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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A collection of kids were eager to show off their creations last week at the Pembina Hills Gallery, which hosted a week of spring break activities in Morden. There were numerous activities in both Winkler and Morden including the Winkler library and Winkler Arts and Culture as well.

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

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# Show your community some love

Health region  
calling on residents  
to do small acts of  
kindness

By Lorne Stelmach

Southern Health-Sante Sud is calling on people all across the region to show their love for their community.

The Love My Community campaign is about how small acts of kindness and caring can play a big role in the mental health and well being of our region.

"It really is fundamental to people's health. It's really important for health and happiness and longevity," said Justine Foster, who is a healthy living facilitator with public health. "It's just as important as being physically active or eating healthy."

The campaign is based on an idea that was started by a group of students in Dominion City. The students from Roseau Valley School showed



that things as simple as a kind message in sidewalk chalk or a card to a senior can make a huge difference in someone's day including their own.

"Their idea was to spread kindness



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The 'love my community' campaign was inspired by students who did even something as simple as painting rocks.

## Weekly Compost Collection Returns!

As a sure sign of spring, weekly curbside collection of compostable materials is back!

Make sure your compost bin is at the curb by 7 am on your collection day each week.

For a list of compostable materials, and instructions on how to fold [this](#) newspaper into a liner for your kitchen compost collector, scan the QR code below to visit our website!

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and create joy and really try to build relationships with their community and really connect the school with the community," said Foster. "We thought it was such a brilliant idea ... and their concept was really just to carry out a mental health activity of the class's choosing ... and they had really great success with it."

Through the healthy living team, there is a Healthy Together Now program that can provide grants to funding these kinds of initiatives.

Last year, the challenge was put out to schools across the region, and it had 19 entries, whether it was physical activity, creative expression through art, connecting with nature or different kinds of social connection opportunities.

"So we thought why don't try to spread this throughout our whole health region," said Foster. "We wanted to spread this to our community organizations as well."

"What we're hoping to do is create some sort of an e-book, and maybe we'll get some printed versions as well, to showcase the spread of kindness and joy and social connection and the ripple effect it can have throughout the health region. It could be inspiring to see what people come up with," she concluded.

People are being encourage to take action between now and May 12, and you can go online to [southernhealth.ca](http://southernhealth.ca) to find out how to participate and submit an entry form and photos.

*The* **Voice**

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# Four projects make their pitch

Power of the Purse offers the opportunity to support worthwhile initiatives

By Lorne Stelmach

Four worthy organizations and initiatives were awaiting a portion of the proceeds from the annual Power of the Purse project.

The aim is to engage women of all generations in community philanthropy, and the brunch April 5 at St. Pauls United Church helped build visibility for Morden's charitable sector while bringing local women together to learn about the needs of the community and to support Morden's residents by their donor directed grants.

It started 10 years ago as the Women's Giving Circle under the umbrella of the Morden Area Foundation with the goal to raise and grant \$10,000 from 100 women who have donated \$100, but it was a little extra special this year to mark the milestone with four projects rather than three making their pitch.

A breakdown of how much money was donated to each project was not available at press time.

The first presentation was for support for the Chance 2 Camp and Chance 2 Grow programs through the Child and Family Services Foundation

"It is solely funded through grants and donors," noted Sara Martens, community support co-ordinator, who asked for up to \$10,000 to subsidize youth summer camps and activities.

She emphasized the support is vital and noted the programs last year were able to send 111 children to camp and another 134 to various other activities.

"Recreation and opportunity promote a sense of belonging and well-being," said Martens. "It is our mission to make camp and activities a reality to all."

She added how it can go a long way to help build confidence, develop skills and build new friendships.

"These programs aren't just about keeping kids busy. They're about giving them the foundation they need to thrive."

Jennifer Smirl, gallery director with the Pembina Hills Arts Council, then

Continued on page 5



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

About 100 women with \$100 to donate gathered last Saturday at St. Paul's United Church in Morden for the annual Power of the Purse event.



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# Altona launches history project

By Lori Penner

The Town of Altona is taking a fresh and inclusive look at its past with a new multi-phase history project that aims to make local stories more accessible to residents, newcomers and visitors alike.

The initiative, funded through the 2025 municipal budget, was identified as a priority in Altona's 2023 strategic plan and reflects the community's commitment to preserving and presenting its heritage in creative, engaging and meaningful ways.

"Our past has shaped the fabric of the community today, and as we plan for the future, it's good to also recognize where we've come from," said Mayor Harv Schroeder. "It also makes good sense to have a fresh look at the history of our community and update how we present that information in recognition of the ways our community has grown and changed over the years."

At the heart of the project is local historian Dr. Susie Fisher, who brings a wealth of academic expertise and a deep connection to the community.

Fisher holds a PhD in Canadian history from the University of Manitoba with a research focus on immigration and settlement in the west reserve. She also holds a Master's degree in Mennonite religion and ethnicity and has lived and worked in the Altona area for over a decade.

"Initially, I was looking at maybe exploring a historical walking tour of Altona, where people could go to different points in town and scan a QR code to get information about the history of this place," said Fisher.

"But now my job is to do the research phase of a broader, multi-phase project. The overarching goal is to make the history of Altona more accessible

and to celebrate the moments that have shaped this place."

Phase one, which runs from June 2025 to January 2026, is all about research and development.

Dr. Fisher will conduct archival research at local and provincial archives, collect 100 high-resolution historical photos, and prepare a 50–100 page document that tells the story of Altona from the 1870s to today.

The project will highlight key themes including Indigenous history, land, immigration, religion, economics, sports and recreation.

"We're trying to tell a new story. It's not just about Mennonite immigration anymore. We want to know what was here before Mennonite settlers arrived, how the land was used and how other communities have contributed to this place," said Fisher. "A big part of this is also making sure Indigenous stories are included. To not include them is to draw a bracket around history that is false."

The final document will be written in plain, accessible language to appeal to a wide audience and will form the foundation for the next stages of the project.

Phase two will focus on public delivery of the information through digital platforms and physical installations, possibly including interpretive signage and a digital walking map.

A potential site for a permanent exhibit is the green space at the corner of 2nd St. NE and 4th Ave. NE, where the cenotaph once stood. Council has expressed interest in transforming the space into a welcoming, park-like area that blends heritage with thoughtful design.

Schroeder emphasized the community-building aspect of the initiative.

"We plan to deliver the information in different ways and hope that resi-



PHOTO FROM ALTONA: A PICTORIAL HISTORY

This photo, probably taken from one of Altona's grain elevators, shows Main St. the way it appeared on a typical winter's day in 1900.

dents and visitors connect to the stories that made Altona the community it is today."

Community collaboration is a key component of the project. The town is inviting residents to contribute their stories, photos and personal histories to enrich the narrative. Those interested can reach out to communications officer Sarah Cail at [communications@altona.ca](mailto:communications@altona.ca) or 204-324-6468.

Dr. Fisher and Cail are also working on ways for residents to share their materials digitally or through in-person gatherings.

"There might be photos in people's personal archives that we've never seen before, of buildings or landscapes in town. It'll be neat to bring all those stories together," Fisher said. "We have deep roots here, and those personal perspectives will help broaden the understanding of how this place has evolved."

The initiative also includes exploring grant opportunities to help fund Phase two and beyond. Fisher has already begun identifying potential

sources and will work alongside town administration to pursue them.

Ultimately, the success of the project will be measured by how well it resonates with the people who call Altona home and those who visit.

"I hope that residents, newcomers and visitors all find parts of Altona's story that they can connect with and find parts that they can learn something new from," said Schroeder.

As Dr. Fisher puts it, the goal is not simply to document the past but to reimagine it through a lens that is inclusive, reflective and rooted in both scholarly research and community voices.

"A historian's job is always to start with the archive, to see what's already available and what can be dug up," she said. "But the magic happens when you start to weave those facts into a story that connects people to the place they live in. I'm excited that the town approached me to do this—it's renewing my love of history, and we hope it ignites curiosity in others."

# Garden to bring Plum Coulee together

By Lorne Stelmach

Plum Coulee is anticipating another year of strong interest and activity at its community garden.

There are two sites with 40 plots available in each with plots that are 15 by 25 feet, and they are located just south of the outdoor rink right by the CJ Dyck Arena.

"Most people will have two plots," suggested lead organizer Nettie Kehler.

"We are definitely starting to fill up again for this year," she noted. "We're getting some new renters in this year,

some new gardeners who haven't been there before, so that's exciting.

"We are asking that they are in the town of Plum Coulee because we are growing fast enough here ... so right now, we are asking for residents only," she noted.

The community garden was started in 2021, and Kehler said it has gone over well, and Kehler had a couple thoughts as to what might be spurring the interest.

"There's some more multiple family apartments and things like that, so they don't have space in a back yard. They don't have that available, so we

are getting some of those types of residents," she suggested. "So a lot of the immigrants are getting in there as well, so that is great to see.

She also sees there being more interest in recent years in food that is more homegrown and healthy and natural.

"That is very much so, and I think with COVID, everybody started to get back into gardening and just realizing that homegrown vegetables and fruit is just so much better to serve on your table."

Registration had an April 1 deadline for previous users, then it opened up to other users.

"We won't become completely filled up, but we're really hoping that we will be close to full," said Kehler.

She ultimately loves seeing how it brings the community together.

"It's been wonderful chatting with other people who you otherwise might just pass when you're out going for walks," said Kehler.

"We should brush up on some of our other languages ... it's been good, and it's even about just sharing gardening tips. Everybody gardens a little different, right, and if people have something to share, I think it's wonderful. I just really enjoy it."



## > POWER OF THE PURSE, FROM PG. 3

requested up to \$6,600 to support an open art studio project. The aim is to offer two free weekly drop-in sessions with one for youth and another for teens and adults, and the support would help cover the cost of art supplies and fees for at least six months.

She touched on the challenges often faced in getting into the arts and nurturing the creative skills when a common axiom for some may be there is no value or money in art.

"Imagine this place where dreams and inspiration are welcome, a place where your talents are exactly what you're there to explore, rediscover and reclaim," said Smirl.

"We want to be the creative support you never had," she concluded.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the

Pembina Valley sought up to \$5,570 for a Grow Youth workshop with Grow being short for 'guidance, resilience, opportunity and wellness'.

Executive director Janelle Neufeld asked people to think back to that special person who took the time to be there for you and to support and encourage you, and that is what they want this program to provide for 15 young girls aged perhaps nine to 12 with the hope of offering something similar in the future for young boys.

"Imagine if they have the tools, the confidence and the mentorship to guide them," she said. "Mentoring them isn't just about today's challenges. It's about shaping the future of our community."

"The impact is life changing. Girls

## Music and stories featured in Neubergthal



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The first session of Plautdietsche Tietfedrief 2025 April 5 at the Commons Barn included guest speaker Kennert Giesbrecht, former editor of the Mennonitische Post, sharing stories and experiences of trips to Belize, Bolivia and Paraguay, working for different organizations. The event featured Low German music by Veronika Siemens and Friends.

# The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Harrison Doell ©



**The Voice** Thursday, April 10, 2025 **5**

leave our workshop feeling confident ... ready to take on life's challenges."

Finally, Carl Friesen, chairperson of the Douglas Kuhl School of Music, asked for up to \$5,000 to help provide their string orchestra programs for students.

He touched on the power and value of music and emphasized how their programs that are inter-generational and affordable. They offer four string orchestras, and he emphasized the need for such an opportunity in rural Manitoba.

"We believe that no one should be denied the opportunity to experience the power of music simply because of where they live," he said.

"It changes the fabric of our commu-

nities," he said, noting they hosted eight local music events here last year. "It's also about making our local communities here rich and joyful places to live," he added. "Music isn't just a nice thing to have ... music transforms lives."

Foundation chairperson Sue Nelson, in an earlier interview, noted how the event is always inspiring.

"There's certainly a core group of ladies who come out every year and enjoy it and for a number of reasons. Not only are they supporting local organizations and local charities and things that are impactful in the community, it's also an opportunity to get together and have a nice time."

Public  
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### Manitoba Hydro Fiscal 2026 to 2028 General Rate Application

Manitoba Hydro has applied to the Public Utilities Board for a 3.5 per cent average increase effective January 1, 2026, 3.5 per cent average increase effective January 1, 2027, and a further 3.5 per cent average increase effective January 1, 2028. Manitoba Hydro is requesting increases to obtain the revenue needed to run the electric system, perform maintenance, and rebuild and expand the system as needed to continue to provide reliable, safe and effective service to customers.

**For a residential customer without electric heat** (using an average of 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month), the average impact of the proposed increase is approximately \$3.70 per month after January 1, 2026, an additional \$3.80 per month after January 1, 2027, and an additional \$3.95 per month after January 1, 2028.

**For a residential customer with electric heat** (using an average of 2,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month), the average impact of the proposed increase is approximately \$7.05 per month after January 1, 2026, an additional \$7.30 per month after January 1, 2027, and an additional \$7.55 per month after January 1, 2028.

Further details of Manitoba Hydro's Application are available at: [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

You can share your views on the proposed rate increases with the Public Utilities Board in three ways:

- **As a Presenter** — If you want to make a virtual or in-person formal presentation to the Public Utilities Board on this matter and are willing to respond to questions about your presentation, please go to [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca) and apply to become an approved Presenter. Presentations are limited to a maximum of 10 minutes.
- **Written comment** — If you would like to comment in writing on the rate increase, please go to [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca) and provide your written comment.
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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## Get out and vote

**I think that voting in a federal, provincial or municipal election should be legally mandatory.**

Okay, hear me out.

In a democracy the most powerful exercise of one's rights is voting. Nothing else comes close. To vote is to choose the people who will represent you at varying levels of government and make critical decisions on your behalf.

Voting is not only a right, but I also believe it should be an enforceable obligation.

As of 2023 there were 21 countries that had compulsory voting laws including places like Australia, Austria, Belgium, and Brazil for example.

Of those countries 14 enforce their compulsory voting laws and have voter turnouts ranging from a low of 75 per cent to a dubious high of 100 per cent.

In the last federal election in 2021 voter turnout across Canada was a dismal (but not bad compared to other countries) 62.6 per cent. The highest turnout in a federal election in Canada was in 1963 at 79.2 per cent and lowest was 44.6 per cent in 1898. Overall, however voter turnout in Canada continues to reduce over time as an average.

In the 2023 federal by-election for Portage-Lisgar voter turnout was a dismal 45.12 per cent. Similarly in 2023 during the provincial election the Morden-Winkler riding saw a turnout of 44.3 per cent.



**By Peter Cantelon**

But why do I care? Why make it mandatory?

Well, research shows that where compulsory voting exists the electorate is best represented in the results.

Some people have argued that compulsory voting means less informed people contribute to the vote skewing the results. This is an elitist perspective and code for "let's keep things the way they are because I don't want dumb people helping to choose our elected representatives."

One thing that research shows is that where there is compulsory voting, groups who have been under-represented in the past tend to see benefits in the form of policies that would not have been adopted prior to their representation.

This means that if you don't vote you are often ignored or missed in decision making as elected representatives focus on the demographics that did vote.

Of course, there is the challenge of certain people who do not like being told what to do.

I am convinced that if breathing, for example, was made to be legally mandatory there are some stubborn individuals who would simply hold their breath until they died because "no

one is going to tell me what to do."

Then there is the problem of how to enforce. You could incentivize with things like tax credits but that only helps people with enough income to benefit.

Believe it or not, Canadian parliament has looked at compulsory voting. The Erre Special Committee on Electoral Reform looked at this and used Australia as an example.

In Australia voting is compulsory. If you do not vote you will be fined \$20. The fine really doesn't motivate people to vote. The fact that it is compulsory led to a cultural shift where Australia sees up to 95 per cent voter turnout.

In a largely law-abiding country like Canada, I imagine a similar shift would take place (except of course in locales with a large number of breath holders).

Finally, if voting is mandatory and turnouts increase parties can focus on the issues at hand and not be distracted by also trying to convince certain non-voting demographics to get out and vote (I'm looking at you young adults).

Whether it becomes the law or not get out there and vote—it makes a difference.

## 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.

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# Funding to help attract doctors

Morden Area Foundation provides financial support for physician recruitment

By Lorne Stelmach

The support of the Morden Area Foundation is having an impact on the recruitment of more physicians in the community.

Foundation representatives Friday presented a \$15,000 cheque to the Menzies Medical Centre to go towards physician recruitment, and a medical student who is working towards settling here was on hand for the occasion.

Josh Sawatzky, who is a fourth year medical student and who has been matched up with the residency program at Boundary Trails Health Centre, will be ready to start his practice in 2027, and he welcomes the support to make it possible for him to come back to where he and his wife grew up.

"We're going to stick around, so it's really exciting to be able to come back here and do my training," he said.

"It's a very generous donation," said Sawatzky. "It's super helpful for recruiting health care workers and physicians as the area really does need more health care workers, and I think just those donations like that are super helpful for getting people to come back and practice in the area."

"It's a big commitment," he said, noting though his love for the area and how it matters to have that feeling for the community and the culture here in the area.

"The dream to become a doctor I think started late high school, early university. I always knew I wanted to do health care ... early on, in medical school, I really found again that connection," he said. "Having some of those connections in the community is super helpful."

"We are super excited to be making some good progress in our recruitment efforts," said Nicole Walske, executive director of the Menzies Medical Centre in Morden. "He's been a joy to have as a med student in our clinic for the last number of years ... being from the area, it's just a great



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Area Foundation representatives Friday presented a \$15,000 cheque to the Menzies Medical Centre to go towards physician recruitment, and a medical student who is working towards settling here was on hand for the occasion.

add to our community, to this clinic and to our team."

She noted how there are better chances for retention as well to have someone with a connection to the community.

"I think overall it's important to know that recruitment is looking positive," she said. "We do have some good indications of some doctors joining us in the next year as well, so I think that's important for people to hear."

The clinic currently has 16 family practice physicians, one pediatrician and two nurse practitioners, and it has just been approved for another nurse practitioner position.

It would ideally have room to add 10 more family physicians, noted Walske.


"It is going to still take a really long time. There's lots of patients still on that list ... we have hope for getting there."

Foundation chairperson Sue Nelson said they are happy to be involved in supporting the health care sector in Morden.

"It's great to see that we're working towards more physicians for the area because that's certainly a huge, huge need," she said, citing how the foundation strives to help improve the well-being of residents in Morden.


"The need for physicians in this area is incredible," she said. "So the Morden Area Foundation is very excited

and happy to be part of supporting the Menzies Medical Centre in their physician recruitment."



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# Neubergthal Commons celebrated as heritage site

By Lori Penner

A key cultural and historical site in Neubergthal has officially regained its municipal heritage status.

It came about as a result of a somewhat unexpected discovery by the Neubergthal Heritage Foundation (NHF).

Many in the community assumed the Commons site, located in the heart of the nationally recognized heritage village, was already protected under heritage designation. But as NHF chair Paul Krahn explained, that wasn't the case—at least not recently.

"It's a bit of an interesting story," said Krahn. "The Commons had been designated before 2008 - parts of it anyway.

"The Eddie Schmidt section, the Klippenstein House and the H.F. Hamm House, which is now used as a picnic shelter, were all included. But the barn wasn't. That original designation was applied for by Brian and Janet Hamm, who also included their entire yard north of the Commons."

After the Hamm property was sold, the new owners, possibly concerned about the limitations a heritage designation might bring - applied to have it undesignated.

"There's a lot of misunderstanding around what heritage designation

actually means," Krahn said. "People worry it will affect resale value or restrict what they can do with their property. But the reality is, it also opens doors to grants and support."

The NHF only realized the Commons site had been undesignated when they applied for a provincial grant to repaint the barn, and one of the grant's requirements was a municipal heritage designation.

"That's when we started doing some digging and found out the site had been undesignated at some point," said Krahn.

To correct the oversight, the NHF had to reapply to the Rural Municipality of Rhineland to have the site officially redesignated. This included a formal hearing process, which was reviewed and approved by the municipal council. The redesignation was recently made official through a municipal bylaw under the Heritage Resources Act.

"Even though Neubergthal as a whole has been declared a national historic site, that doesn't automatically apply to individual properties," Krahn explained.

"Each one needs to go through its own application process at the municipal level. The national designation gives you recognition and support, but it doesn't bring in the same kinds



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Commons site in the village of Neubergthal has regained its municipal heritage designation.

of funding opportunities that a municipal designation can," he added.

Now that the Commons site has regained its official heritage status, it is once again eligible for critical provincial funding. This includes grants for restoration and maintenance, which are essential to the NHF's ongoing work to preserve the historic fabric of the village.

Krahn hopes other property owners with historically significant buildings will consider going through the process as well.

"There are lots of buildings that could be designated. If there's an open line of communication between

property owners and the municipality, you can get access to support that really makes a difference."

The official municipal notice cites the lands and premises and buildings commonly known as The Commons Site in the Village of Neubergthal, under the Heritage Resources Act by municipal bylaw of the Municipality of Rhineland, was designated as a municipal heritage site.

Krahn added for the NHF, it's not just about the ability to obtain grants.

"It's about honouring the legacy of a community with deep roots and a unique architectural story worth preserving."

## RM of Thompson appealing court ruling in Donna Cox case

By Ty Dilello

The RM of Thompson is moving ahead with an appeal in its effort to disqualify Coun. Donna Cox, despite a court ruling that reinstated her and ordered the municipality to pay most of her legal costs.

In October 2023, a Court of King's Bench judge ruled in favour of Cox, ordering the RM to pay \$45,000 toward her legal fees and allowing her to remain on council. The judge found the RM had acted improperly in trying to remove Cox for missing three committee meetings.

The RM filed an appeal in January, arguing the judge misinterpreted Manitoba's Municipal Act and should not have ordered the municipality to pay Cox's legal expenses. Reeve Brian Callum said the decision should be set aside.

The RM of Thompson and the Local Urban District of Miami previously applied under the Municipal Act to disqualify Cox and declare her council seat vacant. The attempt followed her absence from three consecutive

committee meetings, all held at 9:30 a.m., while she was working at her full-time job with the provincial government.

Cox, who was first elected as a Ward 2 councillor in October 2022 after serving as a school trustee, said her employer would not grant unpaid leave for the morning meetings. Shortly after her election, the RM council passed a bylaw changing regular council meeting times from alternating 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to only 9:30 a.m. meetings.

Cox was the only councillor to vote against the change and informed council she would only be able to attend one meeting per month if the new schedule was adopted.

Callum testified in court that the new schedule simply worked better for most councillors.

In addition to reinstating Cox, the judge ordered the RM to cover 95 per cent of her legal costs—about \$45,000.

Local resident Scott Mayert has attended council meetings this year to voice his opposition to the RM's con-

tinued legal efforts. He submitted a petition with more than 60 signatures, urging council to stop what he sees as a waste of taxpayers' money.

"There are so many more important things that money could be spent on," Mayert said. "I think it's prudent that council spend money in ways that benefit the taxpayer, and I see no way this court battle does that."

Mayert said he's spent hours presenting to council, contacting media and reaching out to the provincial government in hopes of ending the dispute.

"The RM is still going forward with the appeal. So now it's a wait-and-see if they win or lose, and where we go from there."

Callum told Mayert at a recent meeting that the issue is no longer just about the Municipal Act or Cox, but about the cost implications.

Cox has continued serving on council since her reinstatement, but the RM has not changed its meeting schedule to accommodate her.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The RM of Thompson is appealing a Court of King's Bench decision that reinstated Coun. Donna Cox, who was removed after missing three meetings due to her full-time job with the provincial government.



# Nurses support Altona palliative care

By Lori Penner

The Altona palliative volunteer team recently received a \$2,500 donation from the Manitoba Nurses Union Local 33 aimed at improving care and comfort for those facing end-of-life experiences at the Altona Health Centre and surrounding facilities.

Team co-ordinator Maria Nickel said the group recently became independent after separating from CARE Inc.

"We've developed a new board with Esther Friesen as secretary-treasurer. All our members are local and have had experience with death and dying. We're passionate about keeping this team going and doing the fundraising and charity work that's involved behind the scenes."

The team focuses on providing compassionate support to individuals and families during end-of-life care.

"Our goal is to help patients, families and the community through education and support. We supply the palliative care room in the hospital and address other end of life needs in the hospital, personal care home, and community," Nickel said.

Their current fundraising goal is to purchase a hospital-grade reclining chair for smaller patient rooms.

"Our large palliative care room, which used to be the birthing room in the facility, is now our designated palliative care room," she noted.

"Of course, there are often more people that are in the dying process than we have room for in that one room. But we're still very lucky to have our one room, especially out-fitted for that here. The other rooms are much smaller, so we want to buy a narrow, cleanable, durable recliner that someone can comfortably sleep in," she explained, noting these chairs cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

But the work goes beyond equipment.

"We're also there to offer solace and act as a liaison between families and the medical staff," Nickel said. "We're fortunate to have nurses trained in palliative care through a program called Pallium. It's a two-day education led by nurses and doctors focused on this kind of care."

Having access to trained professionals is crucial.

"End-of-life situations can involve confusion and strong emotions. Having support from nurses and doctors who specialize in this area brings peace and dignity," Nickel said.

She noted the importance of open-

ing up conversations about palliative care, citing materials from Pallium Manitoba.

"We live in a death-denying culture. People worry that talking about palliative care means giving up. But naming the elephant in the room helps move the conversation forward and removes fear."

Fundraising is vital to the team's sustainability.

"We rely entirely on community donations," she said. "People donate in memory of loved ones or make year-end contributions."

An upcoming fundraiser during National Palliative Care Week will be held at the Altona Mall across from IGA, where donations of cash or cheques will be accepted.

"We'll be there on May 5 and May 9. We can issue receipts for any donation over \$25, and we've set up options for online and e-transfer donations as well."

There's also a charming incentive.

"One of our board members, Barb Bergen, donates crocheted critters as thank you gifts for larger donations. It was a big hit last year. We raised about \$3,000 in two days."

The Altona group includes 14 volunteers who bring both experience and heart to the team.

"These are people who have worked in health care or simply want to help others at the end of life," Nickel said. "Someday it will be us or someone we love in that hospital room. Having a comfortable chair to rest in during those hours makes a big difference."

She credited the local program's roots to early pioneers like Peggy Martens and Elaine Friesen, who helped launch palliative care in Altona in the late 1990s.

Kristin Hildebrand, representing the nurses' union, said the choice to support the team was an easy one.

"Every year, we choose a charity, and this year we wanted to keep it local. We know what this group is doing, and we know the need is real."

As for the recliner, the team is still gathering estimates.



"We're looking at around \$3,500," said Nickel. "We need to ensure it's cleanable, durable, and fits through the doors. But it's worth it. Something like this can bring a bit of comfort in the hardest moments."

Until then, the team continues to offer what they can with the equipment available, backed by a community that's stepping up to help them provide care with dignity and heart.




PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona palliative volunteer team secretary-treasurer Esther Friesen, Kristin Hildebrand of the Manitoba Nurses Union local 33 with the donation and team coordinator Maria Nickel.

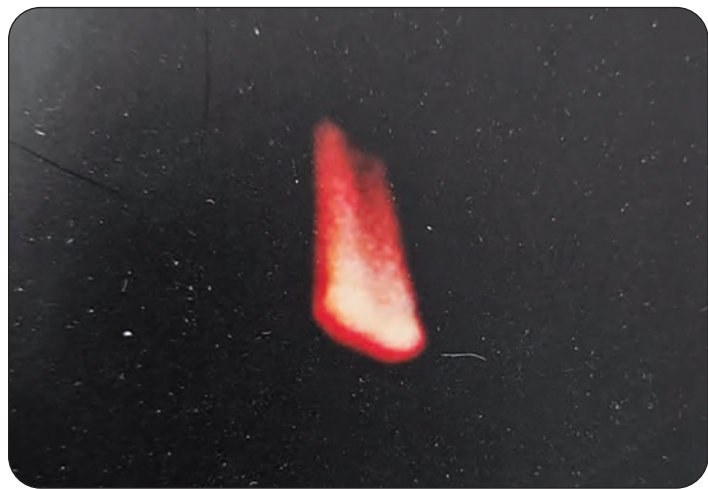
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# Carman marks 50 years since famous Charlie Redstar UFO sightings



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

This photo of Charlie Redstar is one of the most famous taken by Freddie Giesbrecht in 1975.

MORRIS • CARMAN  
ST. PIERRE • ST. ADOLPHE

By Becca Myskiw

What started as a glowing red light over a small Manitoba town turned into one of North America’s most talked-about UFO events. Fifty years later, Carman is commemorating Charlie Redstar with photos, memories and a new generation of fan art.

To celebrate the milestone, the Golden Prairie Arts Council (GPAC) is hosting a community reception and year-long tribute to the legendary red orb that drew hundreds of sightings in the mid-1970s.

On April 10, GPAC will open its doors from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for a reception featuring memorabilia, photographs and stories about Charlie Redstar. Author Grant Cameron, who wrote a book on the phenomenon, will be in attendance, along with Edward Morris Barker’s children’s book about the event — both available for purchase.

“It seemed every Friday, this object would appear, and people would line the streets just to get a glimpse,” said Melissa Froebe of GPAC. “People would come to Carman and wait for the phenomenon. He would follow cars; cars would follow him.”

Froebe and her wife are owners of some of the most well-known photos of Charlie Redstar,

taken by her wife’s grandmother. Those photos will be among the items on display throughout the celebration.

GPAC’s newly opened Zed Gallery will also host a Charlie Redstar-themed art exhibit beginning in May. The exhibition will feature those historic photographs and memorabilia, along with original artwork created by local children aged five to 13.

“IT’S CARMAN’S OWN AND I THINK CARMAN NEEDS TO BE PROUD OF THIS.”

Youth submissions were grouped by age, and first-, second- and third-place winners were chosen in each category. The nine winning pieces will debut at the April 10 reception before going on a travelling exhibition around town — starting with a stint at Carman 5 Pin Bowling.

The Carman and Community Chamber of Commerce has also invited local businesses to decorate their storefronts to mark the occasion. Froebe said she hopes

to see those tributes pop up around town in the coming weeks.

Later this summer, GPAC will host a Charlie Redstar-themed disc golf event, adding a playful twist to the town-wide celebration.

“It’s Carman’s own and I think Carman needs to be proud of this,” said Froebe. “We have a very quirky connection to the unknown.”



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# Young people's theatre spreads joy of Metis culture



PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER  
The Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP) is on the move. "Blue

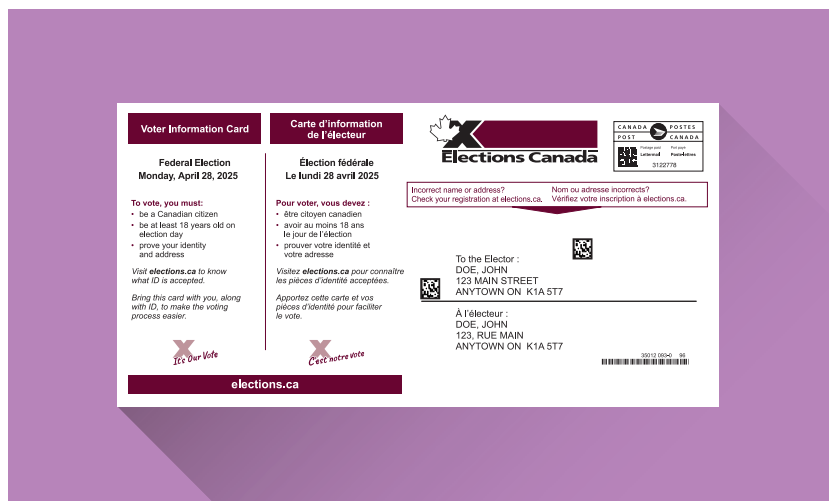
Beads and Blueberries" hit the road last month, bringing a unique blend of laughter and cultural celebration to schools across the province. The tour will make stops in Morden at École Morden Middle School Tuesday and Discovery Trails Wednesday. They'll also be at École West Park School in Altona Wednesday. By the time this tour wraps up in May, over 20,000 Manitobans will have experienced this heartwarming tale that transforms an ancient fairy tale into a vibrant ode to Métis culture.



FEDERAL ELECTION / MONDAY, APRIL 28

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# Providing comfort worldwide

By Lorne Stelmach

Local volunteers based out of the Morden area are among the many all over who are involved in making blankets for the Mennonite Central Committee.

They would like to see more people get involved in what they see as a simple but heartfelt way to make at least a small difference in the lives of people who are suffering around the world.

"I like the word comforter too. It's a way to say here's a little comfort from us. We often can't respond in other ways, but this is one way that we can say we're thinking about you," said Yvonne Stoesz, who is a volunteer with the Morden group.

There are a number of groups in the region who are involved in making blankets for the MCC including volunteers on Hutterite colonies as well as in Altona, Carman and Winkler and other communities.

There is a long history of volunteers making comforters for the organization throughout its history as a way to respond to disasters and places in conflict.

"Manitoba is actually the highest. We made something like 20 per cent of all of the comforters," she noted.

"It's just a good way to respond to war ... what else can we do," said Stoesz.

"My parents were very involved in MCC. My mom was one of the women who started the MCC thrift shop



here in 1972, so I've kind of had MCC in my DNA," she noted.

"All across Canada and North America, there are groups that make comforters for MCC ... and we've been doing it as a church for years, and the last two years, we connected with Morden Mennonite, which has also been doing it, and doing it together just makes a lot of sense because they have a building ... I'm part of a house church."

They make what are known as tie blankets, which are an easy way to create a blanket by laying two layers of fabric together and using strips around the sides of the fabric to tie it all together.

The top layers are often made by people at home and they then assemble them and tie them, and ties may be used every four to six inches to make sure the three layers are secure.

"And that's a very simple thing to do. Anyone can learn it. You don't need any sewing skills to tie it, and then the last person puts a seam around the whole outside so that it's



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Volunteers see making blankets as a simple but heartfelt way to make at least a small difference in the lives of people who are suffering around the world.



## Grand opening celebrated



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A Saturday afternoon ceremony marked the official opening of WOW Indian Food / That Burrito Place in Winkler. A tasty variety of food of course was available, and a number of dignitaries were on hand including MLA and Manitoba Conservative leadership candidate Obby Khan, Portage Lisgar MP Branden Leslie, Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert and Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens. The restaurant is located on Main Street in the former location of Toppers.

solidly made," said Stoesz. "They're often really beautiful colours ... and doing it together and making them is kind of special."

"We've made probably about a hundred this year because we only meet the first Monday and Wednesday of every month from October to the end of April ... it's kind of a winter activity."

"There's certain criteria you have to follow ... you can't have any military symbols or religious symbol ... so that there's nothing potentially offensive," she added.

She estimated they have about 10 volunteers who show up regularly but have up to 30 who they might be able to call on for it.

"We could probably take more people," she said. "People kind of like having their stations. There's one

who likes to cut the backing ... one who likes the sewing."

"It's even good company. We have lunch together and a day where we're doing something useful and gathering together."

Stoesz said they are inviting others to join in the effort because it's a relatively simple process.

"I've really wanted to open it up to the community because I just think it is a nice welcome ... newcomer families often want to practice English or just get together and find friends," she suggested.

Anyone who thinks they might like to get involved or wants more information can contact Yvonne Stoesz at 204-823-0071 or by e-mail to ystoesz@xplor.net.com.



# Mordenite aiming to raise \$15K for Ride for Dad

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden resident is making a big impact with his fundraising support to fight prostate cancer, with his own personal journey serving as motivation.

For a fourth year in a row, Hank Hildebrand is taking on the challenge of participating in the Ride For Dad fundraiser set for the end of May.

"It started off with me getting prostate cancer myself and experiencing getting treatments, and then I thought I needed to participate somehow in fundraising rather than just sending a cheque to the cancer society," he said.

"I ride motorcycles, so it was a natural fit for me to join the Ride for Dad," added Hildebrand, citing the benefit of doing something you love but also for a good cause.

It is estimated one in eight men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. It is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Canadian men.

Successful treatment depends on early detection. In the longer term, research into improved diagnosis, treatment, and prevention will further improve the medical community's capacity to deal with the disease.

Since 2000, the Ride For Dad has raised more than \$42 million, with proceeds going to the Prostate Cancer Fight Foundation to support prostate cancer research and awareness.

Ride For Dad events take place in multiple cities all across Canada. In Manitoba, it starts from Earls

at Polo Park in Winnipeg May 31, and it is expected there could be over a thousand bike riders coming together to venture west to Assiniboia Downs and then on to Gimli.

Last year, Hildebrand raised just under \$13,800. His goal this year is to reach the \$15,000 milestone; as of last week, he'd raised \$8,700 and counting.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I don't receive a donation from somebody," said Hildebrand, who expressed his gratitude for getting such great support from the community with lots of generous donors.

"I have a lot of contacts I've dealt with over the years ... so there were a lot of people I could reach out to about it," he said. "Their support means a lot to me ... even more than the money, it means people are interested in it too."

"It progressively got more and more, and last year then I think I was almost second highest in the province ... so it's kind of taken off," added Hildebrand.

"Of course, we would like to find a solution to prostate cancer, and if I can help be part of a little piece of that then I figure I have done my duty."

He is part of a group called the Pembina Valley Riders, and he is trying to get more participants from the group involved in the ride.

"The guys haven't taken up on it. It's one of those things where unless you're affected by it, maybe you don't take an interest in it," said Hildebrand, who noted he would love to spur enough interest to get a ride going closer to home. "It would be very good to have more participation locally."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Hank Hildebrand is taking part in Ride for Dad in support of the fight against prostate cancer for the fourth year in a row. Last year he raised nearly \$14,000 for the cause.

## Manitoba earmarks \$4.5M for tourism with boost for Indigenous sector

By Annaliese Meier

The Manitoba government is investing \$4.5 million in Travel Manitoba to promote the province as a tourism destination and spur economic growth, Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism Minister Nellie Kennedy said Monday.

Ten per cent of the funding will go directly to Indigenous Tourism Manitoba.

"Tourism is a key part of what makes Manitoba such a dynamic place to live, work and visit," Kennedy said

at an event at Qaumajuq at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. "With this significant investment, our government recognizes the importance of tourism and the role it plays in the economic well-being of our beautiful province."

Tourism generates \$373 million annually in provincial tax revenue, Kennedy said, which supports infrastructure, health care and education. The sector employs more than 25,000 Manitobans.

Colin Ferguson, president and CEO of Travel Manitoba, called the fund-

ing an investment in the province's people.

"Manitoba is home to incredible, heart-stirring tourism experiences that attract travellers from across the country and around the world," Ferguson said. "Travel not only creates unforgettable memories but also supports businesses, jobs and investment in communities throughout Manitoba."

The province welcomed 10.4 million visitors in 2023, who spent a combined \$1.82 billion.

Kennedy said tourism offers more than economic benefit. Festivals, cultural experiences and outdoor recreation help residents connect with their communities and appreciate Manitoba's heritage and natural beauty, she said.

The minister presented Travel Manitoba and Indigenous Tourism Manitoba with an official proclamation to mark the start of National Tourism Week.



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# Dustyridge Family Farms wins Conservation Award

By Lorne Stelmach

A family farm near Osterwick has been recognized for its outstanding commitment to being good stewards of their land.

Darrell and Cheryl Harder of Dustyridge Family Farms were named the Conservation Award recipients at the recent annual meeting of the Pembina Valley Watershed District.

"It's very humbling actually because there's a lot of people doing a lot of good things to preserve what nature is supposed to be and to enhance the soil health," said Cheryl Harder. "It's really encouraging ... there's a lot of people who are very mindful of the importance of it."

Dustyridge Family Farms was started in 1946 by her grandparents as a small mixed farm consisting of a handful of milking cows, pigs and a few laying hens, but it developed into a registered dairy of 80 cows, a feeder barn for pigs and a layer barn for 12,000 hens when the next generation took over.

Darrell and Cheryl embraced this life as well when they married in 1996 and came on board as full-time

farmers. Today, the day-to-day farm operation consists of the two of them along with their three daughters and extended family.

As time went on and life changed, Dustyridge Family Farms shifted its focus to managing and improving soil health with rotational grazing for cattle and sheep, selling natural beef, pork and lamb and incorporating cover crops as well as providing equine assisted learning programs and opening up the farm to schools, groups, individuals and organizations.

Dustyridge Family Farms is in the early stages of regenerative agricultural practices. This includes promoting and protecting natural waterways, wetlands and slough areas, providing and maintaining areas for different species of birds to live and looking to people for mentorship and expertise in these areas.

For managing and improving soil health, manure from the cow-calf operation, the sheep flock and the horses is stock-piled, and once it is composted, it is spread on to the land where it is most needed.

Incorporating cover crops on mar-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Darrell & Cheryl Harder of Dustyridge Family Farms received the Pembina Valley Watershed District Conservation award at the agency's AGM recently.

ginal land has been proven beneficial for building better soil. Bale grazing for the horses in pasture is used to combat the areas with high acidity.

Along with working towards creating healthier soil, Dustyridge Family Farms offers natural meat products to be purchased off the farm. This includes beef, pork and lamb which is all raised on the farm in natural environments.

"It sure has diversified a lot," said Harder, emphasizing the need "to appreciate what God has given us and to be able to share it with people."

"Many years ago, we wanted to share what we had on the farm with people who didn't have the opportunity. There's a lot of people who used to have some connection to a farm," she continued.

About six years ago, they further

diversified and started Dustyridge Equine Centre with a focus on equine assisted learning and programs that are designed for group needs and also individual needs.

The facilitators involved with the program are certified in several different areas, and they see the equine assisted learning program as fitting in well with the idea of opening up the farm for people to come and not only enjoy all that nature has to offer but also to learn about agriculture.

"The horses have really opened a door for that as well ... and we love what the horses can teach people," said Harder. "It's an immediate reaction ... and we're always really excited to see what the horses can do for people."

"There's been so many examples where you're just completely humbled and the animals just really take over and just really help," she continued.

"People come for many different reasons. Some come to build self confidence, some to develop empathy ... a lot of team player aspects also play into it ... the self awareness is huge," said Harder. "We all have tools within ourselves to navigate life, but how do we use them."

Looking ahead, they see many opportunities they can pursue to do their part in maintaining natural waterways and encouraging people to come out and see first hand the importance of taking that one small step in the grand scheme of preservation. Going forward, plans include planting more trees and encouraging green space for people to enjoy.

The Harders will be recognized at the Manitoba Association of Watersheds annual conference in December.

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# Morden building up mental health

By Lorne Stelmach

A variety of events and activities are taking place in Morden to mark mental health week.

The overall aim is to focus on our well-being and foster a sense of community, and it encourages people to take proactive steps towards better mental health and resilience.

"We've had good registration numbers and good participation over the last couple of years for sure," said recreation programmer Brookelyn Wolfe.

A variety of sessions take place from April 29 through to May 10, and they range from artistic activities to yoga and pilates as well as a 'what's your story' workshop.

"A few of the sessions filled up very quickly," she said, noting there were waiting lists for the yoga, pilates and paint night sessions, so that level of interest suggests to her that people are looking for more of these kinds of opportunities.

"I think there's definitely a need for more programming in general and a need for people to get together and do something fun out of their ordinary lives," said Wolfe.

She emphasized the increasing importance of mental health and how it is connected in so many ways to physical health and community connection.

"Mental health and physical health all kind of combine ... and it affects everybody in all kinds of ways," she said.

"I think community also plays a role in having good mental health ... it offers a sense of belonging and support ... we're definitely social beings

and not meant to just be in isolation. I think it helps people thrive."

Here is a rundown of the activities:

- Flower crown workshop with Earth Buds: Tues., April 29 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Access Event Centre - Crocus Corner. Registration is \$15.

- Free public skating: Mon., May 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Access Event Centre - Huron Arena.

- Slow flow yoga with Amanda Friesen: Wed., May 7 from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. at the Access Event Centre - Morden Chiropractic Centre meeting room. This session is fully registered, but a wait list is available.

- Pilates with Amanda Friesen: Wed., May 7 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Access Event Centre - Morden Chiropractic Centre meeting room. This session is also fully registered, but a wait list is available.

- Paint night with Jen Martens: Thur., May 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Access Event Centre - Morden Chiropractic Centre meeting room. This session is also fully registered, but a wait list is available.

- What's your story workshop: Sat., May 10 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Access Event Centre - Morden Chiropractic Centre meeting room.

This workshop is for anyone who wants to tell their life's story with words and images. It will use guided activities and creative prompts to spark your thinking, get your creativity flowing and invite you to represent the story you hold within you. No formal writing experience is required. All you need is an interest in telling your own story

Workshop facilitators Amanda Le Rougetel and Deborah Schnitzer are



PROVIDED PHOTOS

The activities for mental health week range from an arts workshop to yoga and pilates sessions.



trained educators and published writers whose experience, creativity and humour will make this session both fun and fulfilling.

For more information and to reg-

ister, you can go online to [morden.ca](http://morden.ca) and look for mental health week under Access Event Centre and recreation programs.

## WAC puts call out for Faces of Winkler nominations, artists

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Arts and Culture has put a call out for nominations for its 2025 Faces of Winkler exhibition.

After taking a break last year, the popular show that shines a spotlight on the people who make up the mosaic that is Winkler returns June 26 to August 30 with a theme of "Stories of our Neighbours."

They're trying something a little different this time around, shares executive director Jered Hildebrand.

"This year, the twist is we are partnering with PVLIP [Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership] and looking for pairs—one person who

has lived here long-term coupled with another they have created a strong connection with who would be from other parts of the world."

It's meant to shine a spotlight on longtime Winklerites and newcomers alike, and is part of the gallery's efforts to diversify its programming.

"We wanted to go into 2025 and extend the amount of cultural programming that we're doing, including more cultural aspects into what we're doing," Hildebrand explains. "We thought this would definitely be a way we could do that."

"The idea is to share some of those stories on how newcomers are already so ingrained in our communi-

ty," he adds. "Celebrating those connections and those relationships that they have here."

Anyone can nominate someone else or even themselves for Faces of Winkler—simply contact that the gallery at 204-312-7991 or [admin@winklerarts.com](mailto:admin@winklerarts.com) by May 5.

"Anyone who is interested or knows somebody who might want to participate, please share this information with them," Hildebrand urges. "It could be co-workers, it could be friends, family. It will be a really fun thing."

The gallery is also looking for artists for the exhibition, as each selected Faces pair will have their photo taken

and an artistic representation of them created to display alongside their story.

While there are often a number of returning artists and photographers each year, the show always has room for more, Hildebrand stresses.

"It's been a couple of years since we did this, so I'm sure there will be some that will be interested in participating again, but there's definitely room for some new people as well," he says. "We're looking for 10-15 nominations of people that would be selected, so that means we need 10-15 artists and photographers as well."



# Salem Home celebrates

By Lorne Stelmach

Salem Home celebrated the completion of the renovation of one of its units Friday along with the addition of a new elevator to the secure section of the care facility.

The project included a much needed facelift for the Evergreen unit, which had dated back to 1986, and it included everything from a fresh coat of paint to new flooring and new lift systems in the rooms.

"I think the staff will be thrilled about it," said CEO Karin Oliveria. "Their resilience and compassion over the past several months has been nothing short of inspiring."

She cited the importance of the project in relation to the quality of life for residents at the facility.

"I think the residents will be surprised. They have no idea what this looks like now," she said.

"We always try to aim for a home-like environment. We want to decrease the responsive behaviours ... with the colours that we choose and everything that we do, it's to help achieve that," she said. "So the residents can feel good, and the staff are safe. Those are things that we take into consideration when we're choosing furniture and colours."

The renovated Evergreen unit has 26 rooms in what is known as the de-

mentia care unit.

"We have people here who need a little bit more supervision," said Oliveria, explaining how the residents in the Evergreen unit were temporarily moved to the lower level while the improvements were being completed.

"We had some empty rooms from a previous renovation that were done on the main floor. Instead of filling them first from outside, we decided to move the residents from the second floor down, so they were all still in their own independent rooms."

So there was a lot of work and planning involved in "trying to keep on top of everything and making sure that the timing would match up."

"It went very smoothly because they gave us four to six weeks to get the project done, and they kept it within that time frame," she noted, expressing her gratitude for the support of Southern Health-Santé Sud to make the project possible along with funding through Shared Health.

"There were a few things that needed attention," she said. "With the help of the Salem Foundation and through donations from our generous community, we were able to do the work on that care area."

"We're very thankful for the community that we live in," Oliveria concluded.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A Salem Home resident had the honour of using the new elevator to the Evergreen unit, which had some visitors for a ceremony Friday.



## Horsepower and firepower collide at Miami Shootout May 31-June 1

By Becca Myskiw

Competitors from across Canada are gearing up for the fifth annual Miami Shootout — a high-speed, high-precision mounted shooting event that returns to the Double Z Arena just outside Miami on May 31 and June 1.

Since 2020, Miami resident Josie McEwan has been hosting a mounted shooting competition for horse and gun lovers alike. The event draws competitors from across the country to take part and enjoy all the town has to offer.

Mounted shooting is a sport that requires skill in both horsemanship and marksmanship. The goal is straightforward, though completing it is anything but: competitors must shoot 10 balloon targets with a pistol while riding horseback through a series of challenging courses. A typical event involves using two old Western-style single-action revolvers, each loaded with five specially designed blank cartridges.

There are 85 different course patterns to choose from, each lasting between eight and 25 seconds. Miami's main match will see competitors run

the same pattern to complete the task. Entrants can also sign up for the shotgun and rifle event, which involves two separate patterns — one using a pistol to hit five balloons, and another with a shotgun or rifle to hit the remaining five.

McEwan has been competing in mounted shooting since 2018 and says she loves the rush of the sport. That's why she's been hosting a shootout of her own, right on her property, for the past five years.

"I love to compete in it, and I like hosting it at my own house," she said. "I like seeing the community come out and talk about it. I enjoy talking about the sport and showing it to new people."

McEwan said training a horse to compete is one of the most challenging aspects, and the process can take months. Her horse took an entire season to start running comfortably with the sound of gunfire — avoiding spooking or jumping sideways. With time and repetition, the animals get used to the noise and learn to navigate the patterns. During com-



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Josie McEwan fires at a balloon target while riding her horse during a mounted shooting competition. She'll host the fifth annual Miami Shootout on her property May 31 and June 1.

petition, horses also wear earplugs to protect their hearing.

"You've got to desensitize the horse," she said. "They have to be gun broke,

so you work with them. Some horses take to it pretty quick, and some take

Continued on page 18



# New name, home for Morden Ukrainian school

By Lorne Stelmach

An educational initiative for the local Ukrainian community has restarted after having been shelved amidst COVID.

What was formerly known as the Borscht Ukrainian School has opened again as Ukrainian United School, and it will be operating Saturdays at École Discovery Trails in Morden.

Founder and lead teacher Yevgeniya Tatarenko plans to offer a comprehensive education program, offering Ukrainian children in the community a place to connect with their heritage and culture.

"The Ukrainian community was so eager to have this platform, this place where they can bring their kids, where they can gather together ... and not lose their Ukrainian language and culture," said Tatarenko.

"It's very important even just for showing that they are not alone," she added. "We're all here together, and

we are part of the Morden community."

The program first started in Morden in 2017.

"It was my big dream," said Tatarenko. "I had dreamed about living in Canada and building my little Ukrainian community here for quite a while of years ... and it was a promise to Mom as well that I would open a Ukrainian school for her as well so she could work here and help teach ... she could do the same as she was doing in Ukraine."

"It was very successful ... but we were not able to operate for at least two to three years," she noted. "Then we had the opportunity to reopen again."

Tatarenko's plans were delayed though in 2022 when the war started in Ukraine, and she began focusing her energy then on raising funds and support for her homeland.

Just before this past Christmas,



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

After a few years' hiatus, the local Ukrainian educational centre is back up and running in Morden.

she received approval from Western School Division to use space in Morden's newest school to restart programming.

"The number of families from Ukraine in Morden has been raising and raising, and so many people and families were asking is there any opportunity to have a Ukrainian school again," Tatarenko said. "I was over the moon and super happy ... I had a few concerns whether I could do this, if I would have enough teachers ... it was very hard."

"It was very encouraging," she said of the support that came her way, noting it involves all volunteers from the local Ukrainian community who stepped up to help out.

"The level of interest was so high for the school, that everyone was waiting for it," Tatarenko said. She currently

has about 40 youth signed up even without there really being much promotion of the school.

They break the kids—who range in age from three to 16—up into different classes for the weekly sessions covering a host of different subjects and activities.

"We have Ukrainian language. We have Ukrainian culture. We have Ukrainian literature," Tatarenko said, adding there is also some traditional dance and choir singing as well as arts and crafts.

"It's multi-dimensional," she said. "We want them to be proud of who they are ... and we want to have a safe space for them."

For more information, check out the Ukrainian United School on Facebook.



# Selkirk seminar teaches the art of growing giant gourds

By E Antonio

Aspiring giant pumpkin growers learned the secrets to cultivating record-breaking gourds at the Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar on April 5, hosted by the Manitoba Giant Growers Association.

The event featured giant pumpkin connoisseur Milan Lukes, who shared his expertise on how to grow pumpkins to their full potential at the Canalta Hotel in Selkirk.

A two-time Roland Pumpkin Fair winner, Lukes has grown pumpkins reaching 1,369.5 pounds.

He began his pumpkin-growing career in his parents' backyard garden in Winnipeg, and started winning fair competitions in 2013, when he was

just 11 years old.

"You can be a young person from the city, and pull this off and grow a pumpkin over 1,000 pounds," he said.

Lukes shared tips and tricks for growing the massive gourds. He talked about protecting them from inclement weather, choosing the right fertilizers and maintaining proper soil conditions.

His biggest suggestion was to use Atlantic giant pumpkin variety seeds. If farmers want to maximize their pumpkin growth, they're encouraged to use these seeds — Atlantic giants can grow to more than 2,000 pounds, which is more than enough to earn a first-place ribbon at fairs.

The current Manitoba pumpkin

record was set in 2019 by Winkler farmer Cornie Banman, who grew a 1,660.5-pound pumpkin. The current world record is 2,471 pounds and was grown by Minnesota farmer Travis Gienger.

Lukes said anyone is capable of growing a giant, as long as they maintain the proper growing conditions and tend to the pumpkin's needs.

"Growing up as a kid, the gift that I wanted was manure."

When he first started, Lukes devoted his spare time to caring for his pumpkin, ensuring proper soil, water and temperature conditions were met.

He added that pumpkin growing can feel like a full-time job, especially between the end of April and early

October — the prime growing season.

Selkirk's Ella Maclean is a nine-year-old aspiring pumpkin farmer who attended Saturday's seminar. She grew her first large pumpkin in 2024 but didn't know how to weigh it. With the tips she picked up at the seminar, she hopes to grow an even bigger pumpkin this year.

"We will have to water it a lot, and we might have to find another place to grow it," she said. "If we grew two seeds it would take up half our garden."

Ella can get a head start this year, as everyone who attended the seminar took home free pumpkin seeds — including some from the Atlantic giant variety.



# Calling all table tennis players

By Lorne Stelmach

Table tennis fans are being invited to have a little bit of fun competition in Morden later this month.

The Crusty Bun Morden Open table tennis tournament is set for Sat., April 26 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Access Event Centre in the Co-op arena.

Morden recreation programmer Brookelyn Wolfe feels the game has been gaining popularity here with some regular players getting together on a regular basis.

"There has been pretty good interest in the community," she suggested.

"We have a Wednesday night group that plays pretty consistently. We get decent numbers for sure for that, and it seems to be growing."

They were encouraged by the response to a tournament held last spring, so they wanted to try it again.

"We had the tournament last year around this time, and I think it was pretty successful. I think we had about

20 people registered, and I know the people who registered seemed to really enjoy it."

People are of course primarily playing because they just enjoy the game, but she thinks it is good though to offer a bit more of a competitive opportunity.

"It's something a little bit different from just casual play for sure ... and you can see that some people are really good at the game, so it's even fun to watch."

Registrations had still been low as of last week, so Wolfe was trying to spur more interest.

"Last year, it was slow until closer to the date ... so we're hoping to get the word out there and encouraged people to register for sure."

There will be two categories including junior for people born in 2006 or after, and the registration fee is \$25 for Manitoba Table Tennis Association members or \$30 otherwise. The senior category is for people born in



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The City of Morden was encouraged by the response to last year's tournament, so it is offering it again this month.

2005 or earlier, and the registration fee is \$30 for members or \$35 otherwise.

If you are interested, you can go on-

line through the [morden.ca](http://morden.ca) website or in person at the Access Event Centre.

## > SHOOTOUT, FROM PG. 16

a while."

Mounted shooting is a family affair for McEwan. Her daughter and parents also compete, and she has a busy season ahead — including a shootout in Selkirk this August, a demo at the Morris Stampede, a competition in Vita and a recent appearance at the Brandon Winter Fair.

"It's just a really good adrenaline rush," she said. "I've done barrels and jumping and all that stuff and nothing compares to this."

The fifth annual Miami Shootout is set for May 31 and June 1 at the Double Z Arena on McEwan's property just outside Miami. The main match begins Saturday at 11 a.m., followed by the shotgun and rifle competition. A potluck supper starts at 6 p.m. Sunday's events begin at 10 a.m.

McEwan said participants have travelled from across Alberta, Saskatchewan and even the United States to attend. Dry camping and self-penning will be available on-site for competitors.

To compete, participants must have a Manitoba Mounted Shooting membership and a restricted firearms licence. They'll also need their own gear — including firearms, appropriate holsters, a horse and proper horse equipment. Registration for the main match is \$100. To register, contact McEwan at 204-242-0036.

Everyone is welcome to attend as a spectator. Admission is free, and hot dogs, snacks and drinks will be available throughout the weekend.

# Winkler Curling Club crowns champion teams



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Winkler Curling Club held its championships on March 28, complete with a windup celebration steak fry that served up 150 steaks and saw good community participation. Above left, from left: Ladies Club champions Carolyn Janzen, Shevaun Fehr, Megan Wiebe, Desiree Harder, Kayla Reimer. Above right, from left: Men's Club champs Jon Doell, Jeremy Hildebrand, Jason Manns, Matt Fehr. Below, left: B-side winners Kyle Wiens, Travis Friesen, Dwayne Wieler, Justin Froese (missing: Matt Fehr). Below, right: C-side winners Brent Haney, Ken Hildebrand, Derrick Klassen, Rod Wiebe. The club also had the final drawing for its Elimination Draw fundraiser, which sold 400 tickets and raised \$12,000. Taking home the grand prize of \$5,000 was Jake Krahn. There were also numerous lesser prizes ranging from \$100 to \$1,000.





# sports & recreation

## Twisters hand out honours

By Sean Conway

The Pembina Valley Twisters of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey league held their season banquet April 5.

Cohen Thomas received the Most Valuable Player award for the 2024-2025 season. Serving as the team's captain, Cohen was a standout player throughout the season, showcasing exceptional leadership, skill and dedication both on and off the ice.

Josh Guilford received the coaches award for the player who exemplifies the core values of the team: dedication, leadership, resilience and a commitment to excellence. This award is not just about talent on the ice but also about the character, heart and influence a player brings to their teammates and the broader Twisters community.

The award for best defenseman, given annually to recognize exceptional defensive skills, offensive contributions, leadership and consistency, went to Bailey Cousins.

Darby Olson, received the Pat O'Brien award. Presented annually to a player who embodies the values of hard work and perseverance that Pat exemplified during his life, this award celebrates players who show resilience and a commitment to excel-



PHOTO BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Left to right are Assistant Coach Riley Wise, Cohen Thomas, Josh Guilford, Bailey Cousins, Darby Olson, Austin Spicer, Ketema Wall, Dominic Rooney and Head Coach Braeden Beernaerts.

lence both on and off the ice.

Austin Spicer received the rookie of the year award. The award recognizes a first-year player who demonstrates exceptional skill and potential, dedication and work ethic and team spirit

and adaptability.

Ketema Wall received the grittiest hardest worker award for the player who exemplifies relentless determination, unwavering effort and resilience and tenacity.

Finally, Dominic Rooney received the Dale Rempel award presented annually to an individual who has made a significant and positive impact within both the league and their community.

## Central Energy in pre-season action

Voice staff

Central Energy teams had mixed results last week in pre-season action south of the border.

The Central Energy U17 team began with a 5-0 loss to the Millard Fury Cannon/Tatreau Friday.

Then, even though Central Energy U17 collected five hits to Nebraska Thunder 15U - Bennett's three, they still fell 6-1.

Central Energy were then victorious against Locos 16U by a 6-3 score, and they then won

big over Nebraska Echoes Cleveland 16U 11-0.

Finally, Central Energy then lost to NE Thunder National-Piatt 15U 5-1.

Meanwhile, runs were hard to come by with both teams strong in the circle on Friday, but Central Energy U19 defeated Primetime - Watts 18U 3-1.

Nelia Fehr was dominant in the circle then as the pitcher rang up 12 strikeouts in U19 Central Energy's 7-0 victory over Nebraska Thunder 18 - Fox 18U. Fehr gave up zero hits and zero runs over four innings while walking

none, and U19 Central Energy won thanks in part to five runs in the third inning.

Next up for U19 Central Energy was a game against Nebraska Thunder Gold 18U - Mayfield, and Central Energy were victorious 7-4.

Finally, strong hitting was not enough as U19 Central Energy fell to Nebraska Wave 17U. Even though U19 Central Energy collected five hits to Nebraska Wave 17U's four, they still fell 4-2.



# Manitou's Mya Pearce plays key role at national championship

By Annaliese Meier

Manitou's Mya Pearce was a key contributor for the Assiniboine Community College Cougars during their impressive run to a second-place finish at the American Collegiate Hockey Association Women's Division 2 national championship in St. Louis, Missouri, on March 25.

Pearce, a second-year forward, was a consistent presence on the score-sheet throughout the season and played a key role in both the regular season and playoff success. She suited up in all 25 regular season games, contributing five goals and 10 assists. Her impact only grew in the postseason, where she added three goals and eight assists over 10 games.

"Mya is one of the smartest hockey players I've coached and for that reason also one of my favourite players to watch," said coach Charles Tweed. "Her ability to create space and buy time over and over again freed up ice for her teammates and created opportunities for her line. She was always unselfish in her play and her teammates loved her."

The Cougars capped off a dominant 2024-25 campaign with a second-place finish nationally, ending the regular season with a 22-2-2 record and entering the national tournament as the top-ranked team in the West Region.

At nationals, the Cougars opened with a 4-1 win over Providence College before defeating Central Michigan University 5-2. Pearce notched a



Manitou's Mya Pearce, left, and Gracie Carels of Bruxelles.

goal in the tournament and played a strong two-way game throughout the event, helping lead Assiniboine past Eastern Michigan University 7-1 in their final round-robin match.

The team edged the United States Naval Academy 2-1 in a tight semifinal before falling 6-2 to a tough Sault College squad in the championship game — just their third regulation loss all season.

Despite the loss in the final, the Cougars' silver-medal performance was a high point for the program, which continues to establish itself as a national powerhouse.

"Mya's also an incredible person who cares about all of her teammates," said Tweed. "Mya was a leader on and off the ice for our team; and helped keep everyone accountable throughout the season. Every success-



VOICE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Assiniboine Community College lost 6-2 to Sault College on March 25 at the Centene Community Ice Center in St. Louis, Missouri to win second in the ACHA W2 National Championship.

ful team need a Mya on their roster."

Pearce's efforts were part of a well-rounded roster.

Assiniboine's strong season drew a wave of support from fans who followed the team to St. Louis, and the players even received a surprise gift from country star Kane Brown at the Minneapolis airport: 16 tickets to his Winnipeg concert.

Pearce will not be returning next season as she has transferred to Brandon University to take her education degree next year.

"Any parent would be lucky to have their children in her class," said Tweed.

Tweed is already looking ahead to next season with a new group of skaters.

"The Cougars are lucky to have an abundance of talented athletes in Manitoba, which means we never rebuild, we re-load."

The team's success drew strong support from fans who followed them to St. Louis. And in an unexpected postscript to their trip, the team crossed paths with country music star Kane Brown at the Minneapolis airport. Brown, en route to Winnipeg for a concert, surprised the team with 16 tickets to the show.

While the Cougars fell just short of a national title, their 2024-25 campaign set a new benchmark for the program — one built on depth, consistency, and contributions from across the roster.

## Flyers looking to rebound

By Lorne Stelmach

The Winkler Flyers were on the ropes this week and aiming to get back into their semi-final series with the Northern Manitoba Blizzard.

The defending champions found themselves down 2-0 in games after dropping the two opening games in Winkler this past weekend. The Blizzard took game one 4-2 Saturday then eked out a 3-1 victory in game two Sunday.

Game one was a tight affair with the Blizzard clinging to 2-1 and 3-2 leads until they sealed the deal with an empty net goal with 23 seconds remaining in the third period.

Andrew Morton and Brady Craik scored for the Flyers, while Leif Ekblad made 12 saves with the Flyers holding a 24-16 edge in shots on goal.

Game two then unfolded in similar

fashion but with Northern Manitoba grabbing a 2-0 lead in the second period. Brody Beauchemin pulled Winkler to within one with 2:34 remaining, but the Blizzard connected for the insurance marker with just under a minute remaining in regulation.

Shots on goal were 25-17 in favour of the Flyers with Liam Ernst taking the loss in goal on 14 saves.

The regular season champion Flyers were looking to bounce back when they headed north this week for game three Wednesday and game four Thursday. If the series was extended, it would come back to Winkler for game five Saturday before potentially heading back north for game six Monday.

In the other semi-final series, the Dauphin Kings were up 2-0 in games on the Portage Terriers.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler Flyers' Brady Craik tips a point shot past Blizzard net minder Taye Timmerman in the second period to bring the Flyers within one goal.



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## CAREERS

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

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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. RZ2025-003 and By-law No. 2340-25, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2340-25, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

**264 Main Street South, legally described as Lot 8, Plan 422 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

TO: "R2" RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2340-25 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: April 22, 2025

Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Winkler Council Chambers,  
185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 28th day of February 2025.

Designated Officer, City of Winkler



185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

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:

**General Intent:** Subject to Section 290 (1 & 2) of The Municipal Act, a municipality may close a municipal road by passing a by-law closing the road and must give public notice and hold a public hearing in respect of the proposed closure. And Section 147 (1) of the Municipal Act, the Council of a Municipality has the power to amend or repeal a bylaw. The proposed closure is illustrated by heavy solid lines on Schedule A.

**Area:** All that portions of Russet Road, Plan No. 67427 MLTO contained within the limits of Parcels A and B, Plan No (Dep 1192/2024) MLTO in the NW ¼ of Section 2-3-4WPM as shown in heavy solid lines on the map attached hereto as Schedule A. (By-law 2336-25)

**Contact:** Jody Penner, City Manager  
City of Winkler  
Phone: (204) 325-9524

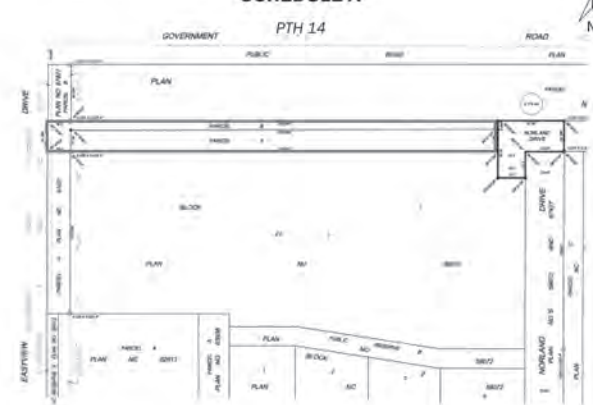
**Date of Hearing:** April 22, 2025

**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Winkler Council Chambers,  
185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom upon request.

#### SCHEDULE A



185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4  
204-325-9524 | permits@cityofwinkler.ca  
WWW.WINKLER.CA

## CAREERS



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PEMBINA VALLEY WATERSHED DISTRICT

#### ASSISTANT TECHNICIAN

Principal Duties (plus other duties as assigned):

- Assist Technician and field staff with planning and completing construction projects
- Survey potential projects
- Assist with applying for the appropriate licenses
- Assist in the supervision of project construction
- Assist with sealing abandoned wells
- Communicate with landowners
- Promote PVWD programs

Qualifications:

- Highschool graduate
- Good time management skills
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Computer literacy (MS office)
- Have a valid Class 5 driver's license
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Ability to meet deadlines

This is a full-time (40 hours per week, Monday to Friday from 7:00am – 3:30pm) position with some evening and weekend work required. This position will be based out of the Manitou, MB office and requires travel across the district. A district vehicle will be provided for work.

**Please visit the website for a full job description and district map. Salary is based on experience and includes benefits.**

Please submit resumes **with 3 references** to:  
Pembina Valley Watershed District  
Box 659, 261 Main Street, Manitou, MB R0G 1G0  
Manitou, MB R0G 1G0  
Phone: 204-242-3267 Website: [www.pvwd.ca](http://www.pvwd.ca)  
E-mail: [tech@pvwd.ca](mailto:tech@pvwd.ca)

**Application Deadline: Tuesday April 29, 2025 at 12pm.**  
**Flexible start date.**

PVWD would like to thank all applicants; however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

#### CLASS 1 TRUCK DRIVER

To run Canada - must have experience

- Paid pick, drops, layovers and stat pay
- Multi drop runs
- Benefit package
- Dedicated truck
- Sign On & Annual bonus
- BC Experience an Asset
- Reset at home
- Weekend home time
- Paid training
- Referral program

**Derek (204) 793-7465**  
CENTENNIAL TRANSPORT  
& LEASING LTD.

#### Online McSherry Auction

**Steve's Auto Electric**  
Thurs, April 17 @ 7:00 PM  
664 Dufferin Ave,  
Winnipeg MB

Mat Tech 36" Metal Lathe,  
Parts Washer, Steel Shot  
Blaster, Lots of Tools,

Quantity of Starters,  
Alternators, Rebuilding  
Components

**McSherryAuction.com**  
204-467-1858

#### Online McSherry Auctions

**Estate & Moving**  
Featuring Coins, Paper Money  
& Stamps  
April 16 @ 7:00PM

**Estate & Moving**  
April 23 @ 7:00PM

**McSherryAuction.com**  
204-467-1858  
or 204-886-7027  
[mcsherrytld@gmail.com](mailto:mcsherrytld@gmail.com)

## HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail [stone.woodelkranch@mymts.net](mailto:stone.woodelkranch@mymts.net)

## SOUP & PRE FUNRAISER

### SOUP & PIE SUPPER



**Wednesday,  
April 23/25**

**4:30 – 7:00 P.M.**

**CARMAN UNITED CHURCH**

**134 1st Street SW**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO:**

**CARMAN**

**PALLIATIVE CARE**

**Pay by Donation**



**Value of  
meal \$15**



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Shipping/Delivery avail.

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Winnipeg

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**TROUBLE WALKING  
or DRESSING?**

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

Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide!

**Expert Help:**  
204-453-5372

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[www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

### FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION with an EMPLOYMENT/CAREERS AD in

The *Winkler Morden*  
**Voice**

Call: 204-467-5836  
or Email: [ads@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:ads@winklermordenvoice.ca)

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The Winkler Morden Voice

## OBITUARY



### Lawrence Dyck

With great sadness, the family of Lawrence Dyck announce his passing on April 2, 2025 at the age of 80 years.

Lawrence is beloved husband to Tammy Dyck, father to Barbara (Mario) Osorio and Jennifer (Calvin) Braun, and grandfather to Aaron, Emiliano, and Gabriela Osorio and Tayech Braun. He also leaves to mourn his siblings Harold (Lesia) Dyck, Dorothy (Warren) Earl, Anthony (Joyce) Dyck, and Corinne (Ray) Peters, Aunt Susan (Ernie) Winther, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was predeceased by his youngest daughter Naomi, and his parents Anton and Annie Dyck.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt expression of gratitude to Dr. Greyling, Dr. Banerji, Dr. Christiansen, and the doctors and nursing staff at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

We welcome family and friends to join us in paying tribute and celebrating Lawrence's life on Thursday, April 10th at 2 p.m. at the Roland United Church, 66 Third St, Roland, MB.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Carman Area Foundation or the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation in Lawrence's memory.

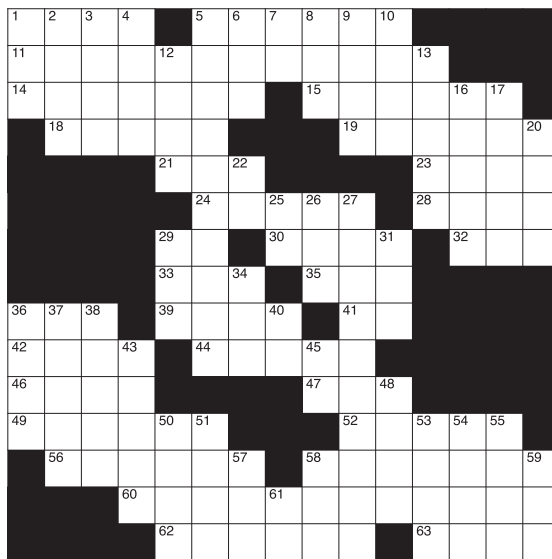
We thank everyone for their generous and thoughtful gifts of food, flowers, and heartfelt messages of care and concern. We also thank Doyle's Funeral Home for their compassionate service.

To view full obituary please visit [www.doylesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.doylesfuneralhome.ca)  
Doyle's Funeral Home  
in care of arrangements  
[www.doylesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.doylesfuneralhome.ca)

## CROSSWORD

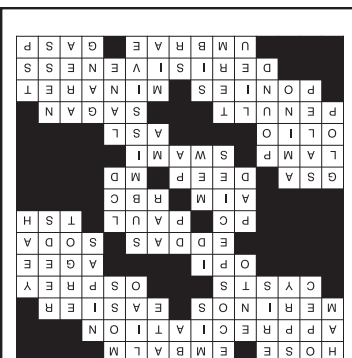
### CLUES ACROSS

1. Garden tool
5. A way to preserve
11. Gratitude
14. Domestic sheep
15. Simpler
18. Cavities containing liquid
19. Large fish-eating bird
21. Ocular protection index
23. Phil \_\_, former CIA
24. Icelandic poems
28. Pop
29. Device
30. Actor Rudd
32. A pituitary hormone
33. Focus on an object
35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
36. Young women's association
39. Not shallow
41. Doctor
42. Furniture
44. Hindu male religious teacher
46. Highly spiced stew
47. A way to communicate
49. Almost last
52. Astronomer Carl
56. Small horses
58. A slender tower with balconies
60. A disrespectful quality
62. Fully shaded inner regions
63. Short convulsive intake of breath



### CLUES DOWN

1. Popular Sunday dinner option
2. Oil cartel
3. Agile
4. Greek goddess of discord
5. Genetically distinct variety
6. Indicates badly
7. Popular Mr. T character
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. NFL great Randy
12. Within
13. Palm trees
16. Fungal disease
17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. A passport is one
25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)
26. Swiss river
27. Deferential
29. Where a bachelor lives
31. Portable computer screen material
34. A crying noise of a bird
36. Sticky, amorphous substance
37. Starchy dish of dried tubers
38. Type of acid
40. Partner to "Ma"
43. 16 ounces
45. The Bay State
48. A well-defined track or path
50. Substitution
51. Defined period
53. Group of toughs
54. Region
55. Famed Scottish Loch
57. Blood relation
58. Not around
59. Recipe measurement
61. Father to Junior



Crossword Answer

## OBITUARY



### Raymond Leslie Schultz (Les) 1940 - 2025

Les was born on November 18, 1940 in Vita Hospital. He was the only child of Emil G. and Annie (nee Becker) Schultz. Les was baptized, confirmed and married in Zion Lutheran Church in Friedensthal. His early years were spent on his parent's farm (NW 22 -1-3 - E) in R.M. of Franklin, helping with chores, seeding, harvesting and baling.

Grade one was taken at Emerado School in Friedensthal, grades 2 - 12 were taken at Emerson Collegiate.

Les began farming with his Dad in 1958 and with the help of his Uncle August Schultz and MACC he bought his first farm in 1963. January 1964 Les married Alice Johnston and they moved into the farmhouse on NW 10 - 1 - 3 - E. He farmed with his parents, uncles and neighbours until 1996 when he sold the farm and

retired to Morden, MB. To supplement farm income Les worked for Water Resources and P.F.R.A. occasionally at different times.

Four sons were born into the family: Raymond Tracy (Larissa); Douglas Wayne (Mary Anne); Stephen Earl (Terri); Andrew Emil.

Les served on Zion Lutheran Church Council and served two 3 year terms as Councillor of Ward 1 R.M of Franklin, 1974 - 1980. He was also on committees for South Gate Haven and Emerson Estates, senior residences in Emerson.

Favorite pastimes were curling, snooker, camping, travelling and dancing (learning and then teaching old time and pattern dance in Morden).

Les is survived by his loving wife, Alice; his four sons and their partners; three brothers-in-law, three sisters-in-law; many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Sincere thank you to Dr. Brian Duff for his years of care for Les. Also, many grateful thanks to Boundary Trails EMS, Medical Ward staff and Palliative Care doctors and nurses for their support, compassion and care of Les in his final days.

Donations may be made to BTHC Cancer Care; C.L.W.R.; Canada Food Grains Bank; Memorial Fund of Grace St. John's or Zion Lutheran Church; or to a charity of one's choice in lieu of flowers.

Service will be held at The Thresherman's Museum on # 3 Highway at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, 2025.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
in care of arrangements  
[www.wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://www.wiebefuneralhomes.com)



## OBITUARY



### Willam Fredrick Mayor

It is with sadness and deep love that we announce the passing of our father, Fred Mayor, on April 3rd, 2025 at the age of 80. Fred was, without a doubt, the kindest and most generous soul, continually seeking ways to help others and make someone else's day a better one.

Born on October 27th, 1944 in Winnipeg, Manitoba to Joseph and Della Mayor, Fred was the youngest of three brothers, with older brothers, Joe and George. Raised in the city, his heart found its home in Morden where he lived most of his life.

Fred is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Myrna, and their children Barb (Rob), Darren (Carla), Kristen (Keith), Kerri (David), and grandchildren Ainsley, Garrett, Tracey, Robin, Danny, Chelsea, Devon, Aaron, Finn, Julia, and Reid. He was also a cherished great-grandfather to 12 great-grandchildren, a much-loved uncle

to numerous nieces and nephews and a dear friend to so many.

Fred built a successful career with MTS that spanned 35 years. When he retired, he began his second chapter as the property manager for Legion House One and Two in Morden, as well as working for Carmen Granite where he continued to serve and connect with others.

This past year, he and Myrna were recognized as 'Citizens of Distinction' for over five decades of volunteer service in the City of Morden. He was a constant presence in the lives of so many as an integral volunteer with organizations such as the Elks, St. Paul's United Church, Tabor Home, South Central Cancer Resource, the Morden Activity Centre, the Corn & Apple Festival, Lions Club and countless others. Fred's unwavering faith and dedication to helping others were at the heart of who he was.

We are grateful to the doctors, nurses, aides, and all the staff at Boundary Trails Hospital, especially Dr. Zhang, Dr. Fourie, Dr. Woelk, and Dr. Takatch, for their care and compassion during Fred's final days and Dr. Duff who was Fred's primary physician for decades. We are also deeply thankful to the Palliative Care team and volunteers who provided comfort and support to Fred and our family.

A service was held at St. Paul's United Church in Morden, Manitoba on April 9th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. with a reception to follow at the Morden Activity Centre. A private inurnment took place at St. Mary's Anglican Church and Cemetery in Kaleida, Manitoba prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Boundary Trails Foundation, directed to Palliative Care, or to the South Central Cancer Resource.

Wiebe Funeral Home  
In care of arrangements

*Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts*



