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VOLUME 11 EDITION 12

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The region is pulling together to get through the COVID-19 pandemic, including by helping stores replenish depleted shelves. Last week, Morden councillors Doug Frost and Jim Hunt joined numerous volunteers in doing just that at Co-op. Co-op and other local stores are offering delivery services to people who can't get out, as well as special shopping hours for seniors and those with disabilities.

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Local stores working to keep the shelves stocked

By Lorne Stelmach

The growing fears around the COVID-19 pandemic means local grocery stores have not only been doing some booming business lately but are also struggling to keep up while taking extra steps for health and safety.

The buying panic intensified starting Thursday, March 12 as preventative measures began to ramp up in response to the novel coronavirus.

Leaders and public health officials at all levels have repeatedly cautioned Manitobans against acting out of fear and panic, but that hasn't stopped some from overloading their carts.

"It was unprecedented as far as the business in the store," said Evan Toews, general manager of the Winkler Co-op, which like stores everywhere struggled to keep up with restocking the shelves with various necessities.

"The Thursday was busier than normal, but Friday and Saturday were like Christmastime busy," said James Steedsman, manager of Giant Tiger in Morden.

Steedsman said it started to get hectic after things escalated with community-wide cancellations and closures.

"We ran out of all those things like toilet paper, hand sanitizer; we ran out almost right away," he said, noting other items being snapped up included staples like sugar, milk, and even frozen pizzas. "We had to bump up our orders, and we have to do it again because it's just unreal how many pizzas we were selling."

Some of those shortages continued

through last week, but Steedsman suggested the situation is levelling off.

"There's lots in the supply chain, but I think everybody's been caught off guard, so the orders need to catch up to the supply chain. That's kind of the point we were at right now," he said. "There's lots of toilet paper available, but nobody anticipated the volume we would have ... it will be back in stock, and there's plenty in the supply chain, but it's just a matter of getting back to the levels that we expect to see."

"Once people are inside and they're in self-quarantine or whatever they're doing, we kind of expect it to level off and maybe even decline a little bit."

To help protect customers, Giant Tiger has placed social distancing cues at the checkouts and will limit the number of customers in the store as needed. The store has changed its hours to 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Winkler's Superstore has also been seeing high numbers of shoppers stocking up, said manager Wayne Tyler.

"It's been pretty crazy," he said last week. "Once [the government] finish their speeches or announcements, we start to see the influx of customers, so there's definitely a high flow of traffic."

"Sales increases were up for us by around 55 to 70 per cent a day," Tyler estimated, citing such examples as having brought in 28 pallets of milk one day and selling three pallets in the first 45 minutes, or going through



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Volunteers like Clare Agnew stepped up to help Co-op fill the shelves as people stocked up for the COVID-19 pandemic last week.

10 pallets of water in under three hours.

"As the announcements happen, we start to see different flow of traffic," he reiterated, noting they as well had run out of items like toilet paper, flour, sugar, and detergent. "And it takes at least four to five days to recoup."

Tyler noted Superstore is taking a number of steps to adapt to the situation, including closing at 8 p.m. each evening and opening the doors at 7 a.m. specifically for seniors and people with disabilities or those at higher risk.

"That's so that they can shop before it gets hectic," he said, noting closing an hour earlier also gives them extra time because "we have to sanitize the entire store; all our belts, all our phones, all our handles have to be sanitized three times a day."

He felt a majority of customers were being considerate and understanding about the situation.

"We're looking at people's shopping carts ... there isn't as much panic buying as there was that Friday and Saturday ... but with child care closing, we might see more increases with that as well," Tyler said. "We're talking to customers ... we'll address it and say, 'Hey, can you leave some for somebody else?'"

"Overall, the customer attitudes have been really positive ... they have mostly been pretty understanding."

The Co-op grocery stores in Winkler and Morden have also run out of certain products for periods of time in the last two weeks, but Toews said their supply chain has been working fairly well overall.

Continued on page 5



MANITOBA HOG FARMS ARE KEY ECONOMIC DRIVERS

Manitoba's 613 hog farms are economic engines that stimulate other businesses, create rewarding careers and help build strong rural communities. The hog sector supports 14,000 jobs directly and indirectly, including processing, transportation, food inspection, veterinary services and the building trades. Thanks to the hog sector, communities such as Brandon, Neepawa, Roblin, Killarney, Notre Dame de Lourdes, and their surrounding areas are seeing the construction of new homes, schools, churches, recreational facilities and daycares.

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Image: Manitoba hog barn under construction

The Color bring home four Covenant Awards

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Homegrown Christian band The Color won four Covenant Awards last weekend.

Due to the novel coronavirus, the GMA Canada ceremony honouring the best of Canada's Christian music industry was held online.

The local foursome of Jordan Janzen, James Shiels, Larry Abrams, and Tyson Unrau were up for no less than nine awards. They brought home Artist of the Year, Group of the Year, and both Pop Song and Collaboration of the Year for their song "The Kind of Man."

Janzen said both the nominations and the awards won are, as always, an honour.

"We won four this time and so that makes 22 awards for us," he said. "Still, going into it there's always an element where we're hoping to be nominated but not necessarily expecting to win."

"There's a lot of great music and a lot of people doing it, so just to be part

of it is an honour."

Receiving recognition from their peers in the Christian music world is a great motivator for the band.

"It's affirmation of what's working," Janzen says. "We put a lot of energy and time and sacrifices into making music and going out and touring, so for us this is really affirming of that whole process."

The fact that "The Kind of Man" has struck a chord with people is a blessing Janzen is grateful for.

"It's a song that really means a lot to us," he says. "It came at a season of life where, a few of us, our wives were pregnant for the first time and we were just kind of processing how different life would look and understanding that when you're bringing people into the world, that we are the people they'll be looking to for guidance."

"It's quite a responsibility and a really big privilege, but it's also a little scary. So the song is just a reflection of those thoughts and it really is a



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Color won Artist, Group, Pop Song, and Collaboration of the Year at the Covenant Awards last weekend.

prayer for us as dads to do well by our children."

Even as their music continues to resonate with fans here in Canada, The Color is hoping a new partnership will help them to branch out into the American market.

The longtime indie band recently signed with Dream Records in Los Angeles.

"With that comes a whole bunch of new music, hopefully in the near future," Janzen says. "We're really excited about. It's a great partnership."

They believe in what we're doing and want to come alongside of us."

The Color weren't the only homegrown musicians honoured at the Covenant Awards.

Plum Coulee native Rosemary Siemens took home Children's Song of the Year for "You and Me," which she wrote with Jaylene Johnson, and also Instrumental Song of the Year for a cover of Lauren Daigle's "You Say," which she performed with husband Eli Bennett.

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get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

We've been here before—and survived

To take pity on people in distress is a human quality which every man and woman should possess."

So begins Giovanni Boccaccio's epic collection of tales *The Decameron*, a work so perfectly suited to our COVID-19 era that I urge you all to log on right now and download it or otherwise purchase a copy to be shipped.

You see, Johnny B., as no one calls him, wrote this collection in mid-1300s Italy under the following premise: seven young women and three young men, using their wealth and privilege, escape from the rages of the Black Plague overwhelming the city of Florence. They hide out in a villa in the countryside to wait out the horrors in peace and comfort in what Boccaccio called "a very inhuman precaution to avoid and run away from the sick."



By Peter Cantelon

To pass the time they each decide to tell one tale a night for 10 nights comprising a total of 100 tales which are

presented in the work.

Can we not all identify with this urge to escape to a toilet paper filled villa in the Tuscan countryside to await the collapse of this virus as it runs its course? Of course we can, and perhaps if we were people of means we would be in our own Tuscany villa right now.

Note the irony of the opening line above about taking pity on people in distress juxtaposed against the wealthy characters escaping the horrors of the Florence that the regular folk must confront head on, being people without means and extraneous villas.

A wonderful collection illustrating social distancing in mid-14th century Italy way before it became fashionable, the stories ring as true today as they did almost 700 years ago when they were written. This is testimony to the timelessness of its content.

So, what did the self-quarantined wealthy talk about and do in the 14th century? Very much what I imagine we talk about now when given a chance: relationships, gossip, God, existence, business, the church, politics, and all the people who weave these things together.

They listened to music, danced, sang, ate, slept and generally relaxed in comfort waiting for the plague to pass and the dead and their belongings to be cleared away.

In fact, the book speaks of the plague's origins in the east, its spread westward, and the efforts made by officials, medical professionals, and the populace to reduce its impact.

There is mention of the number of so-called "experts" swelling in the early days to take advantage of the circumstance for a cost. People asked if the plague was in some way God's punishment for our iniquities. There are many interesting overlaps.

The point of this? During this time as we live through what for some may seem like the end times it can be helpful to know we have been there before. We have gone through such things before during a time when we knew less about combating such diseases. This awareness can perhaps offer a pinprick of hope.

It is also an opportunity to consider opening a book or e-reader and drag yourself away from the screen for a few minutes. Consider that there are lessons to be learned today even from those centuries in the past.

Now go grab yourself a copy of the book online, sit down inside your shelter built of hoarded toilet paper with the family or by yourself, open a nice Chianti or Moscato and wait out this plague with stories of another one, long since past and survived.

Perhaps tell your own tales every night and see what you can build.

Letters

A plea from a medical household to take this seriously

Allow me to preface this letter by stating I have not been asked, mandated or remunerated by the local or regional health community. I write this as a concerned partner in a medical household.

In my limited travels outside our home, I continue to be struck by the lack of regard for COVID-19 warnings and rules. It seems a joke to some, overkill to others, while many are taking seriously the instructions

and rules for this time.

As a partner to one working on the front lines of this pandemic and myself having a history in the nursing field, I am finding myself more and more exasperated by those who are choosing to "laugh off" this situation.

We need only look to other developed countries, such as Italy, to see the potential impact of this disease. The current situation is inundated with daily and sometimes hourly

changes in protocols, warnings of a shortage of supplies, a rapidly changing world, provincial and local medical status, and planning for all the possible "what ifs." All in the name of keeping all of us safe.

But all these things are in vain if we don't all do our part in self-isolating, washing our hands, and social distancing.

Continued on page 5

> LOCAL STORES, FROM PG. 2

"Our replenishment has been good. We would like it a little timelier," he said. "The product left the shelves pretty quick, and it took a little bit of time, but we're very pleased with how we have been able to replenish."

The store has implemented limits per family per day on bathroom tissue, facial tissue, paper towel, flour, sugar, and cleaning supplies.

Co-op is also offering free delivery to those requiring assistance, including the elderly and those in self-isolation. They're welcoming volunteers to help with what is expected to be an increase in deliveries. Anyone interested in helping can contact Central Station Community Centre at 204-

325-0257 or info@winklercentralstation.ca.

"The community has rallied together to assist the elderly, and we've been happy to partner with them for the elderly as well as those at risk," said Toews. "The comfort level of them coming into the store wasn't going to be there ... we didn't want them to feel isolated."

"There's a lot of really good people in these communities who are willing to step up and bring necessities to those who need it," he said, stressing as well that their commitment would continue. "We're definitely here for the community ... we definitely want to maintain store hours and product



The rush on toilet paper last week led to some empty shelves in local stores, but retailers are stocking back up as fast as they can and are now limiting certain items per shopper to prevent hoarding.

and service and availability as best we can."

Co-op on Monday adjusted its store hours to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Manitobans now asked to self-isolate after domestic travel

Provincial health officials continue to urge Manitobans to take precautions to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

At Monday's daily press conference, Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial public health officer, announced the number of confirmed or presumed cases in Manitoba remained at 20.

The majority of cases are in Winnipeg, though two were identified in the Southern Health Santé-Sud Health region last week.

As all of the province's cases are currently linked to travel, people are being asked to avoid venturing beyond Manitoba's borders.

"Now is not the time for non-essential travel outside of Manitoba," said Roussin, noting this includes travel within Canada. This recommendation does not include the commercial transportation of goods and services, nor individuals who live in border towns and must travel to work or shop.

Public health officials are asking that anyone who returns from travel, either international or domestic, should self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days following their return.

Meanwhile, all Manitobans are asked to continue social distancing

efforts.

"This means staying at home as much as possible," Roussin stressed. "Do not arrange in-person play dates with other families. Practice responsible social distancing from others. This includes not being in close contact to others, even outdoors."

"Going for a walk and around the block is okay, visiting a park is okay, but not crowded venues, even outdoors," he said. "We need to do what we can to ensure we're all socially distancing at this point."

"Manitobans are reminded to practice the three Ps: protect yourself, protect your loved ones, and protect your community."

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Last Friday, the provincial government declared a state of emergency to enable it to better respond to the pandemic.

"This decision was not made lightly. However, we must continue to use every tool available to 'flatten the curve' and reduce the spread of COVID-19 on our communities and our health-care system," said Premier Brian Pallister. "Enacting a state of emergency will further our province's ability to be nimble, act swiftly and support

Manitobans when they need it most."

As authorized under The Public Health Act, the following measures will be in place until mid-April:

1. Limiting public gatherings of more than 50 people at any indoor or outdoor place or premises. This does not apply to a facility where health care or social services are provided. Retail businesses such as grocery stores, shopping centres, pharmacies, and gas stations must ensure separation of one to two metres between patrons.

2. Limiting hospitality premises where food or alcohol is served or any theatres offering live performances of music, dance, and other art forms such as movies theatres to 50 people or 50 per cent of the capacity of the premises, whichever is lesser. These

establishments must be able to ensure social distance of one to two metres between customers.

3. Immediate closures of all bingo and gaming events.

4. Immediate closures of all wellness centres offering physical activities, gyms, fitness centres, and athletic clubs and training facilities

Any person concerned about their exposure to or risk of having COVID-19 should call Health Links-Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257 before arriving at a testing site. Additional testing sites in rural Manitoba are expected to open later this week.

For more information and to access the online screening tool for COVID-19, visit manitoba.ca/coivd19.

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> LETTERS, FROM PG. 4

The physical and psychological fatigue is already great for each front line workers. I implore, beg, and plead with our community to take this situation seriously. This isn't just about ourselves—it's about looking after each other!

If you have any symptoms STAY HOME. If you have been out of the country in the last 14 days STAY

HOME. Make yourselves aware of ongoing changes to official advise in this evolving crises.

For the well being of our medical community and community as a whole, PLEASE take COVID-19 seriously.

Viola Woelk,
Winkler

Churches move services online amidst COVID-19 concerns

By Lorne Stelmach

An increasing online presence for many churches is helping local congregations stay connected while services are shutdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's not just about having services remain available, though, but also get-

ting a message of hope and reassurance out to people in a time of crisis, say pastors.

"I think the more we centre on our hearts, being in that place where we realize that God is taking care of us ... He's going to bless us and be with us in a time of need and that we can reach and be a blessing to others," said

Larry Reimer, lead pastor of Cornerstone Vineyard Church in Winkler.

The cancellation of church services came swiftly with the rising spread of the novel coronavirus earlier this month and health officials' directions to avoid large gatherings.

Some churches had already been offering all or portions of their services online prior to the crisis, but the need to be even more proactive in reaching out has become clearer than ever, said Reimer, who noted that was a big topic of discussion at a meeting of area pastors last week.

"It seems that everybody around the table is very creative and very positive in regards to how we will respond to this," he said. "We're definitely not operating in any sense of fear or any kind of reaction that way. It's more just how can we co-operate and be good citizens ... to comply and operate within the boundaries."

Reimer said there is even more of a need now for church leaders to continue to support their congregations however they can.

"It takes a bit more effort and in a lot of ways more creativity," he observed. "Every community has different needs ... we're a young church, we have lots of young families; how do we support our young kids? That's a big question we were going to be talking about ... how do we support our kids, how do we support our families?"

"We'll be livestreaming on Facebook, and we're trying to enhance that service so it's more accessible for as many people as possible," said Reimer, who estimated the first Sunday without regular services saw about a third of their members participate online.

It's the more personal pastoral care that is a greater challenge, but one that can at least be addressed with phone calls or Facetime chats.

"It's those kinds of things where you can feel more of a connection with people," Reimer said. "That's also the culture that we're in now ... it's forcing some churches to re-evaluate how they do their church, and in some ways it may be beneficial to some degree."

Likewise, the Morden Alliance Church had previously been posting the sermon portion of their services online, but are now expanding on their streaming offerings.

"We're taking our cues from the

medical professionals and Manitoba Health in terms of what is needed to help keep people safe in our congregations and in our communities during this time," said lead pastor Stafford Greer.

"We're not anticipating meeting in person for quite a few weeks, so we're just working hard to increase our online presence and maintain a connection with our congregation and our community," he continued. "We want to provide an opportunity for the church to connect in a different way when meeting in person isn't an option."

"It definitely meant a quick change of action from what we've normally done, where we have just recorded the services and posted the sermon message online," Greer said, noting they are now looking to post congregational songs online as well. "And we're in the process of upgrading our camera gear so that we can keep improving the quality of online services in a way that is enjoyable for people to watch."

Like Reimer, Greer feels that in some respects this is a good challenge for churches.

"It puts us in a spot where we want to have people still stay connected to their faith community, even when meeting in large groups isn't possible," he said.

"That's kind of the tension that we have right now, being the church is being incarnational with people, that being around people is one of the big reasons why Jesus came as incarnate in flesh. Now we're in a tough spot where we're trying to figure out how do we become incarnate to people when gathering in groups is a health risk or a safety risk."

"So we're beginning to wrestle with that question and trying to continue to reach out and drive higher engagement even when we can't meet in person ... and providing a chance for hope, realizing that as people are panicking and feeling the social anxiety, that there is a message of hope, that we really do believe that, even in the face of fear, we can still be hopeful when there is fear."

"So we want to continue to provide that message ... being able to act with wisdom and peace in the face of a crisis. So that actually emboldens us to be able to be people who can help meet needs in wise ways and not react out of fear."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Pastor Stafford Greer among the empty pews at the Morden Alliance Church, which, like many other local churches, quickly moved to cancel weekly services in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, opting instead to stream programming online.

"IT TAKES A BIT MORE EFFORT AND IN A LOT OF WAYS MORE CREATIVITY."

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Morden on the hunt for a new city manager

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is again on the hunt for a new city manager.

After little more than a year on the job, Faisal Anwar is resigning from the position. Mayor Brandon Burley could only say that Anwar was leaving for personal and family reasons.

A former director of sustainable economic development for the City of Selkirk and previously an economic development officer with the City of Yorkton, Anwar came on board as Morden's city manager in December 2018.

Until a new city manager is found, deputy city managers Patrick Dueck and Santokh Singh will report to an executive committee of council, but Burley said they are also looking at the option of an interim CAO to help fill the void in administrative leadership at city hall.

Burley hopes the position of city manager won't go unfilled for long.

"The posting will go out relatively quickly ... we know of several qualified candidates who have already asked about the position," he said. "So we're expecting it won't be six months. We're expecting it to be a couple months by the

time we have a new person in place."

He also spoke broadly of what they will be looking for in filling the role.

"We're looking for an experienced leader who has that municipal CAO experience," said Burley.

"The qualities we're looking for obviously are people with management experience, municipal experience, financial experience and operations experience. Those are really key for us," he said. "We need on board some talent that has that experience ... for moving the municipality forward to where it needs to go."



Faisal Anwar has stepped down from his role as Morden city manager.

Winkler, Stanley municipal buildings closed to the public

By Lorne Stelmach

More municipal buildings across the region are now closed to the public in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both the RM of Stanley and City of Winkler moved last week to restrict access to all of their public buildings, just as the City of Morden did a couple days earlier.

A statement from the RM of Stanley noted it was restricting public access to its administration office and public works buildings as of March 18.

The office will remain fully staffed and operational and available via phone, e-mail, and web services. Permits, payments, inquiries and other

service requests will continue to be received and handled as well as possible.

"For now, our scheduled council meetings and hearings will continue and be open to the public so long as recommended social distancing requirements can be adhered to," said Reeve Morris Olafson.

"We have taken numerous proactive measures as far as our internal operations go to ensure these services can continue with minimal disruption," he added. "This situation is changing rapidly. The RM of Stanley is in constant communication with provincial authorities, and we will continue to evaluate our approach and inform the public of any changes we make to our municipal response."

The City of Winkler took a similar step in closing all city departments to the public, also on March 18. That in-

cludes the administration office, planning department, arena, concert hall, police department, fire department, public works office, and eco centre as well as utilities and water services.

Water bills and other city related bills can be paid online or by placing payments in the locked drop box on the south side of the civic centre in a labelled envelope with account information. You can also mail payments

to 185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W 1B4. Interest charges on utility bills will be waived until further notice.

"We will continue to provide service to the public by phone and email," the city stressed in its notice. "Our primary focus has been to take steps to protect the community and our staff and to ensure that essential services continue to be provided to the residents of Winkler."

Cancellations

A few more COVID-19 closures and postponements to add to last week's list:

- Winkler Arts and Culture is closed until further notice.
- Canadian Wrestling's Elite March 26 wrestling match in Morden featuring Savio Vega has been cancelled.
- Katie's Cottage has closed the public portion of its building until April 14. Overnight guests will still be accepted in emergency situations. Call 204-312-8445.
- Borderline Singers' April 4 and April 5 concerts at the Manitou Opera House have been postponed until Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 15 at 2:30 p.m. Original tickets and seating assignments will be honoured. Refunds are also available. Call or text 204-242-4415 to confirm your attendance so organizers are able to update reserved seats accordingly.
- The Winkler and District Cham-

Continued on page 9



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Learn to downsize before a move

Aging men and women often take inventory of their lives in an effort to focus on activities or lifestyle changes that can ensure happy retirements. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows there are some 76 million baby boomers - those people born between 1946 to 1964 - across the country. With the youngest of the boomers in their mid-50s and the majority having already reached retirement age, many boomers are trying to decide if it's time to move out of their family homes and into smaller, more manageable abodes.

Many older adults find they do not need the same amount of space as they did when they had children living at home. Retirees and those on the

usp of retirement may find that downsizing is a smart financial move that frees up more time for recreation.

However, it can be challenging to cut down on living space and then deal with figuring out how to make furniture, belongings and stored items fit in more condensed areas. Moving can be stressful even without having to cut down on prized items. Taking an inventory of belongings can help the process go smoothly.

Before moving, men and women can go room by room, making piles of items that will be kept, donated, sold, or discarded. This can be a tedious task, but it is necessary to avoid clutter in a new home.

People downsizing can attempt to sell items they do not need via newspaper classified sections or online classified sites. Appliances and furniture in excellent shape may fetch good prices. Any extra cash can be put toward buying new items that are size-appropriate for the smaller home.

Another way to clear out clutter is to sort duplicates from the stock of items. A person may no longer need multiple sets of dishes or silverware. If the move involves switching from a king-sized to a queen-sized bed, donate or trash bed linens that will no longer fit. Pay close attention to kitchen and bathroom items, which tend to accumulate over time but might not be discarded when clearing a home of clutter.

People moving from a detached home to a condominium or a town-

house may learn that homeowner's association fees cover everything from snow removal to lawn maintenance to pool upkeep. If so, it's unnecessary to bring lawn and garden supplies.

Homeowners are advised to look at the floor plan of their new dwellings and pay attention to storage space. This can make it easier to plan ahead for what may fit, what will need to be purchased new and which storage solutions may be needed. Having a plan in place can make unpacking and settling in go smoothly. The organizing company Organize Me says that homeowners should consider how cabinets and closets will be used before moving in.

Downsizing can free up time and money. When done right, downsizing can make retirement easier and create more leisure time for retirees.

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La Riviere working to bring Jubilee Quilt home

By Ashleigh Viveiros

In celebration of Manitoba's 150th anniversary in 2020, the community of La Riviere is launching a campaign to bring a piece of history home.

In 1927, Canadians across the nation were marking the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation with a variety of celebrations and commemorative projects.

Close to home in the Pembina Valley, the ladies of La Riviere got together to make a large hand stitched quilt to mark the occasion.

The quilt's 22 squares each included an embroidered wagon wheel with local names—many still seen in the community today—sewn in between the spokes.

The very centre of the quilt designates it as the "Confederation Jubilee Quilt" along with "La Riviere, Manitoba" and "1867-1927."

Somehow the quilt found its way from La Riviere to Rondeau Lake, Ontario, where it was discovered recently by Debra Klippenstein.

Klippenstein grew up near Manitou and so was well aware of La Riviere and what this quilt

might mean to the community when she purchased it in a lot at an auction last month

"I attempted to discover the path it may have taken from La Riviere to southern Ontario but had little success," Klippenstein says.

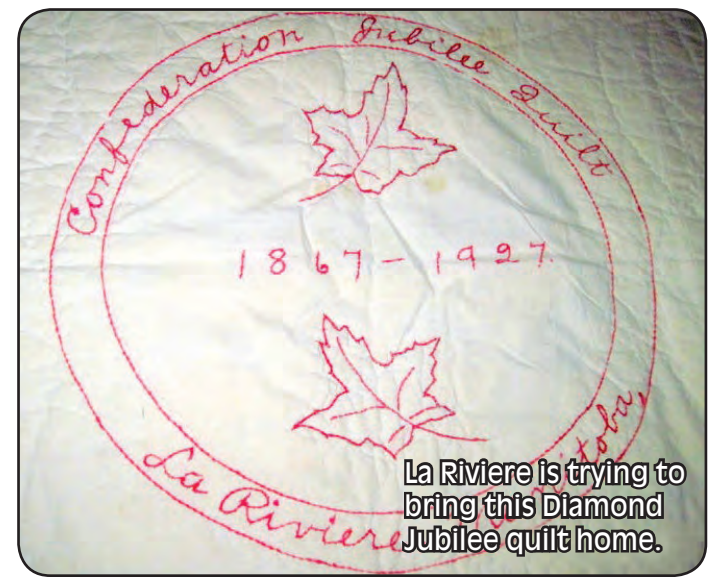
The auctioneer was able to put her in touch with the consignor who had purchased the quilt a decade ago at another auction.

"I spoke with her and she had very little info to offer except that it had been rolled up inside out in a box lot she had purchased and had no idea of its significance until she unpacked it at home later that day," Klippenstein says. "It has been tucked away in her cedar chest ever since."

Now that it's in the hands of someone with ties to the community once again, Klippenstein hopes to see the quilt back in La Riviere and on display for all to see.

"I would love to see it re-homed back into the community," she says. "I'd love to see it go somewhere in the community where it may be enjoyed by others."

The community's recreation association has taken up the project and is collecting funds so



the quilt can be brought home and safely displayed in a case in Blair Morrison Hall.

They also hope to do some research into the names embroidered on the quilt and share the information gleaned in a book for posterity.

"We will try to research each name, gather what information we can from history books, newspaper archives, obituaries, and from seniors who are from this area," says Evelyn Janzen, chair of the La Riviere & Community Recreation Association Inc., explaining the information will be put on display alongside the quilt.

Janzen estimates they'll need about \$2,500 to purchase a large, specially-made case for the quilt and to cover the costs of packing and shipping it to Manitoba.

"We would be over the moon if we could have the quilt home and framed in time for our Community 150 Celebration scheduled for July 18," she says, noting, however, that they're prepared to fundraise through to the end of the year if necessary to bring the quilt home. For information on how to donate, contact Janzen at 204-242-3272.

"People are working together"

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The COVID-19 pandemic brings with it new developments every day, and the Morden-Winkler community is coming together on social media to ensure everyone's taken care of and informed.

Hundreds of people have joined a Facebook group called "We Got This Morden/Winkler" in the last couple of weeks.

Members have been posting updates about the situation as it unfolds, tips on where to find supplies as stores restock, and offers of help to those who need it.

It's exactly what founder Jen Lumgair-Chapman had hoped for when she created the group days after the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 virus a global pandemic.

"It just kind of escalated very fast with this coronavirus and everybody was panicking," she says. "I'm a pretty laid-back person, so I wasn't so panicky about it, but then I realized that in my household—I have eight children—we had only two rolls of toilet paper left."

With so many people rushing to hoard toilet paper and other supplies, Lumgair-Chapman found herself on a hunt all over the region trying to find some.

She did, at some expense, but wanted to do something to help others in a similar situation.

"I thought, okay, now this is getting a little more serious, especially for a large family like

mine if we can't get essentials, having to scour all over," Lumgair-Chapman says. "I figured there has to be a better way to do this. I know the stores will get restocked, but because everyone's panicking the stock goes fast again."

"I figured if I made this page, maybe we could help each other out. Maybe if there's someone that bought two huge things of toilet paper they'd have extra to spare for someone who has none."

Indeed, some members have passed along extra rolls of toilet paper, baby formula, and other supplies to those finding none in stores.

Other posts have tracked the depletion and restocking of local shelves, directed people in self-isolation or otherwise unable to leave their homes to free grocery or meal delivery options, and promoted the efforts of those in the community doing what they can to help in a myriad of ways.

"If we all keep up with all this information amongst each other, it just helps the community in a huge way," Lumgair-Chapman says, adding she's not the least bit surprised at how the community is weathering this storm together. "People are working together ... this is what makes our community great."

In addition to the "We Got This Morden/Winkler" page on Facebook, a few other group pages filled with regular updates and offers of help include the "In the Know Morden: Family Friendly Community" and "What's Up Winkler?" pages.

> CANCELLATIONS, FROM PG. 7

ber of Commerce has postponed the P.W. Enns Busines Awards gala to the fall.

- Winkler Co-op's annual general meeting scheduled for April 14 has been postponed.

- VB Entertainment Centre in Winkler is closed until further notice.

- Landmark Cinemas in Winkler's Southland Mall is closed.

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Flexibility for Taxpayers

In order to provide greater flexibility to Canadians who may be experiencing hardships during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Canada Revenue Agency will defer the filing due date for the 2019 tax returns of individuals, including certain trusts.

For individuals (other than trusts), the return filing due date will be deferred until June 1, 2020. However, the Agency encourages individuals who expect to receive benefits under the GSTC or the Canada Child Benefit not to delay the filing of their return to ensure their entitlements for the 2020-21 benefit year are properly determined.

For trusts having a taxation year ending on December 31, 2019, the return filing due date will be deferred until May 1, 2020.

The Canada Revenue Agency will allow all taxpayers to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments, under Part I of the Income Tax Act. No interest or penalties will accumulate on these amounts during this period.

In order to reduce the necessity for taxpayers and tax preparers to meet in person during this difficult time, and to reduce

administrative burden, effective immediately the Canada Revenue Agency will recognize electronic signatures as having met the signature requirements of the Income Tax Act, as a temporary administrative measure. This provision applies to authorization forms T183 or T183CORP, which are forms that are signed in person by millions of Canadians every year to authorize tax preparers to file taxes.

The Canada Revenue Agency is adapting its Outreach Program to support individuals during COVID-19. Through this service, the Canada Revenue Agency offers help to individuals to better understand their tax obligations and to obtain the benefits and credits to which they are entitled. Traditionally available in-person, this service is now available over the phone, and through webinar, where possible.

The Canada Revenue Agency fully expects that many community organizations are considering whether to significantly reduce or perhaps cancel the provision of services provided under the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. Additional efforts to encourage individuals to file their tax and benefit returns electronically, or where possible, through the File My Return service, will be put forward.

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Former Morden mayor up for a Juno

By Lorne Stelmach

A former Morden mayor can add another highlight to his resumé, this time as a musician.

Doug Wilson is up for a Juno Award for best contemporary Christian/gospel album of the year as part of the group of performers on the album *Ill Street Blues* by Winnipegger Fresh IE.

Wilson unfortunately missed his opportunity to walk the red carpet at the awards ceremony in Saskatoon last week, which was cancelled in response to the global pandemic. But the Mordenite turned Winnipegger was taking it all in stride.

"Winning doesn't really matter," said Wilson, who was featured on saxophone on the rap/hip hop artist's track "The Sky Is Crying."

"I never would have imagined this," he added. "I thought 'Fresh, that's great. You're awesome, and you deserve it.' And then it became clear the band is nominated."

"I'm just grateful that he had me as part of his crew. It is a reward for all my friends because it is the fellowship, it is the collaboration that makes great things happen," said Wilson.

In recent years, Wilson has been focusing on making a go of it in music.

"I absolutely immersed myself in

music from 2015 until now, and to do that in Winnipeg is a gift because Winnipeg has all the talent in the world," he said. "It's just to try to make a living doing it, though. It has been very challenging, and it has redefined what my values are, and I think everybody's values are redefining at the same time. We're moving from a material world into a spiritual world, I think, right now, and I'm just grateful for music being there."

Wilson said he has been very fortunate to make many connections in the Winnipeg musical community with such talent as Fresh IE.

"I've been recording little bit parts ... I'm the sax player who plays little pieces, horn sections; it can be small, it can be big. I've had a number of different projects that I was given in a recording studio over the years," he said. "Fresh IE had reached me through the network in Winnipeg and said, 'Hey, can you come and play some stuff for me?'"

"We listened to [the track], he started playing it to me, and I said stop, I'm ready to play, even before we got through it," Wilson said. "He loved it, I loved it; it was a really touching moment, and we were both grateful."

Wilson said he feels very blessed to have been able to be part of what be-

Former Mordenite Doug Wilson played saxophone for a track on rap/hip hop artist Fresh IE's Juno-nominated album *Ill Street Blues*.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

came such an impressive album.

"I didn't know he had put together something as touching as this record. This is a blues album. There's musicality, and there's a real touch to it.

And it is a fellowship that we all had on it.

"People are drawn to it. It's a blues album, but it's also reaching out to God. I think there's a lot of people who will treasure having this, especially in these times. We're in a time when we're calling out and we're looking for strength, and this is a great album for that. I think it's timely, and I think that is the big gift that he felt that he had something coming.

"I believe that music is a power, it's a

strength for us."

Wilson said the success of the album is encouragement for him to carry on in his musical pursuits.

"And also to keep going with all of the people who are coming up, because there's lots of people coming up ... local musicians here who are from Morden and who are working in Winnipeg and are working away at it ... and they're coming along great," Wilson said. "It's a real treat to see the guys come up into Winnipeg and dazzle everybody."



Plots available at Winkler Community Gardens

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Spring is at hand and the Winkler Community Gardens are gearing up for another bountiful season.

Open registration for the 127-plot gardens began last week.

Organizer Margaret Klassen said they've added new plots to their space south of the Westridge Memorial Gardens to meet the demands of the community.

"Last year we ran out of gardens," she said. "So we're putting in another 26 gardens this year."

Returning gardeners had the chance to call dibs on their plots until March 15 before registration was opened to the community at large the next day.

Klassen said on Friday that they have about 30 plots still available for anyone interested.

The plots range in size and cost between \$30-\$50 for the season. That fee includes access to the water that is

available on site.

The community gardens only have a few of rules renters must abide by, Klassen said.

"Number one, they have to keep the plots clean," she stressed. "We expect you to take care of it ... you don't plant your garden and then leave it and come back in fall and reap the harvest. That's not the way gardens work."

And since the entire garden is tilled each year, planting perennials or fruit bushes are also out.

"Otherwise you can plant basically whatever you like," Klassen said.

One final rule: no poaching produce from other people's plots.

"It's a community garden but these are private property to the person that rented it," said Klassen, adding that they thankfully have had few problems on that front over the years.

If you'd like to rent a garden plot, contact Klassen at 204-362-7552.

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Conservative government unveils Budget 2020

By Lorne Stelmach

Resiliency is the overriding theme of what the province last week touted as the most emergency-ready budget in the history of Manitoba.

The word resilient came up repeatedly Thursday as the Conservative government introduced a budget it promoted as keeping Manitoba on the road to recovery while also preparing for the unexpected around the COVID-19 pandemic and potential spring flooding.

"We have a very resilient province with resilient people, and this budget demonstrates that resilience. The ability to withstand difficulties is a measure of strength, of character, not just for people but for governments as well," said Premier Brian Pallister.

"Our province is stronger and more financially resilient than it has been in well over a decade," he said, repeating the familiar message that the government is managing its finances better and repairing core services.

Pallister went on to particularly highlight measures such as replenishing the rainy day fund by bringing it up \$872 million and setting out an additional \$100 million for emergency spending.

"This gives us more financial flexibility to deal with uncertain times," he maintained. "We've strengthened our readiness to face the challenges, not just of COVID but of potentially floods and fires ... in this time of climate change and the impact it's having, we have to be more resilient than we've ever been in the past.

"We have identified in this budget more than \$500 million of planned expenditures that we can defer if need be, that we can redeploy if need be," Pallister added. "This is the flexibility we need in these uncertain times."

The premier went on to stress the importance of making strategic infrastructure investments "based on priorities, not based on politics." He also highlighted further tax measures, including lowering the PST, introducing the flat green levy, lowering the payroll tax for small businesses, and a reduction in basic personal exemptions.

"The total amount of money that will be left on the kitchen tables of Manitobans, because of these tax

measures and others, in just the last fiscal and the coming fiscal year exceeds \$1 billion," Pallister said.

Much of his message, though, continued to focus on meeting the challenges of economic recovery that will continue long after the threat of COVID-19 passes.

"Manitobans have a long history of dealing with challenges, whether it's floods in the spring or droughts in the summer, and we have always risen to the challenge by stepping up and by helping each other," Pallister said. "The budget today sets the stage for recovery, recovery faster, and it focuses on the priorities of the people of Manitoba.

"I would say these contingencies demonstrate we're serious about taking on the challenge of making sure that we have a sustainable financial situation," he concluded. "Every economic projection is for recession because of the impact of COVID-19, so we have to be realistic about that ... we have considered each of these projections in our forecasting."

GREEN LEVY, PST DROP

Finance Minister Scott Fielding suggested the 2020 budget "continues the hard work by focusing on the issues that matter most to Manitobans—by providing better services, protecting our environment, making our communities stronger and safer, making life more affordable and building a better, brighter and more prosperous future."

The province is introducing a made-in-Manitoba green levy effective July 1 at a flat \$25 per tonne that will not increase each year, unlike the federal government's carbon tax. Fielding suggested it will cost Manitoba families and businesses less than the federal carbon tax plan and will be more effective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to offset the impact of the green levy, the government will lower the PST rate to six per cent as of July 1.

"Budget 2020 delivers significant tax reductions which, combined with the 2019 tax cuts, are the largest in Manitoba history," said Fielding. "Manitoba will be the only province that has cut its sales tax in recent years and we've done it twice."

The PST reduction is expected to create an average annual savings of about \$345 per household.

The province will also replenish the rainy day fund, contributing an additional \$300 million to it by the end of 2020-21. This will result in a balance of \$872 million, at which point the rainy day fund will be fully funded.

Additionally, the emergency expenditures contingency is increased to \$100 million, which is effectively \$86 million higher than it was in 2016, and an incremental \$45 million available for infrastructure projects aimed at improving environmental resiliency.

"Our province will be in a far stronger position to respond to unforeseen emergencies and we have never been as prepared to deal with those situations," said Fielding.

In the wake of COVID-19, the province did not offer an updated deficit projection, but it had earlier forecasted a reduction to \$220 million, an improvement of \$140 million over the previous year, and Fielding also maintained the government is on track to balance the budget within its current term.

"We have modestly exceeded our plans each year, and we are predicting, for the fourth year in a row, an improvement to our earlier forecasts," he said. "We have reduced the deficit each year, while making record investments in health, in education, and for families."

He touted the budget as providing record investments in health care at \$6.8 billion and education at \$1.3 billion.

The Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living budget includes funding for a range of capital projects with a total strategic infrastructure budget of \$1.8 billion.

Furthermore, a \$160 million investment on capital projects in the K-12 education system will result in 4,425 new classroom spaces either open or under construction by the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year as the government builds seven new schools and takes

on several major additions and renovation projects.

Other highlights from the budget include:

- Investing more than \$250 million over four years for the provincial clinical and preventative services plan to enable patients to access the health care they need closer to home and shorten wait times at Winnipeg hospitals.

- Providing an additional \$10 million for cataract and joint replacement surgeries to further shorten surgical wait times for thousands of Manitobans.

- Funding a \$2-million increase for mental health and addiction treatment.

- Investing more than \$2 million to add more than 1,000 licensed early learning and child-care spaces.

- Providing \$101 million for the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin outlet channels project and \$45 million for climate resiliency projects across the province.

- Funding up to \$15.8 million to help municipalities outside Winnipeg develop safe and sustainable water and sewage facilities.

- Providing an additional \$6 million for provincial police service agreements, including funding for 27 additional police officers.

- Investing \$5 million to fight crime and gang activity.

- Providing more than \$1 million to help police to detect and deter drug-impaired driving.

- Providing \$561,000 for grants to support community projects that deliver services to victims of crime in Manitoba.

- Increasing the emergency expenditures contingency to \$100 million.

- Providing a \$125-million increase to highways capital budget to a total of \$362.5 million.

- Eliminating all probate fees as of July 1.

- Increasing the payroll tax threshold, which will benefit 1,000 employers.

"OUR PROVINCE IS STRONGER AND MORE FINANCIALLY RESILIENT THAN IT HAS BEEN IN WELL OVER A DECADE."

Power of the Purse funds divvied up

By Lorne Stelmach

The funding from the Morden Area Foundation's Power of the Purse event has been divvied up among three local initiatives.

The foundation's Women's Giving Circle brought together 105 women to donate \$100 each. At a March 7 brunch, representatives from Youth for Christ, the Morden Library, and the foundation itself made pitches for funding.

The ladies decided to give \$4,105 to Youth for Christ for its dignity bags

project. The organization plans to assemble at least 25 bags filled with feminine hygiene products for youth in need.

The Morden Area Foundation, meanwhile, received \$3,286 for the Power of the Purse endowment fund, pushing the fund to around \$93,000.

Finally, the South Central Regional Library received \$3,149 for a seniors literacy initiative that will provide tablets to be set up with a selection of books and loaned out for an extended period.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Over 100 women came together for the Power of the Purse brunch earlier this month, collectively donating over \$10,500 to three local charitable projects.

New provincial website connects volunteers with those in need

The provincial government has launched a new online tool to connect those in need with volunteers eager to help during the COVID-19 crisis.

Premier Brian Pallister announced the launch of HelpNextDoorMB.ca Monday afternoon.

"This new online tool captures the spirit of our province, where Manitobans in communities across our province can always be counted on to step up to assist others who need help, especially in times of need," he said.

"The innovative tool, created by Manitobans for Manitobans, puts people all over the province who need assistance easily in contact with those nearby—while adhering to social distancing protocols—who want to help them."

The application will match volunteers and community support for such services as groceries and medication deliveries, emergency snow-clearing, technology assistance, and various other necessities with those

unable to leave their homes.

Residents in greatest need, such as the elderly, disabled, and those at high risk of contracting COVID-19, will find the application very useful, Pallister noted.

The province-wide online platform was designed and developed by Winnipeg's North Forge Technology Exchange in just five days in response to the pandemic.

"This is how Manitobans pull to-

gether, put their heads together and bring ideas to life to assist each other when help is needed," said Pallister. "Manitoba has been the home of hope for over 150 years, and we will continue to be the home of hope for generations to come. We will get through this pandemic together.

Manitobans can access www.HelpNextDoorMB.ca directly or via www.Manitoba.ca/COVID19.

"THIS NEW ONLINE TOOL CAPTURES THE SPIRIT OF OUR PROVINCE."

Daffodil Days cancelled

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Canadian Cancer Society has cancelled its popular Daffodil Days campaign for the year.

Originally scheduled for the first full week of April, the ongoing global pandemic forced organizers to pull the plug on both the community flower sales and business deliveries, said Nettie Friesen, who heads up the Winkler area campaign.

"It is disappointing," she said last week. "You get yourself psyched up about it. But what else can we do?"

Postponing the sales of daffodil

flowers to a later time this summer simply wasn't feasible, Friesen noted. The daffodil pin boxes will also not be going out into local stores.

Campaign volunteers in both Winkler and Morden had already pre-sold several hundred dollars worth of daffodils to area businesses.

Friesen said they'll be contacting businesses to find out if they'd like a refund or would prefer to leave what they've paid as a donation to the cancer society, which uses the money to support services and programs for patients and families dealing with the disease.

NPC Youth in Philanthropy accepting grant applications

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Northlands Parkway Collegiate's Youth in Philanthropy have put out a call for grant applications.

The student group is on track to raise \$1,000 to give out to worthy community projects this spring, says member Tianna Wiebe.

"We have almost our goal already and it's only March, so we're doing really good with our fundraising," she says. "We have \$850 so far."

YIP has been collecting donations since fall through a variety of fundraisers, including selling cupcakes and gift cards. They've also helped out at events such as the Katie

Cares Fashion Show.

"It's a lot of fun doing it with other people and helping others," Wiebe says of what brought her back for her second year with the program, which is supported by the Winkler Community Foundation.

Once the applications for funding are in, YIP members will collectively decide how to divvy up the money they raised.

"[We'll pick] ones we think will help our community out," Wiebe says, noting there are about six students involved at NPC this year.

The application form can be downloaded from npc.gvsvd.ca. The deadline for applications is April 24.

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RELIGION

Let us be thankful for the institution of the Christian Sabbath. It is a thing wherein God has shown His mercy to us and His care for our souls. He shows that He, by His infinite wisdom, is contriving for our good as Christ teaches us that the Sabbath was made for man. It was made for the profit and comfort of our souls. Jonathan Edwards. Feel free to check out our website or contact us for further information. www.clda.ca

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OBITUARY

Timon Wiens 2003 - 2020



In Silent Memory of Timon Wiens - My times are in your hand. Psalm 31,15

Timon Wiens, born on March 22, 2003 in Lübbecke, Germany was the second of six children in the family of Andreas and Angelika Wiens. He was received with much love.

Timon was a very happy person. He was always ready to help and had a very caring heart for his younger siblings. When help was needed- he was there. He was always seen with a smile on his face. Finding friends was never a problem for him. He never wanted to be alone. On February 3, 2009, when Timon was almost six years old, he gave his heart to Jesus. Here he was at his Grandma's place and as they talked, he understood that he needed forgiveness and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior. He attended Grades 1 and 2 at Ostland school in Espelkamp, Germany. In May 2011, the family moved to Canada. Here he attended Grade 3 at J.R. Walkof School. In November 2011, they moved to their home in Schanzenfeld where Timon went to Prairie Dale School, which he enjoyed. In September 2017, he entered high school at GVC. He loved to play basketball and spend time with his friends. Since summer 2019, he belonged to the Youth of Schanzenfeld, which meetings he unfortunately rarely attended. His parents shared their concerns with their parents, siblings and friends. Especially in the last two weeks, many people were praying for him.

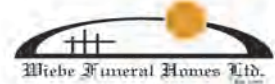
In the night of March 15, 2020 between 1 and 2 o'clock, Timon was called to eternity by God in a car accident. It is hard to grasp that he isn't here anymore. But we hope by God's mercy, to see him again in Heaven. Timon reached the age of 16 years, 11 months, and 23 days.

He leaves to mourn his parents, Andreas and Angelika Wiens; his siblings Samuel, Rebecca, Mirjam, Josias, and Niklas; his grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins and many friends.

We are deeply grateful for the kindness and compassion many people extended to our family in many ways during this time of loss.

Funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2020 at the German Mennonite Brethren Church (Bethaus) in Schanzenfeld with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

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



OBITUARY

Elizabeth (Betty) Bergman May 5, 1930 to March 19, 2020



Betty Bergman, age 89, passed away peacefully at BTHC on Thursday, March 19, 2020 with family at her bedside. She has gone on to join our Dad, Jake Bergman, in God's heaven.

She is survived by two daughters, Irene and Lloyd Letkeman, Rosanne and Grant Loewen, and one son, Ken and Linda Bergman; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband in 1970 and one grandson in 2018. Betty will also be missed by her many friends at Oak West Estates.

Because of current circumstances, a Memorial Gathering honoring our Mom will be held at a later date. A private Graveside Service was held on Monday, March 23 at Southside Cemetery,

Morden.

We would love to have memories and stories (M & A Fabrics, family, friend and neighbor) about our Mom. Please use the secure email address to send these memories to share at her Memorial Gathering: BettyBergmanMemories@gmail.com

Donations may be made to a charity of one's choice. Special thank-you and sincere gratitude to the wonderful BTHC staff who took exceptional care of our Mom. Thank you also to Wiebe Funeral Home for their kind and considerate assistance.

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



MEETING CANCELLATION



WINKLER POLICE BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE

The Winkler Police Board quarterly meeting scheduled for April 8th has been postponed. A notice will be issued once a new date is determined.

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Rural Municipality of Stanley may conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2020:

1) To control noxious weeds on road allowances within the Municipality. The proposed period of application would be from May 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020. The herbicides to be used could include:

- Tordon 22K
- 2-4-D amine 600
- Milestone
- Overdrive
- Truvis

2) To control insect pests including grasshoppers, mosquitoes, canker worms, etc. The proposed period of application for these programs would be from May 1, 2020 to October 31, 2020. The insecticides to be used could include:

- Malathion
- Dursban

The public may send written submissions or objections within 15 days of the publication of the notice to the department below.

Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Sustainable Development
1007 Century Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4

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PUBLIC NOTICE

9TH ANNUAL RAPTOR FESTIVAL RE COVID-19

The health and safety of our community and of our patrons is of utmost importance. Due to current health concerns the Coordinators of the 9th Annual Raptor Festival have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 event. These decisions are not made lightly; however, we feel it is in the best interests of all. We hope to see everyone back in 2021!

Coordinators,
La Riviere Raptor Festival

Announcements

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OBITUARY



Ruth Helen Derksen (nee Janzen) 1953 – 2020

We are so sad to announce the passing of Ruth Derksen, our treasured wife, mom, nana, sister and friend. Ruth passed away in the arms of her loved ones at Boundary Trails Health Centre on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Left to cherish her memory are her devoted husband, Jake; beloved children, Andrea, Carri (Steve), Michael (Jessica) and precious grandchildren, Thomas, Samuel, Aidan, Ellis and Ruthie; sisters, Myrna Penner and Marg Kelso (Doug); brothers, Bill Janzen (Kathy) and Glen Janzen (Esther); nieces and nephews and extended family. Ruth will also be remembered by many close friends and her church family.

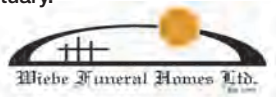
The family wishes to express heartfelt thanks to the BTHC Chemotherapy nurses, who compassionately cared for Ruth for 3.5 years. Your kindness will not be forgotten. Thank you to Dr. Woelk and Dr. Dhala for your expertise and compassion over these years. Thank you also to Dr. Hunt, who acted quickly on mom's symptoms and enabled timely treatment. Special thanks to Heather Menzies, mom's nurse on her last day, for empathy and support on the hardest day. Thank you to all our family and friends for your messages and gestures of love and support, and special thanks to our Pastor Michael and Larissa Pahl for your presence and care through this painful time.

In light of COVID-19, a private family and care group memorial will take place. We hope to hold a public celebration of Ruth's life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made in Ruth's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation (designated to Cancer Care).

Please see www.wiebefuneralhome.com for full obituary.

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



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The Winkler Morden **Voice**
CALL: 325-6888

Agriculture

New trade agreement with U.S. must be a priority: Wickett

By Harry Siemens

Jim Wickett, chair of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers, farms near Rosetown, SK with his wife and daughters on a fourth-generation grain farm.

Wickett fears for the agriculture industry in light of the fact Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has not expedited the passage of Canada's new trade agreement with the United States and Mexico in Parliament in recent weeks.

"We're a leaderless country right now. We have no leadership," Wickett

said. "The leader has abdicated that responsibility, and it's like that cancer has moved through his Cabinet."

Wickett takes issue as well with the government's handling of the pipeline protestors setting fire along rail-way tracks.

"But we have a Justice Minister that thinks it's just normal protesting. So as long as there's no action on any of this stuff, we're going to be, I think, continue to be in this situation."

Wickett went on to cite examples of how this turmoil is hurting agriculture. Several of WCWG's directors had the force majeure clause on some

of their cropcontracts executed, he said, meaning there is no time frame of when or even if the grain buyer will take it. These circumstances are beyond their control, so they can enforce that part of the contract and walk away from it.

"We're hearing a constant one to two months, sometimes three months, delays or companies are saying you have a January contract. And we know right now we're not going to get to it 'till May," Wickett said. "If you don't deliver grain, you don't get paid. And so that's going to have a trickle-down effect right through to the input suppliers."

This turmoil will have a long-term effect, and it's going to take many months to straighten it out, he stressed.

Wickett and other WCWG board members are reaching out to MPs in Ottawa to help keep them up-to-date and asking the right questions during Question Period on Parliament Hill.

"We have an Agriculture Minister

that's out of touch," Wickett said of Ag Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau. "She doesn't understand agriculture, doesn't come from that world, and she's like a fish out of water."

Wickett said at the height of the turmoil and now continuing to reap the aftermath following an extended horrific harvest with several million acres still out there, rampant trade issues, and the effects of the coronavirus, it's anybody's guess as to what's going to happen next.

"[When] I started farming in the '80s my first operating loan was at 17.25 per cent. We've had tough times, and we had nothing but trade issues then. The initial Canadian Wheat Board wheat payment [was] \$1.80 a bushel the one year for number one high protein weight," he said.

"So, it's a matter of taking care of the nickels and dimes, and the dollars will take care of themselves. So, guys, you'll have to watch expenses and watch what they do."

The Winkler Morden **Voice**

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