited because we finally got an answer from Manitoba Infrastructure and the Water Resources department that our hydrology study is done and completed," she says.

The second step is the geo-technical design, which the committee is on the verge of completing. Step three is to work with a structural engineer prior to receiving their construction permit.

"We're meeting with him this week, and then we should be good to go," says Letkeman.

Letkeman says the new bridge is something that's been needed in the community for about 10 years.

The current footbridge over the Hespeler drain is not safe or accessible for scooters and wheelchairs.

"It's not just about convenience—we have no safe way of walking from our north side of town to the south side of town because Hwy. 14 is definitely not safe for pedestrians, and neither is Hwy. 306, and those are the only routes we have," Letkeman says. "On the north side of town, we have all our businesses, churches, and school. And on the south side we have our new condos and our new developments, and people are moving in with children. Once we have the bridge, the kids can even walk to school."

"This bridge will be used for years. It's not just a dream. It's a necessity."

Letkeman is part of a small commit-

tee behind the project. The group has been actively involved in the planning process with some engineering help from a pair of locals, Justin Wiebe and Kyle Wiebe.

From the start, the project hit a number of speed bumps.

"We started it the first year into COVID and then we had to leave it because we couldn't raise funds then. It just wasn't a good time," Letkeman says.

Then they found out they needed to comply with all the latest CSA standards, which pushed up their original estimate of \$280,000 to \$420,000.

But thanks to donations from community members and businesses, lots of fundraising, and a Building Sustainable Communities grant of \$62,000, they've already raised enough to cover over half of the costs.

They've also applied for more

grants. Letkeman says they hope to have all the required funds raised by the time the bridge is up.

"I'm just so pleased with all the support that we have had," she says. "It just tells me that the community really recognizes the need for this bridge."

"We need to have this bridge and we will get it. We're making headway now, after this long wait. And hopefully we'll put the piers in this spring."

If you'd like to support the project, the committee has just launched another fundraiser. For \$250 you can buy a board for the bridge and be recognized on a donor board at the site.

To buy a board, contact Letkeman at 204-362-0501 or email wandererjll@gmail.com.



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and discover (or rediscover) some of Winnipeg’s best attractions this spring!