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Bisons, Orioles getting ready

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE
The Pembina Valley Orioles have been able to run their training camp indoors at the Meridian Exhibition Centre in Winkler.

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Community gardens remain popular

By Lorne Stelmach

The community gardens in Winkler and Morden have been well used in recent years, and organizers expect no different again this year.

Space in both is hard, if not impossible, to come by this year with the plots in Winkler already all spoken for, while Morden's registration starts this week.

"And we have a waiting list. Last year we were full and had a waiting list as well," noted Margaret Klassen, who oversees the 182 plots available in the community garden site in Winkler.

"Two thirds of it was full right off the bat but one third was available," said Klassen, who noted previous renters have first option to get their plot again. "There's always some turnover."

"Returning gardeners are given priority ... and for the new gardeners, it is first come first served," said Mariyam Tsygankova, executive director of Many Hands Resource Centre, which oversees the community gar-

den in Morden. "We expect it will be full."

At this point, Klassen said they are not looking for more space to expand in Winkler as it is already a lot to manage as is right now.

"We are as full as we can get ... and I don't see getting more space at this point for two sites," said Klassen. "I did it one year when we had two different locations ... it's too much work ... if it's all on one site, I can manage it, but if it's on two sites, it's harder to manage it."

She sees the enduring popularity of community gardens as having been even more pronounced in recent years.

"It tells me that more and more people are going to homegrown produce and wanting to preserve their own food. I would say that is very evident," she said.

"It's all ages. Last year, we had, I think, he was a 94-year-old," she noted. "We have lots of ages from young people to older people ... people just really enjoy gardening."

In Morden, Many Hands got in-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"It's not just about growing your own vegetables. It's about interaction. We think community gardens are about more than just growing food."

involved earlier and has now come back to it as they see it as a natural fit for them, given they also operate the food bank and oversee the farmers market.

"We had a great experience with the community gardens program in the past, so we decided why not continue with it. It's a great idea," said Tsygankova.

"It's not just about growing your own vegetables. It's about interaction," she suggested. "We think community gardens are about more than just growing food. Families and individuals are able to grow fresh, healthy produce for very little money. It's greening previously under-used areas, and you get to know and interact with your neighbours and work together and help the community."

Registration was taking place Thursday evening this week at 500 Stephen Community Centre from 4 to 8 p.m. then the following Thursday will open it up to new registrants. This year, there will only be the one loca-

tion on Loren Drive on the south side with the previous site on Grant Street not being available, and the plots of 300 square feet go for \$30 per plot.

Tsygankova said they are looking at how they can make use of the community garden to help boost the local

food bank and aid with food security.

"Many Hands is going to set out some carts for donations from gardeners ... lots of good produce may otherwise just go into compost," she observed.

"So we would like to redistribute some produce to those in need. We are even thinking to grow some produce for community use, so right now we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to do it."

In addition, they are also looking at possibly doing a workshop for gardeners.

"There are many new people who maybe don't know how to garden in Manitoba, especially if you are new to this area."

"IT TELLS ME THAT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HOMEGROWN PRODUCE AND WANTING TO PRESERVE THEIR OWN FOOD."

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Area leading the way in waste diversion

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden and Winkler hosted a day long event last Thursday that showcased how it is helping lead the way in waste management and diversion.

The spring meeting of the Manitoba Association of Regional Recyclers (MARR) included tours to the regional landfill, Green Opportunities (formerly Penner Waste), Enviroclean Landfill Solutions and Gateway Resources.

It demonstrated how this region remains among the forefront in planning, delivery and management of community-based waste reduction and recycling and management in Manitoba, organizers suggested.

"The uniqueness of Morden and Winkler right now is typically when we do these things, we do one tour, one place that's doing some good things," said Mike Fernandes, a consultant working with MARR. "The difference here is we completely changed it because we have these four wonderful operations doing great things, and people can learn a lot from what they're doing here.

"There's a lot of interest in what they're doing. That kind of clustering of activity is not happening every-

where," he continued. "Winkler and Morden were always on the cusp of it ... they actually were one of the original members of this organization ... it was a lot of what was called sheltered workshops at the time.

"What's happened now as well is dealing with the organic waste and soil nutrients and trying to recapture soil nutrients and food waste and that kind of thing, and Winkler and Morden have taken on another leadership role in those areas."

MARR's vision is to maximize waste diversion and recycling and to develop more sustainable and responsible waste management practices in communities in all regions of the province of Manitoba.

The organization moves their annual spring meeting around the province and have been in Steinbach, Brandon and the Interlake in recent years, and the tours especially provide a great opportunity to see what's being done and what is possible.

"It really is Manitoba community grassroots ... all the people on the ground doing recycling and waste diversion across the province, and it includes municipalities and includes local recyclers like Gateway Resources," said Fernandes.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Mark Milne led tours of the Enviroclean Landfill Solutions facility in Morden as part of the Manitoba Association of Regional Recyclers meeting last week.

"The members of the association really learn from each other. This is very much a member driven, grassroots based organization ... they hear from experts and people who have been involved in the field for a long time ... that kind of learning that can take place is really important."

There is increasing interest in the idea of a circular economy and keeping material in use as long and as much as possible, and Fernandes suggested "Morden and Winkler have four great examples of it."

The next step for many is to find more ways of using things like food waste and yard waste .to capture the nutrients and put them back into use, he cited as an example.

"If we capture it, do something with it, create those nutrients that can return back into soil, what a wonderful thing, so that's the circular part of it," said Fernandes.

"This is where most of the world is going or trying to go to, and the organics is one thing we can have a real natural control over here in Manitoba," he continued. "As landfills become more difficult to manage, and land is valuable, we're going to see more and more this now.

"The value of it is something that is untapped, and what they're doing in Morden and Winkler is really starting to take advantage of that ... it's happening in other places now too," he added. "They're an integral part of the waste management future in Manitoba."

Enviroclean Landfill Solutions is a prime example with the Morden facility housing six aerobic rapid bio-digestion machines that process food and green waste from surrounding cities and towns.

"I think the more people know what we can do and how amazing this process is the better," said president Mark Milne.

"It's hard to know where all this will go, with municipalities and companies that pick up product and all the other interests that are involved ... it's difficult to know the final path, but it makes so much sense on so many levels," said Milne.

"I've travelled a lot throughout the world, and I haven't found a system yet that is doing what we're doing," he concluded. "I've got benefits that we have that I haven't seen being used elsewhere ... at some point, I think people will come to realize what we've got here."

Accident takes driver's life near Roseisle

A Roseisle resident died last week as a result of an accident near the small community west of Carman.

Pembina Valley RCMP were called out April 17 at 11:25 a.m. to the two vehicle collision on PR 245 two kilometres west of Roseisle in the RM of Dufferin.

RCMP say a westbound SUV driven by a 66-year-old man from Roseisle turned south on Road 40W and was struck by an eastbound pickup truck

driven by a 67-year-old man from Notre Dame de Lourdes.

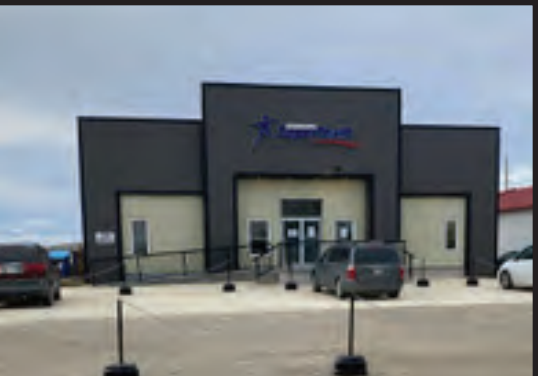
The Roseisle resident was taken to hospital where he died as a result of his injuries. The other driver, a 67-year-old man, and his 66-year-old female passenger were taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Pembina Valley RCMP continue to investigate the accident.



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Like Us On 

First nation honoured for conservation commitment

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Watershed District is honouring both a community and an individual this year for their commitment to conservation.

The district in partnership with Manitoba Department of Environment and Climate is honouring Swan Lake First Nation and traditional knowledge holder Dave Scott with the 2023 conservation award.

The first nation is cited for actively building partnerships with watershed districts and promoting sustainable environmental stewardship practices while Scott is honoured for playing an instrumental role in these endeavours.

The award in memory of the late Mike Cabernel is presented each year to recognize an individual, organization, family or business who actively promotes wise farm management and conservation practices, and it was motivation for Scott to make an exception to his general rule of not accepting awards.

"I just do the work because it's necessary," said Scott.

"I think it's important that we continue on this path of working with our neighbours especially on environmental issues. I think this could encourage more of our people to be more engaged in the environmental issues. That's the most important thing.

"It's important to recognize that there are issues far bigger ... so teaching my community members here about the environmental issues and concerns that are important is part of my outreach.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Swan Lake First Nation is cited for actively building partnerships with watershed districts and promoting sustainable environmental stewardship practices while David Scott is honoured for playing an instrumental role in these endeavours.

"We seem to have forgotten our traditional roles ... so that is part of the reclamation or revitalization of our culture and our traditions."

Swan Lake First Nation was cited for being at the leading edge of building partnerships, fostering conversations with neighbours about environmental stewardship and promoting environmentally sustainable practices.

For generations, it has always promoted and practised land stewardship in ways that reflect their responsibility to care for the land and to build relationships of respect and reciprocity with all of the natural world.

In recent years, it has especially risen to the occasion in being proactive

in reaching out to watershed districts to explore ways to develop partnerships that would reflect commitments to caring for the land and respect for indigenous knowledge and rights.

By November of 2021, Swan Lake First Nation had led the development of a memorandum of understanding with three watershed districts that overlap with its lands. It outlined a number of key priority areas including:

- ensuring indigenous knowledge plays a significant role in sharing environmental stewardship activities;
- ensuring that projects on its lands provide economic and employment opportunities for members;

- continuing to develop partnerships around specific stewardship initiatives;


- working together to better understand how aboriginal and treaty rights, truth and reconciliation calls to action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples might impact partnership development.

Through partnerships, Swan Lake First Nation has been successful in securing additional funds to develop projects focused on new watershed stewardship projects and on building relationships with non-indigenous partners and neighbours.

The efforts are supporting initiatives like restoring damaged wetlands, building capacity for monitoring and research activities and creating land-based programming and workshops for indigenous and non-indigenous participants alike that demonstrate the commitment to caring for the land while building respectful relationships.

Much of what Swan Lake First Nation has accomplished in the areas of land stewardship is directly due to Dave Scott's tireless commitment to caring for the land and sharing his wealth of knowledge regarding land policy and legislation along with Indigenous historical and traditional knowledge.

In fact, Scott was instrumental in lobbying to bring about the change in provincial legislation represented by the watershed districts act in order to provide avenues for first nations



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Nomination Election Day is April 29

Eden marks Mental Health Awareness Week with free events

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Eden Foundation is marking national Mental Health Awareness Week with five days of free community events.

The foundation takes over the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre nightly from 7-9 p.m. May 1-5.

“Every evening is something different,” says foundation director of development Jayme Giesbrecht.

The Monday night topic is “Newcomer Stories in Immigrant Populations” featuring a presentation from the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership and guest speakers Shepherd Chiwandire, Yevgeniya Tarenko, and Zahid Zehri.

“We know we have a diverse, multicultural community,” says Giesbrecht. “But we don’t always get to hear those stories or the mental health struggles that comes with leaving your home country, getting settled in a whole new town and getting accustomed to the lifestyle here.”

“An Evening with Eden Health Care Services” on Tuesday, May 2, will include presentations on mindfulness techniques from community mental health clinician Cheryl Dyck, music therapy from certified musical therapist Joel Klassen, and mental health insights from Recovery of Hope counsellor Andrea Dyck.

The Wednesday night event then takes a break from speakers for some hands-on fun with the Mental Health Rocks Paint Night.

“If you’ve gone for walks around town, you may already notice little painted rocks here and there,” says Giesbrecht. “We want to paint our rocks with a mental health message, and then people can leave them around

town for others to see and hopefully be encouraged.

“Not to mention, painting itself can be a really good exercise for your mental health.”

Thursday night will feature a presentation from author and certified life and health coach Anita Froese on “The Journey to Being Authentic.”

“Anita is very open about the struggles that she has faced in her personal life and with her mental health and how she has overcome those,” Giesbrecht says.

The week wraps up on Friday, May 5, with “Stories from Our Community.”

“We are so looking forward to having Winkler Fire Chief Richard Paetzold out to share the struggles of being a firefighter when it comes to mental health,” Giesbrecht

says. “They’re running towards danger when most of us are programmed to run away from it.”

Also sharing his stories that evening will be local palliative care nurse Blake Derksen.

With four nights packed full of personal stories and insights, Mental Health Awareness Week in Winkler is going to live up to this year’s theme of *Get Real*.

“I think that all of these evenings will amplify that and help people to realize it’s okay to say that you have struggled or are struggling,” Giesbrecht says. “Because when we share our stories, that’s when we can grow together and really support each other and learn empathy.”

Each night is free to attend. Pre-registration is not required. Beverages will be available for purchase.

For more details, email foundation@edenhealthcare.ca or check out the various Eden social media pages.

“WHEN WE SHARE OUR STORIES, THAT’S WHEN WE CAN GROW TOGETHER AND REALLY SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND LEARN EMPATHY.”

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The High School Apprenticeship Program (HSAP) is a pathway for students to explore a career in the trades while completing their academic graduation requirements. Local high school students enrolled in the program gain practical on-the-job experience and develop skills for success in the workplace. Once they graduate, they may be granted advanced standing in the post-secondary apprenticeship program, allowing them to transition to their journeyman certification sooner.

The program doesn’t just benefit student-apprentices — it also benefits you as a

participating employer. Hiring a student-apprentice is a smart business move in more ways than one. Adding student-apprentices to your team fills key positions, provides access to unique support and may help you develop loyal long-term employees.

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



This column is propoganda

May I be political for a moment?

I don't know why I ask because by the time you read that and respond it will be too late, I will have gone and been all political again to your great dismay.

Anyhow, I am interested in this latest round of yelling between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, both of whom are apparently right and honourable (it's in their title so it must be true). I am interested in the same way people are "interested" in horrific car accidents as they drive past.

One of the latest arguments between these two star-crossed lovers is whether or not the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation should be labelled on Twitter as "State Funded Media" (to be read hauntingly slow like the ghost of Sen. Joseph McCarthy).

The whole thing is ridiculous given that there are many people in this country increasingly struggling to make a living and to find affordable housing. Virtually no one cares what Elon Musk and Twitter think of the CBC.

Still as we approach (???) another election by 2025 (so far away), political animals are doing whatever they can to gain some sort of a grasp on the legendarily slippery Trudeau. To that end Mr. Poilievre has been sending vast and enormous quantities of letters to all sorts of powerful people all over the place trying to find allies in his efforts to gain the role of Prime Minister someday.

At any rate, as of the time of writ-

ing this in the recent past, the efforts to brand CBC as (gasp) "State Funded" on Twitter have been successful. This allows Mr. Poilievre to say about the CBC, "Now people know that it is Trudeau propoganda, not news" which seems like a waste of time given his followers probably thought that already and it is unlikely fans of the CBC will suddenly become suspicious.

In response the CBC clarified that it is "publicly funded" through a non-partisan committee of parliament and not state-funded (which sounds like semantics but is accurate).

Having worked for many media organizations over the years both reputable and of ill repute, I can say that not once has anyone ever gone to a journalist and said, "Hey—we just got a crap ton of money from Conrad Black so from now on nothing you write can reflect poorly on him and his interests."

This is because the insane logistics of trying to enforce and police that would be a comical nightmare and also journalists actually do have integrity (some of us) and have, in the past decades, merely become handy pawns in this weird and divisive culture war that wages all the way up to parliament.

I mean, I can write TRUDEAU IS A DYCK!!! (note the Mennonite spelling to evade the censors) in all caps because I am not part of some weird propoganda machine and I could do it at the CBC just as easily.

If we are going to label every organization that receives government funding/support as "Trudeau Propoganda" then look out churches and Bible camps because obviously you are now propoganda machines for Trudeau. Grant money, tax free status, etc. all come from government, right?

Of course, this is all part of Poilievre's effort to fulfill the promise he made to "defund the CBC" which seems odd in the sense that having a media outlet run by public funds and not beholden to advertisers and deep pocketed owners would seem to suggest LESS bias and not more. But what do I know, I'm merely a Trudeau Propagandist ... err, journalist.

I suppose if people think media would be far more fair if they were entirely beholden to wealthy owners and advertisers who am I to stand in the way.

Now if you will excuse me I have to connect with my peers in the Global Journalism Cabal (GJC) and find out who I am supposed to write propoganda for next.



By Peter Cantelon

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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• DON'T MIND THE MESS

Learning to bend without breaking

I knew a lovely lady who lived to be 103. She lived on the farmstead established with her late husband almost until the day she died. She planted flowers, baked, and sewed, and confessed to a secret addiction to soap operas.

She'd look you right in the eye when she was talking to you, putting her face very close to yours so she could hear your reply. She never had plastic surgery, but her face was beautiful, with happy lines revealing a life of wide smiles and



By Lori Penner

warm days squinting in the sunshine. The eyes that gazed at you still sparkled with mischievous life, and she could tease with the best of them.

I ran into her at a funeral years ago. She seemed to have shrunk a bit since the last time I had seen her. She approached my table at the post-service lunch in the church basement, grabbed my hand with a strength that surprised me, and asked me how I was.

"I guess the next time I attend one of these, I'll be the one in the box," she chuckled. I told her I was sure she'd still be around for many years to come. She shook her head doubtfully, but smiled at me as if to say that she wouldn't be altogether unhappy if I was wrong. We said our goodbyes and I watched her walk slowly, but steadily away.

People like her always amaze me. They endure illness, grief, financial and family stress, and heartache, but

seem to get through it all unscathed. Is it their attitude that sustains them, careful attention to their health, or just a really good gene pool?

I wonder sometimes if the fountain of youth is flexibility. Never fighting the winds of change, but rather, letting them blow around you and over you, letting them carry you along. Like a willow tree, bowing to the tempest, almost touching the ground at times, but bouncing right back up when the storm dies down.

Being in the world, but not of it. Maybe people like her live with their troubles, but don't let them become a part of them. They accept that constant change and loss are the cost of being alive.

If you're anything like me, you staunchly resist change. I'm more like the stubborn old oak that refuses to bend or even sway to the gale. Sure, I'll lose most of my branches and leaves in the fight, but just don't ask me to move. People like that are admired for their strength and fortitude,

but stubbornness, like anything, has a price.

Even the strongest trunk can snap with enough resistance. And a tree without branches or leaves doesn't thrive or offer much shade.

Maybe it's the strength and stability of its roots that allow the willow to bend but not break. In the storm of shifting social attitudes and political climates, when everything you thought was safe and secure turns into dust in the wind, it's important to have a solid base. You think the tree is swaying, but it's really only politely complying, knowing that what lies beneath the surface will hold it until the storm passes.

Perhaps it's hope, or knowing that the sun will shine again, that causes the tree to spread its branches as wide as its roots. Not dreading and bracing itself for the worst, but rather living with the good faith that when the worst comes, it will survive, and bend with the wind.

letter to the editor

Choose which way is the best

RE: *Council* needs to move the community forward, not backward by Kevin Driedger in the April 13 Winkler Morden Voice.

I also grew up in Winkler my whole life of 61 years. I have always been an avid reader and have taken books from the library.

I also am deeply disturbed by a minority of people who want to quietly sneak in the ideology of right becoming wrong and wrong being right.

In ancient times, before the great world wide flood, God saw the wickedness of men was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually, and it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him in his heart - Genesis

6:5-6 KJV.

Do I grieve God if I do not stand for and speak truth and let evil slide into our great community? Am I a lone voice warning us that God's judgement is coming if we do not want and love in our hearts.

God have mercy on us.

To our citizens and members representing us: There is another option of living life of just forward and backward. There is the upward way leading to love and peace or the downward way to eternal death.

Choose you this day which way is the best.

Alma Friesen
Winkler

Think you're registered?
THINK AGAIN!

Sign up online to be an organ and tissue donor.

Many of us carry a blue paper donor card in our wallet. But did you know the registry has moved online? All Manitobans are encouraged to go register at signupforlife.ca. It's time to upgrade, even if you still have a signed paper card.



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Change and growth for credit union

By Lori Penner

Significant change, evolution and growth were the themes of 2022 for Access Credit Union.

Board chair Kevin Beresford delivered a review of the past year at the annual general meeting last week, and he recalled how 2022 started off with membership approval of a merger with Noventis and Sunova credit unions in January.

"We're seeing the core benefits the board covered in their due diligence process - a stronger, more resilient credit union that can give back to the communities it serves, a robust development environment for staff and a continued commitment to great product, services and rates for all members regardless of the way they wish to bank," said Beresford.

He added these benefits led to additional conversations with Amaranth, Casera and Carpathia credit unions later in the year. As a result, memberships from all three credit unions vot-

ed to join Access as well.

"In joining with Access, it underscores the necessary work that our legacy directors and credit unions began many years ago in building the foundation of success we see today.

"While these changes have been impactful on staff and members, the rapidly changing financial services environment requires that credit unions adapt, grow and change at a faster pace than ever before," added Beresford.

"We're all faced with new requirements, new technologies and new demands for members who see convenience of technology, an aggressive rate environment and the importance of local investment as key priorities for their financial institution of choice," he continued. "Access is well positioned to be that institution, and as we continue to grow, we'll focus on serving the needs of those members including expanded in-branch offering and wealth services."



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

After a year of growth, Access Credit Union will see their membership increase to over 194,000 members by July 1, 2023.

Last year, the board tasked itself with determining the new vision, priorities and values for the amalgamated organization.

"Our refreshed vision aligns with the strategic direction of the board, ensuring the financial well-being of our members and communities is served through the unique strengths of our new credit union," Beresford said.

"We continue to prioritize serving our clients and members with excellence, to invest in a sustainable future for our communities and to empower our staff to their fullest potential. We will achieve these goals through the consistent application of four basic principles: doing good, being better, owning it and moving forward."

Access Credit Union's deposit and loan portfolios grew substantially in 2022 in addition to growth as a result from the Noventis and Sunova mergers. The loan portfolio grew by 85 percent in 2022, 65 percent of which was the result of the merger but 20 per cent was a result of the organic growth, explained president and CEO Larry Davey.

Deposits enjoyed similar success, growing almost 71 percent - 64 percent of that was from the mergers and 7 percent was a result of organic growth. Last year also saw a record \$13.5 million in profits returned to members.

The institution continued to support the communities it serves by sponsoring organizations, charities and events that reflect the values of its members, employees and communities. In 2022, Access donated over \$1.5 million to local charitable organizations, and employees raised

over \$118,000 for community organizations through the Access Jeans for Charity program.

For the eighth year in a row, Access was also named one of Manitoba's Top 30 employers.

"As our team grows to almost 800 staff across Manitoba, we continue to strive to be employers of choice. Supporting professional and innovative environments, developing staff to achieve their full potential. Each employee contributes to the continued success of Access," said Davey. "Being recognized as a top employer is an important goal of Access, as both the employment market shifts and the demand for specialized knowledge increases.

"By creating an environment that encourages development, facilitates teamwork, inspires innovation and highlights the importance of work-life balance, we are better able to recruit and retain exceptional individuals that serve our members in-branch and online. Our internal teams manage specialized areas within our organization."

Looking ahead to 2023, Davey said they are excited about their upcoming merger effective July 1 with Carpathia and Casera Credit Unions, and their already effective merger with Amaranth. This merger will result in membership increasing to over 194,000, more than 1,000 employees and 61 branch locations.

"Our focus on our members, employees and communities continues through each merger, and we anticipate bringing that effort to the benefit of those organizations and their members as well."

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Morden in search of firefighters

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden Fire and Rescue is again looking for a few good men or women to join the crew.

The fire department is recruiting after having lost about a half dozen members in the last few years due to retirements or families moving out of the community.

The last recruitment process happened in 2019 just near the beginning of the pandemic, and they had good interest at that time so fire chief Andy Thiessen is hoping for good candidates again this time.

"You never know who has maybe been thinking about it over a period of time," said Thiessen. "I have a number of applications already ... so there's interest out there. You just never know until they show up."

Candidates of course will have to be prepared for some vigorous testing physically, so it wouldn't be for everyone.

"We want to give everyone a chance if they're interested. The first step is the physical part," said Thiessen. "We just put them through the paces to make sure that they're not being put in a spot they won't be comfortable with," he said. "It's not meant for everyone."

The initial physical testing is to be done on June 17 followed then by interviews, so that process will likely screen some people out.

Those who are still standing will then go into the formal firefighter

training process while gradually being brought on stream with the fire department.

"We want to try to start bringing them on fairly quickly in the summer time so they have an opportunity to get to know the facility, the guys who are already on the crew," said Thiessen. "We then put them into a firefighter level one course, and that starts in September and goes throughout the whole winter, and that is done here in house."

"We try to gradually include them as much as we can then as they go through the course. As they go through the course, there's different blocks, and once they have completed one block we can allow them to do that on scene," he noted.

"When they get to the full training, it doesn't matter what kind of call we go to, we're hoping and expecting them to be there for it."

The deadline for applications is May 31, and more information including an application form can be found online at www.mordenfire.com, or you can also stop in at the Morden firehall.

Thiessen was confident they would get enough candidates to get back to their full complement of 39 members.

"We've been quite fortunate so far in having people interested in applying," he said. "There's a lot of communities across the province that have a tough time getting people to join up, so we're quite fortunate ... so far anyway."



VOICE FILE PHOTOS

Morden Fire and Rescue last put firefighter candidates through their paces as part of a recruitment process in 2019.

Continued from page 4

in general to build their land governance capacity.

Successfully building partnerships and collaboratively securing funding for land stewardship initiatives has enabled it to expand on much of the monitoring and relationship-building work for which Scott has already volunteered countless hours over the past decades.

One key initiative led by Scott and supported by new funding is the Swan Lake First Nation climate change summer youth program introduced in 2021.

This program brings together indigenous and non-indigenous youth for a six-week on-the-land program that provides environmental stewardship training from an indigenous traditional knowledge perspective (provided by Scott) as well as from numerous western science perspectives.

Experts join throughout the program to workshop activities ranging

from learning about how to restore habitats for local plants and animals and to water and soil sampling techniques to sustainable agricultural practices and more. It is all while learning important histories of the land and indigenous perspectives on the importance of caring for the land and the roles that various plant and animal species play in Ojibwe culture.

Taken together, Scott and the Swan Lake First Nation as a whole represent great examples of what is possible when first nations develop respectful partnerships with watershed districts and other non-Indigenous organizations who are motivated by the shared goal of caring for our environment.

Swan Lake First Nation and Dave Scott will both be recognized at the Manitoba Association of Watersheds Conference this December for exhibiting, exemplifying and executing environmental stewardship practices that will help enhance our environment for future generations.

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WORK & WESTERN WEARHOUSE

Barnswallow Quilt Show is back May 5-7

By Lorne Stelmach

Not being able to hold their annual spring quilt show for three years due to the pandemic means it is especially exciting for the Barnswallow Quilters to be getting back at it this year.

The group, which will also be celebrating 35 years, is glad to put on the show May 5-7 at the Access Event Centre in Morden, but it is also challenging for them get it all together again.

"It's incredible exciting, and it's also a little daunting. We have lots to do and we haven't done it in three years," said organizer Allison Halstead. "With the quilt guilds, we're not at the younger end of the age spectrum ... so some of our members are not able to involved or are not able to help ... it's a lot of physical work to set up the show.

"It's also sort of daunting how much work people have done over the three years. There's a lot of pieces that people have that they have not shown be-

fore, so that's an exciting part. It's a good challenge to have too much.

"COVID was a lot of things, but one of the good things was that people really delved into online resources and classes and maybe got bored with their usual stuff and thought let's try something new," added Halstead.

The show had modest beginnings in the loft of a barn southeast of Morden, but it grew and expanded over the decades to eventually fill the event centre.

The variety of pieces displayed has also grown to include all manner of fabric work by artisans from across the province.

A feature part of the show is the Guild Challenge, and this year's show finally gets to show the results of the 2020 challenge where participants were encouraged to create a piece around the theme of a favourite book.

The Manitoba 150 mosaic quilt will also finally be shown as well as work from various guild workshops held



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Barnswallow Quilters take over the Morden Access Event Centre May 5-7 for their annual quilt show, featuring work from artists across the region and beyond.

this year and pieces by guest quilter Jean Motheral. The new challenge kit for 2024 will also be available for purchase.

There will also be a rainbow auction and a members boutique along with a number of vendor tables.

The cost to attend is \$5. The show runs May 5 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., May 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and May 7 from noon to 5 p.m.

Halstead encourages people to come see the varied work of the many

skilled artisans.

"There are a lot of talented people here," she said, noting she recently attending a provincial biannual show in Winnipeg. "Their membership is a lot bigger than ours ... but what we've got out here is pretty darn good. It would stand up easily to what is there for the provincial show. So we are so absolutely thrilled and honoured to be able to show it again to our local community in the hall."



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Baseball museum receives grant

Voice staff

The Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Morden is one of five museums in the south central region receiving provincial funding.

The Manitoba government last week announced \$240,000 for community museum project support grants, and the local museum in the Access Event Centre received \$10,000.

Other recipients in this region included the Dufferin Historical Society - \$4,715, La Société Historique de Lourdes - \$7,000, Morris and District Centennial Museum- \$7,000 and the Star Mound Historical Society - \$2,100.

The province allocated funding to 30 recipients overall, and Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Obby Khan noted the importance of museums.

"Museums enhance our understanding and appreciation of Manitoba's natural and cultural diversity and help to foster a sense of identity and pride," said Khan.

"This investment will help to improve the quality of museum collections and programs throughout Manitoba and support an appropriate interpretation of Manitoba's history that reflects the experiences and contributions of indigenous peoples."

The community museum project support program supports one-time initiatives and/or unique opportunities to advance reconciliation, equity, diversity, accessibility, inclusion, COVID-19 recovery



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Morden received a \$10,000 grant last week from the province.

and/or collections management.

The program supports up to 100 per cent of project costs to a maximum of \$25,000 to non-profit community museums focused on conserving, preserving and interpreting their collections for the public's benefit and enjoyment.

The 30 non-profit community museums were se-

lected based on prioritizing projects that advance the program's goals including five initiatives that will advance reconciliation, one project that will advance equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusion, six projects that will support COVID-19 recovery and 18 initiatives that will improve collections management activities in community museums.

April 26 has been proclaimed Community Foundation Day!

This annual day of celebration recognizes community foundations' impact on community well-being, and the generosity of Manitobans.



North Norfolk Foundation
MacGregor, Manitoba

Helping keep new parents in the community by supporting the creation of a daycare centre.



Beautiful Plains Community Foundation
Neepawa, Manitoba

Creating community events and fostering connections with new Canadians.



Selkirk & District Community Foundation
Selkirk, Manitoba

Helping restore Netley Marsh and protect water quality for future generations.



These are just three of the 100s of projects supported annually by Manitoba's community foundations. Our 57 community foundations are built by community, for community. Learn more: EndowMB.org

Endow Manitoba is an initiative of The Winnipeg Foundation.



Winkler arts festival concludes

By Lorne Stelmach

The Winkler Festival of the Arts wrapped up for 2023 last week with its awards night Friday evening.

It concluded what was a successful return to the first full normal festival post-pandemic, and president Dorothy Plett was pleased with the response that came in at just under 300 entries.

"It's just shy of what we were pre-COVID, and it's probably up by half of what it was last year ... we just had to do a quick festival, so it was just under 200 last year ... so it's a good increase from last year," said Plett.

"We had choirs from the schools for the first year since COVID, so that was very exciting. We had a good turnout for the choir morning on Wednesday. That was great."

Plett said all of the music students who were involved showed the level of dedication to music in the community.

"There's lots of hard work evident in the community. There must be some good piano teachers and some good piano practicers and vocalists as well. Our adjudicator was just fabulous with them, so it was a good learning experience all around," she said.

"We've got really good talent in this community, and they are obviously being given the opportunities they need in order to hone those skills.

"We had everything from beginner to grade 9 piano, so that is already



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The adjudicators choice award was presented by Tracey Regier Sawatzky to Jakob Klassen.



Award winners in the vocal segment were Aneka Lowen, here with adjudicator Millie Hildebrand, and Rachel Hesom.



Awards session 1 recipients were Tracey Regier Sawatzky, Ashlynn Buhler, Brianna Enns, Luanne Guse, Marshall Thiessen, Mary Meirau, Gavin Buhler, Aisu Kuchkachov and Michael Pluschnik.



Awards session 2 recipients were Tracey Regier Sawatzky, Lauren Wolfe, Alexis Wiebe, Kaitlyn Fehr, Cayden Wood, Grace Xia, Nathanael Mierau, Gavin Buhler and Eric Xu.

Continued on page 14

Musicians to be honoured at Manitoba Fiddle Association Wall Of Fame Ceremony

Staff

The Manitoba Fiddle Association will be inducting a number of fiddling greats into the Wall of Fame in Carman on Sunday, April 30.

Fiddler/Performer Jason Lepine from Portage la Prairie is one of four musicians being recognized at the Manitoba Fiddle Association Wall of Fame Ceremony.

Lepine is an accomplished musician and entertainer. His expertise on the fiddle has amazed and delighted audiences all around the world. He has traveled far and wide with his performances, thrilling listeners everywhere with his captivating playing.

Also being inducted on Sunday will be builder/promoter Daniel Koulack, accompanist Irene Gamay and fiddler/performer Walter La Croix, posthu-

mously.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15 each, and those aged fourteen and under are admitted free. Plus, you can enjoy a delicious supper from Chicken Chef for \$11.50.

There will be lots of great old time fiddle music and dancing to enjoy while supporting this year's inductees. Dancing is from 2-9 p.m. Supper at 5 p.m. and the induction ceremony will take place from 6-7:30 p.m.

The Wall of Fame, at Carman Community Hall on 60 1st Avenue NW, is a Manitoba Fiddle Association initiative that honours the talent of Manitoba fiddlers and friends of the fiddle. It provides an educational opportunity to learn about fiddle music and its history, as well as view several Manitoban artifacts.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jason Lepine is an accomplished musician and entertainer and will be inducted into the Manitoba Fiddle Association Wall of Fame in Carman on April 30.

A soulful destination in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

A family of newcomers to Morden had their dream come true with the opening of their own business in the community this past weekend.

A ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday officially opened the doors to Soulful Studio in the strip mall on North Railway, and it is very much a passion for Sachin and Ashima Jain, who came to Morden just under a year ago.

"Morden has really supported us and this is my passion," said Ashima. "I wanted to pursue my career in yoga, and I observed there was no studio that could support the health of the people in a natural way."

"She has been doing yoga since she was a child," said Sachin. "Just before coming over here, she learned to be a teacher so that she could give the best of what she has in her to the people over here for their health."

"Health is something that is most important for all," he said. "We started this studio because it is her passion, and we wanted to do something

for the health of the people as well."

Soulful Studio is primarily a yoga studio, but their aim is to offer a variety of classes designed to promote wellness and mindfulness also including zumba and dance classes.

Their hopes is that the classes will be perfect for those who love to move and groove to upbeat music with the zumba classes combining fun dance routines with high-energy cardio. The dance classes will focus on various styles such as contemporary, hip-hop and jazz.

"Slowly, as we move on, we will just try to keep increasing the classes, and we are thinking of starting some classes for seniors as well," Sachin noted.

"Yoga means to unite, to unite with the body and with the soul. That is my purpose," said Ashima, who was anxious and excited to get started. "It is a dream come true for me."

They are developing a website, but for now you can find information on social media including Facebook and Instagram.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Dignitaries, family and friends were on hand Saturday for the opening of Soulful Studio in downtown Morden.

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MANITOBA CANADA'S HEART IS CALLING

MLA presents Jubilee medals

By Lorne Stelmach

Ten more area residents were honoured for their community service by Borderland MLA Josh Guenter.

The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal was presented to the ten constituents at a special ceremony April 17 at the Manitoba Legislature.

The medal was created in honour of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in celebration of her 70 years as sovereign from 1952-2022, and they are awarded to Manitobans from all walks of life who have made a significant contribution to society.

"There are many people who are worthy of recognition ... these 10 recipients represent the very best of who we are in southern Manitoba," said Guenter. "They represent a cross section of individuals from all walks of life. These are people that I personally respect and admire and I feel are held in high esteem and regard in their communities."

The recipients covered a broad spectrum of backgrounds:

- Perry Batchelor - for his 17 years of service in Canada's armed forces and 25 subsequent years with the Altona Police Service including 12 as police chief. He was cited as a champion of the community and has provided his leadership and support to local organizations and events.

- Dave Carlson - for his advocacy for the communities of Emerson-Franklin including revitalizing economic development and providing supports for seniors in the area.

- Cheryl Harder - owner of Dusty Ridge Equine Centre. She has been involved in many causes including her local 4-H, church and youth groups. She uses her horses to connect with and help youth who are struggling and provides an outlet for families and children to enjoy time together through kids camp, a petting zoo and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal was presented to ten constituents at a special ceremony April 17 at the Manitoba Legislature by Borderland MLA Josh Guenter.

trail rides.

- Bill Klassen - owner of Bill Klassen Auctions with over 50 years of experience. He was cited as a southern Manitoba icon who is a respected citizen and a positive presence in the community.

- Paul Peters - for his kind and generous spirit and service to the region including over two decades as councillor in the RM of Rhineland and leadership in organizations such as the Pembina Valley Water Co-op and Winkler and district health care board.

- June Letkeman - a cheerful and tireless volunteer, she is a champion of her community of Plum Coulee and many important causes throughout the region including the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation and service as a municipal councillor.

- Kathy Hildebrand - for her decades of service assisting immigrant families in accessing supports and resources and providing important advocacy for home school families.

- Paul Maendel - a member of the Hutterian Emergency Aquatic Response Team (HEART), a non-profit professional dive team from Oak Bluff Hutterite Colony that recovers drowning victims. He received the medal on behalf of the team in recognition of their selfless service for others and being a light at a difficult time in the lives of families who have lost loved ones.

- Keesy Rodewald - cited as a force of energy and optimism and a community organizer and volunteer who brings families and her community together through organizing local events, projects and celebrations. Her

efforts have helped advance many local projects and offerings, and her volunteerism has set a standard for others.

- Mark Wilson - for over two decades of service to our country in Canada's armed forces including tours of duty in Afghanistan in 2007 and Iraq in 2017. He is a high school teacher at Garden Valley Collegiate in Winkler.

"They are the unsung heroes in our areas and in our communities in so many ways, and it's a special way to recognize their life of service and their contributions," said Guenter. "They add such a vitality and a positive spirit to those around them and really strengthen our communities ... it really is about elevating these individuals ... and these are examples that we can emulate."

> WINKLER ARTS FESTIVAL, FROM PG. 12

awesome ... and they're preparing at that top level to possibly take it to university," she suggested. "We've got quite a number of students recommended to go to the provincials ... that happens at the end of May, so it will be exciting to see how many of them can actually take that opportunity."

The adjudicator's choice award went to Jakob Klassen, and the award winners in vocal were Aneka Lowen

and Rachel Hesom, who received the Justina Wiebe Trophy for overall best vocal performer.

• Awards

- Mary Mierau (Gr 2); Aisu Kuchkachov (Gr 3); Luanne Guse (Gr 4); Gavin Buhler (Gr 5); Lauren Wolfe (Gr 6); Nathanael Mierau (Gr 7); Eric Xu (Gr 8); Alexis Wiebe (Gr 9); Kaitlyn Fehr (Studies); W.A. Mozart (P) - Cayden Wood; W.A. Mozart (I) - Grace Xia

- Gavin Buhler & Marshall Thiessen (duet/trio); Brianna Enns (sacred); Ashlynn Buhler (popular); Michael Pluschnik (adult)

• Scholarships

- Piano - Jaelynn Wins, Brayden Wang, Kiahna Wins, Moise Onishchuk, Keziah Dyck, Grace Xia, Emily Maier, Sara Onishchuk

- Vocal/choral - Rachel Hesom, Zahira Dyck, JR Walkof Gr 3 Choir, GVC Senior Choir.

- Provincial recommendations

- Piano preliminary (Gr 3-4) - Kiahna Wins, Kaylin Guse, Rachel Hesom

- Piano junior (Gr 5-6) - Moise Onishchuk, Lauren Wolfe, Keziah Dyck

- Piano intermediate (Gr 7-8) - Nathanael Mierau, Katie Friesen, Emily Maier

- Piano advanced (Gr 9-10) - Kaitlyn Fehr, Jakob Klassen

- Vocal preliminary - Rachel Hesom, Zahira Dyck.

Examine your footprint, business urged

Workshop asks whether they are ready for climate change

By Lorne Stelmach

An online workshop last week encouraged businesses to consider whether they are ready for climate change.

The session was part of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce 2023 climate action for business forum series, which was to be held in person in Morden April 19 but ironically went virtual due to the weather.

The bottom line was that business and industry is being encouraged to consider what's happening within their companies and operations and what they could be doing differently.

"What is your footprint on the environment; what type of emissions are you emitting?" asked Derek Earl, manager of the KPMG global infra-

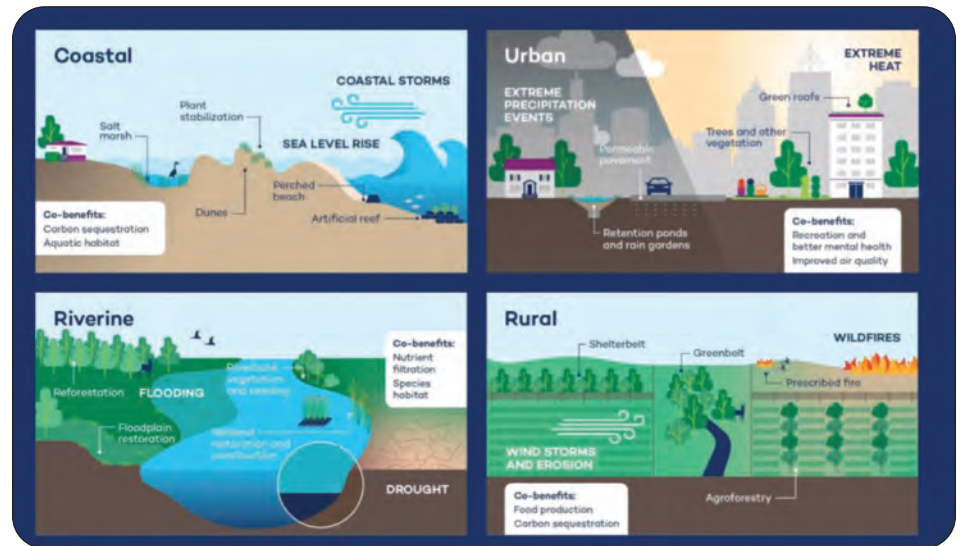
structure advisory team and founder and chair of BizForClimate.

"How are we interacting with the marketplace? What are the products and services that we're offering and that we're delivering, and how do these contribute to climate solutions and reductions?" he further asked. "It's that question that also starts to really touch on where are the opportunities going forward because there are tremendous opportunities for those who can provide solutions."

The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce is offering these business training session to help build awareness and capacity and enable businesses to share their own experiences and challenges in relation to climate change.

They want businesses to learn how to assess their climate risk and enhance resilience, how to participate in the new circular economy and reduce carbon emissions and how to take advantage of cost-effective nature-based solutions.

Darren Swanson, a climate change risk and resilience author, consultant to the United Nations and a senior associate with the International Institute of Sustainable Development,



SCREENSHOT PHOTO

The workshop presentation offered a few examples of nature-based solutions for addressing climate change and its impacts.

touched on a range of realities of climate change such as the more extreme and unpredictable weather.

"All this means real impacts for Manitoba businesses," he said, noting it is projected that, by the end of the century, Manitoba summers could resemble that of Kansas and northern Texas. "There are challenges and

there are opportunities to these types of shifts that could happen here."

Earl touched on the transition from the traditional linear economy, where resources are used and then disposed of in the end, to a circular economy.

"Circular economy is all about

Continued on page 16

April is VOLUNTEER Appreciation month!

We appreciate all of our **VOLUNTEERS!** Thank you for all you do!

Let's celebrate our individual and collective actions in creating a strong, interconnected and vibrant community! Volunteering weaves us together, strengthening the fabric of our community by sharing our time, talent and energy to support one another. This reveals the importance of volunteering to the strength and vibrancy of our communities through the interconnected actions we take to support one another. These diverse forms of sharing our time, talent and energy strengthen the fabric of our community.

Through volunteering we experience our interconnectedness, making our lives more meaningful. Getting involved in various ways, we find friendship, develop trust, and link our relationships. Threading these connections, we come to belong as we contribute towards the same goals.

Like each individual thread makes weaving stronger, every volunteer's experience, perspective, and abilities add to our

collective resilience. Woven together from coast to coast to coast, volunteering reinforces our ability to grow, thrive, and create change within our community, province, and country.

Knowing our volunteer contributions are valued and meaningful creates a greater sense of purpose and dedication. From helping build a home, cleaning up a park, or coaching a

sports team to cooking for an ill friend, checking in on a neighbour, or helping a stranger cross the street, each action we

take impacts our community's overall wellness, now and for future generations.

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Year of growth for co-op

By Lorne Stelmach

The Winkler Co-op faced challenges as it emerged from the pandemic this past year, but it also proved to be a strong year of growth.

That was the message presented at its annual general meeting held last Tuesday at the Buhler Active Living Centre in Winkler.

"Through the dedication of our staff and management and board, we've been able to really weather it and what came after, that is the inflation period and such, and we've really focussed on being there where the community needs us and that has really carried us through it all," said general manager Evan Toews.

"I think with that is the ability to change when change is needed," added board chair Milt Olfert. "When COVID hit, the ability to switch gears and be able to give customers a safe place to shop was important ... and now inflation and those kinds of things, being able to shift gears and give great product and service to our members."

The 2022 fiscal year saw total sales of \$158.4 million, and the earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization was \$8.1 million.

Member's equity and reserves totalled \$55.8 million with total assets of \$70.6 million dollars, and the member equity ratio was at 79 per cent and the reserve ratio at 38.4 per cent.

From the sales in 2022, the total patronage allocation to members in the amount of \$6.2 million, and membership continued to grow with 499 members added in 2022 for a total

membership of 20,012, with 16,854 members who were active in the past 12 months.

And in 2022, the co-op donated \$506,700 to more than 200 various community projects and local causes, and it included the single largest donation in its history with the \$250,000 contribution to the Boundary Trails Health Centre expansion project.

"That feels fantastic, and because we give so much back to our communities, that's why a lot of opportunities come to us because they know the money is staying here; it's not leaving the community," suggested Olfert.

"And the money that we are talking about being donated back into the local community is well beyond paying staff and taxes and all the things that everybody does," added Toews. "This is a portion of our profits, a portion of our bottom line that we're dedicating to good causes right here."

The 2022 annual report highlighted a number of projects and acquisitions:

- Mud-eze Car Wash in Morden was purchased, renovated and re-branded.

- Morden grocery store parking lot resurfacing project was completed.

- Winkler car wash automatic wash was replaced with a new state of the art automatic washing system.

- Electronic price labels were installed in the grocery stores for ease of price changes and compatibility.

- Rosetown Ag purchased a 2015 Terra-Gator dry fertilizer floater to assist in making timely and efficient applications.

Some other projects currently on the go include a new cardlock south



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Addressing the annual meeting of the Winkler Co-op were board chair Milt Olfert and general manager Evan Toews.

of Winkler to be opened in late 2023 to convenient access to fuel for the communities south of Winkler, and the Plum Coulee gas bar and convenience store is getting a complete interior and exterior upgrade.

"The communities that we are in continue to grow, and we do believe strongly in the communities, and with the success that the communities will have, we believe we need to expand as well to keep up with the growth and the needs of the community," said Toews.

"Our management team is really good to find these opportunities that fit with our core values of what the co-op is about and they bring it to the board," said Olfert. "We want to

make sure that any expansion is going to be beneficial to our members ... that's always key."

"Opportunities seem to find us as well ... and we get to partner with a lot of businesses who want to do business with us and recognize the value of working together in our community," concluded Toews. "I think our area and our region really exemplifies working together."

"We've gone through a planning process and put some plans in place for the upcoming year ... some don't come to fruition, but we do have some exciting projects on the go but none that can be announced at this time."

> FOOTPRINT, FROM PG. 15

changing that model, and it's about changing how we use resources to run our businesses and to produce the goods and services that we need ... it's about developing ways to circle the resources back through," he said.

"We're using less natural resources to begin with ... waste streams are being re-used, energy is being reused. It's being cycled back through so that the whole picture becomes much more sustainable."

Swanson also addressed building resilience by using nature or nature-based solutions and infrastructure. There are many examples such as green roofs or permeable pavements to help manage storm water runoff or retention ponds or natural engineered wetlands.

"It can be as simple as using trees and vegetation to cool areas, and this is particularly important in downtown areas in cities and even in small towns," he noted.

They also cited examples such as Frontiers North in Churchill working with New Flyer Industries to re-use batteries that formerly powered buses to power the tundra buggies. And Overton Environmental in West St. Paul uses waste from the Simplot plant to re-purpose it as compost.

"This is how you start to see other businesses and industries work together to fill kind of new spaces in the supply chain ... it starts to build that larger circular economy," said Earl.

"It's just providing new products that really service a market that now there's new demand for here," said Swanson. "There's no doubt multiple things I'm sure you can start applying directly to your business today."

The workshop heard from Benjy Loewen of Decor Cabinets in Morden about some of the simple measures they have taken such high efficiency and motion sensor activated fixtures and even just training employees about hand washing.

"Over the last year, we've taken a full greenhouse gas inventory. That is actually now one of our pillars when we do a project," he noted.

"We can capture the water that comes off the roof. That can be used to maintain trees on the yard and keep our green space lively," he added. "Just those tiny little things that seem so small and insignificant ... it saved us 300,000 gallons of water."

Mike Pinette of 3M in Morden also cited such examples as installing more efficient natural gas boilers that use less gas and save money as well as changing all the lighting to LED.

"We have a cooling tower which

supports some of the manufacturing equipment that we've had here ... we've been able to use the water for longer," he said. "We've done a few different things here at the site to try to improve our footprint ..."

Swanson said they have had good discussions with chambers and members around the province and are encouraged by the feedback.

"One comment that does stick out is sometimes climate change action can seem a lot like drinking water from a fire hose ... where do I start?" he said.

"He set a really good example where he just looked at his operation and his small business facilities and just where can I make some small changes, just in the efficiency in lighting ... more energy efficient lighting and a few energy efficient actions within the walls of their business were places where he could start."

Morden students bringing Frozen Jr. to the stage

By Lorne Stelmach

The Disney hit feature *Frozen* is a favourite for many people, and it is no different for the cast of the upcoming Morden Collegiate musical production of *Frozen Jr.*

The students who landed the roles of some of the main characters were especially pumped last week as they went through dress rehearsals for the show.

"She's such a very fun bubbly character," said Molly Clyde, who plays Princess Anna. "I've been doing theatre since I was really young ... and I like playing bubbly characters, and I really liked the movie, and Anna is my favorite character, so it's pretty exciting to get to play her."

"When I got the role for Olaf, I was so excited ... he's all about positivity; he's always optimistic," said Fallon Waddell, who like many of her other cast members has some theatre experience under their belts already.

"For me, I love the feeling after a performance. It's a big adrenalin rush after that's so powerful, and building a community with others has also been amazing."

Chicago Dyck, drama teacher at Morden Collegiate, agreed it is great to have many students who were involved previously, including last year with *Sundown Alley*, which was the school's first play post-pandemic.

"From last year we only had two Gr. 12 students graduate ... so about 75 per cent have done this before; the other 25 per cent, this is their first time, and it's going to be a great experience for them."

Frozen Jr. is based on the 2018 Broadway musical, and it brings Elsa, Anna, and the magical land of Arendelle to life on stage. The show features memorable songs from the animated film



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Collegiate drama students perform *Frozen Jr.* at the high school May 4-6.

plus five new songs written for the Broadway production.

A story of true love and acceptance between sisters, *Frozen Jr.* expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood.

Dyck said he finds it especially gratifying to see how the students really take on every aspect of putting on the show.

"We have 40 students in the production on stage with an additional 25 to 30 behind the scenes doing things like costumes, set pieces, lights. It's all student run and all student made this year," he said. "The goal when I got here was to create a theatre program that was student-run. I direct them

and guide them, but they run the show. On the days of the show, I typically sit in the audience and watch just like everybody else.

"I'm very excited to get the chance to put it on again this year ... and it's awesome to see the growth that's happening with the students," Dyck added. "It's incredible how much they change, how much more confidence they have and how much fun they have on stage."

"It's just something I've always wanted to do," said Nuri Annamuradov, who plays Kristoff. "I've tried theatre before at the Kenmor before joining this ... everything opened up again, so I was hyped to be part of the play."

"I'm just so excited to play Sven. I pretty much tag along on Krist-

off's wild adventures," added Maja Piekarska.

"I think I'm a very theatrical kid ... it was actually pretty much on a whim. I never thought I would join a theatre production, but my friends were talking about how it's such a positive group and experience, so I thought why not?"

"It's a wonderful family friendly show. It's got a bit of magic and a bit of everything for everyone. It's a story about love and togetherness and community, which I think Morden really stands out for," said Dyck.

Frozen Jr. hits the stage May 4-5 at 7 p.m. and May 6 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at Morden Collegiate. Tickets are available for \$10 at the school in advance or at the door.

Hawks hand out hardware

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks closed the book on a strong season with the team's year-end awards.

The honours were presented April 19, and the awards included the following:

- MVP - Raiden LeGall
- Playoff MVP - Marek Miller
- Top scorer - Marek Miller
- Top goal scorer - Sebastian Hicks
- Top defenseman - Jayden Penner
- Best defensive forward - Nate

Lodewyks

- Most improved - Lane Apperley
- Rookie of the year - Cedric Robidoux
- Unsung hero - Bryson Yaschyshyn
- Coach's award - Kam Thomas

Pembina Valley finished third in the regular season at 30-7-7 for 67 points.

A three game sweep of their quarter-final series with the Yellowhead Chiefs put them into the final four, but the title hunt came to an end with a three game semi-final sweep at the hands of the Winnipeg Bruins.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The year end awards for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks included honours for Cedric Robidoux, Bryson Yaschyshyn, Kam Thomas, Nate Lodewyks, Raiden LeGall, Lane Apperley, Jayden Penner, Marek Miller and Sébastien Hicks (missing from photo).

Bisons, Orioles getting ready

MJBL teams doing what they can to prepare for the season.

By Lorne Stelmach

Spring may be reluctant to arrive, but baseball season will soon be here, and the region's two Manitoba Junior Baseball League teams are gearing up for it.

The Altona Bisons and Pembina Valley Orioles are both doing what they can as far as training, although the Orioles have the advantage of being able to work out indoors at the Meridian Exhibition Centre.

"It's tough to do all the things you would do out on the field, but the practices initially have been well attended, and there's lots of enthusiasm around the team," said Orioles coach Dan Giesbrecht.

"We hadn't really made any specific plans ... we're waiting for the fields to dry up," said Bisons rep. Curt Letkeman. "We've been asking guys to try to get themselves ready, do some throwing where you are wherever you can ... once the field is ready, we'll get going, but it's hard for us to gather guys."

"It's a challenge to get everybody together. You don't want to have a practice and only five guys can show up," he said. "I remember last year too we were a little slow in getting started, and I think our first game was one of the first times some of the guys had even swung a bat in a year."

Last year saw Altona finish a solid third at 13-9 and seven games back of first place, while Pembina Valley ended up sixth at 9-15 and 12 games out

of first. The Bisons ousted the Orioles in the first round of the playoffs but were eliminated by the St. James As, who then lost the championship to the Elmwood Giants.

Letkeman said it is always a bit difficult for them at first to get the team together and ready to go for the season.

"Our challenge here in Altona is being such a small market, and a lot of our guys are out of town, either going to school or living in Winnipeg," he said. "I think some of our guys are playing ball in school, so they should come back ready to go because they may have been playing for a while already."

He believes there is potential for the Bisons to field a strong team this year with a majority of players returning from last year.

"We do expect for the most part to have a pretty similar team as we had last year. We expect most of our guys to be back. We'll add a few new young guys to the mix, so I feel we should have a fairly competitive team again," he said.

"We're optimistic about how the season could go then," he continued. "We feel good about our pitching. The last few years, our offence has been a bit of a struggle for us ... but we've been a fairly solid team the last few years, and we have a good core nucleus of guys who are I think in their fifth year of junior ball."

Giesbrecht noted the Orioles face similar challenges with some players still finishing school or other commitments.

"I expect everybody to be back by the end of the month, but it's been a good start," he said.

Giesbrecht sees the Orioles as being somewhat more inexperienced this season.

"We're going to be a very young team. I imagine we'll be the young-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Pembina Valley Orioles have been able to run their training camp indoors at the Meridian Exhibition Centre in Winkler.

est team in the league," he suggested. "We only have one player currently who's come out that is in his last year of junior eligibility ... there's some players who have played a year or so with the Orioles, but overall there is a lot of youth there."

"We want to make sure that we have a solid base starting with this year for future years. Right now, we're emphasizing skill development in our practices, and we'll continue to do

that," said Giesbrecht.

"I'm a firm believer in practicing throughout the season as much as you can," he said. "There's some who have good starting levels of skill, and we can now work on getting them to the next level ... that will be the challenge for the coaches for sure."

The MJBL regular season schedule was not yet posted, but it was expected to get underway the second week-end of May.

Selkirk to host Cheer Manitoba provincials for first time

Submitted by Cheer Manitoba

Cheer Manitoba will be holding its provincial championships in Selkirk for the first time at the Selkirk Recreation Complex on May 6. The event will showcase 58 routines in the disciplines of performance cheer (pom), scholastic cheer and all-star cheer.

Athletes will range in ages five to 30-plus and will feature routines from the U6 Novice division all the way to Open Level 7 teams which compete at the highest level in the sport.

We will have over 500 athletes in attendance from all over southern Manitoba and northwestern Ontar-

io. Cheerleading continues to gain popularity with shows like Netflix's "Cheer" putting a spotlight on our often misunderstood sport and cheerleading now has Olympic provisional status meaning it could be part of the Olympic Games in the near future.

Cheer Manitoba has been over-

whelmed with the positive support it has received from the community of Selkirk from sponsorship opportunities to excellent service at the Selkirk Recreation Complex. Doors open at 9 a.m. with the event starting at 10 a.m.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Cluck & Quack Poultry Club Auction. Poultry & small animals auction on Saturday, May 6, 12 noon. Springfield Curling Club in Dugald, MB. For further vendor information contact Danica Mutcher, email dani.monica@hotmail.com or phone/text 1-204-770-3857.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

is hereby given that the R.M. OF ROLAND intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2023:

1. To control noxious weeds on road allowances and municipal properties. The projected dates of application will be from May 15, 2023, to October 1, 2023. The herbicides to be used include:

Round-Up (Glyphosate)
Curtail M (Clopyralid, MCPA) 2-4-D Amine

2. To control insect pests, including grasshoppers, mosquitoes, etc. The proposed dates of application may be from May 15, 2023, to October 31, 2023. The insecticides to be used include: **Malathion**

The public may send written submissions or objections, within 15 days of the publication of this notice, to:

Environmental Approvals Branch
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Government of Manitoba
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CAREERS



MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

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

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

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

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

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

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

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

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Reporter/Photographer Wanted

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

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

Qualifications:

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Rhineland Area Food Bank
ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 3, 2023
6:30 p.m.
162 Centre Avenue, E.
Altona, MB R0G 0B0

EMPLOYMENT



Water Treatment Plant Operator
Position - Morris, MB

Pembina Valley Water Cooperative is seeking applicants for the fulltime (40 hrs/week) position of Water Treatment Plant Operator in Morris MB. The Morris plant is one of three regional plants inside the Pembina Valley Water Coop, located 55 km south of Winnipeg on highway 75. Pembina Valley Water Coop is Manitoba's 3rd largest water utility, producing potable water for 14 municipalities in south central Manitoba. Three water plants feed a network of over 9,000 square kilometers.

What we have to offer:

- Excellent benefits package offered by the municipal government program
- Competitive industry wage (\$22.00 to start, with no previous industry experience)
- Certified Level 1-3 wage range from \$24.00-\$34.00 (Provincial certification program based)
- Company matched retirement savings program (starts at 8% match) through MEBP
- Strong support for internal training
- An environment geared towards learning
- 2 weeks holidays to start, 3 weeks after 3 years
- Strong safety focus


Position Description:
In this position you will perform day-to-day activities, consisting of the monitoring and control of the water treatment process. Performance of day-to-day maintenance, process checks, troubleshooting, laboratory analysis, administration, and duties with respect to reservoirs and pumping stations. Collect, record, and analyze data daily, perform necessary adjustments to optimize the process performance. When Certification is obtained, applicant will be scheduled into a rotation that will consist of working alone on the weekend and some holidays. During this time, they will be expected to be on call and responsible for the process after hours. All on call and after-hours work will be compensated.

Qualifications:

- Valid driver's licence
- A good team player and positive attitude
- Good communications skills
- Good mechanical aptitude
- Willingness to learn and further education
- Ability to work at heights, in confined spaces and in inclement weather conditions
- Computer competency. Emphasis on Microsoft Word and Excel. Scada familiarity an asset
- Any trade experience or post secondary education is an asset
- Flexibility to work some weekends and holidays
- Comfortable handling chemicals

Training will be provided to obtain water plant operator certification.
Interested applicants should forward their resume to water@pvwc.ca by 4 pm, April 28th, 2023, or call 204-324-1931 for more information.

EMPLOYMENT



Water Treatment Plant Operator
Position - Stephenfield, MB

Pembina Valley Water Cooperative is seeking applicants for the fulltime (40 hrs/week) position of Water Treatment Plant Operator in Stephenfield MB. The Stephenfield plant is one of three regional plants inside the Pembina Valley Water Coop, located 20 km west of Carman on highway 245. Pembina Valley Water Coop is Manitoba's 3rd largest water utility, producing potable water for 14 municipalities in south central Manitoba. Three water plants feed a network of over 9000 square kms.

What we have to offer:

- Excellent benefits package offered by the municipal government program
- Competitive industry wage (\$22.00 to start, with no previous industry experience)
- Certified Level 1-3 wage range from \$24.00-\$34.00 (Provincial certification program based)
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- Any trade experience or post secondary education is an asset
- Flexibility to work some weekends and holidays
- Comfortable handling chemicals

Training will be provided to obtain water plant operator certification.
Interested applicants should forward their resume to water@pvwc.ca by 4pm, April 28th, 2023, or call 204-324-1931 for more information.

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1. Equipment can be sold as a package or individually.
2. Tenders can be mailed, addressed to the undersigned, and the envelope clearly marked **Tender for Refrigeration Equipment**. Tenders may also be emailed to the following address: chris.theoret@homestead.crs
3. Tender closes on May 31st at 5:00 PM
4. Tender must list equipment and quantity if not offering on entire package.
5. Must have flexibility in pick up date. Items will be available based on replacement timelines. (July 2023 - September 2023)
6. Freight costs at buyer's expense.
7. Item(s) sold as is.
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Please scan the QR code below or visit www.homesteadco-op.crs for photos and more details.

Chris Theoret,
Business to Consumer Operations Manager
Homestead Consumers Co-op Ltd.

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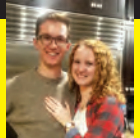
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The Winkler Morden Voice

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take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. It's all over the beach
- 5. A cirque
- 8. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 11. Influential report author
- 13. Satisfaction
- 14. Recurring only at long intervals
- 15. Islamic calendar month
- 16. Neither
- 17. Gelatinous substance
- 18. American electronic music producer
- 20. Old computer system
- 21. Professional organization
- 22. Malaria mosquitoes
- 25. Not composed of matter
- 30. It's in the ocean
- 31. Peyton's little brother
- 32. French commune
- 33. Eyelashes
- 38. Equal (prefix)
- 41. Quality of little or no rain
- 43. One who beheads
- 45. Sung to
- 48. Influential punk artist
- 49. Amount of time
- 50. Polio vaccine developer
- 55. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 56. Job
- 57. Flat-bottomed sailboat
- 59. Japanese wooden clog
- 60. Folk singer DiFranco
- 61. FL city
- 62. Naturally occurring solid
- 63. Language of indigenous Asian people
- 64. Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 2. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire


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

- 3. Venomous snake genus
- 4. Uninteresting
- 5. Straightforwardness
- 6. Expression of wild excitement
- 7. Arrange in order
- 8. East Indian cereal grass
- 9. Hillsides
- 10. Bird beak covering
- 12. Baseball stat
- 14. Edge of a surfboard
- 19. Wrapping accessory
- 23. Express approval
- 24. Deduce
- 25. Similar
- 26. Born of
- 27. Automobile
- 28. Obligated to repay
- 29. Live in
- 34. Influential journalist Tarbell
- 35. Set aflame
- 36. OJ trial judge
- 37. Scottish town
- 39. African nation
- 40. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 41. Mimic
- 42. Frees
- 44. In slow tempo
- 45. Sword
- 46. Related on the mother's side
- 47. Mars crater
- 48. Plant of the lily family
- 51. Suitable in the circumstances
- 52. Hillside
- 53. Metrical foot
- 54. Amazon river tributary
- 58. Adult male human

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CARD OF THANKS

The family of Arnold Krueger would like to thank everyone who called, visited, and brought food and flowers at this difficult time. The cards and online messages were very much appreciated. Thank you to Joey Grenier of Wiebe Funeral Homes for all his help. Your kindness will not be forgotten.

-Louise, Donna, Paul and Diane, and families

IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of
Lyle Meeks
Five years have passed
Since you were taken away,
But you are missed, loved
And remembered every day.
-Leona Meeks and family

OBITUARY

Kathryn Louise Gillis (nee McLeod) 1959 - 2023



With gratitude for having her in our lives, the family announces the peaceful death of our mother, sister, wife, and Amma, Kathryn Louise Gillis on Sunday, April 16, 2023. Kathy had a lengthy battle with cancer but it never stopped her from living life to the fullest.

Kathy was born June 16, 1959 in Beausejour, Manitoba, the third daughter born to Alick and Nancy (nee Fraser) McLeod. The family grew and Kathy had four siblings who all survive her: Janice Wiebe (Wayne), Tracy Fehr (Ed), Scott McLeod (Darlene) and Leslie Malkowich. Her siblings all called her Kat, a nickname that was started by her father. She became much loved Aunty Kat to her five nephews and four nieces and their families.

As Kathy grew up her family moved around the province. She Lived in Lac du Bonnet, Churchill, Winnipeg and Morden. After marrying Miles (July 31, 1983) she moved to the 1-6 Icelandic community south of Morden. She loved her neighbours and friends in the district. She learned to make vinarterta and ponnukokur. She loved the Icelandic traditions and birthday coffees. Kathy was very proud of her Scottish roots, though she didn't like the haggis Tracy made for a family dinner and could not be convinced to try a sip of Scottish whiskey. Kathy graduated in 1980 as a Registered Nurse from Misericordia Hospital and pursued her nursing career at Morden Hospital, Boundary Trails Health Centre, then Tabor Home where she worked until March of 2023. She impacted the lives of many and developed numerous lifelong friendships over these years.

She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Miles Gillis; son, Evan Gillis, daughter, Shannon Maloney (Rick) and daughter, Eryn Zelcer (Eric). She was Amma to four dearly loved grandchildren: Olivia Gillis, Blake Maloney, Brooks Maloney and Bea Zelcer. She is also survived by sister-in-law, Robin Gillis. She was predeceased by her father, Alick (d. 1994), her mother, Nancy (d. 1997), her mother-in-law, Leona (d. 2005) and her father-in-law, John (d. 2011).

She will be dearly missed and forever in our hearts.

Memorial reception will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at the Morden Activity Centre with ash interment at the Icelandic Cemetery.

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



OBITUARY

Glen Charles Hildebrand 1971 - 2023



On Sunday, April 16, 2023 Glen Hildebrand of Winkler, MB was called home to be with his Heavenly Father at the age of 52. After a strong fight with brain cancer, Glen passed away peacefully at BTHC.

Glen was born on February 4, 1971 in Winkler, MB. He grew up in Greenfarm in a Christian home where he helped on the farm and enjoyed spending time riding his dirt bike. Glen started dating Nellie in early 2001 and chose her to be his life companion. They were married on July 26, 2002 and were blessed with two children, Justin and Samara. Glen gave his life to the Lord Jesus at an early age and was baptized on April 7, 2002 at WMBC. He lived out his faith by starting each day in prayer and taught his family the importance of reading the Bible and going to church. Glen was dedicated to his job at Hometown Ford for the past 25 years. He served many customers with his considerate and common-sense approach. He appreciated that his workplace was so close to home so that he could bike to and from work and be home with his family for mealtimes. Glen enjoyed the outdoors and loved to ride motorcycles in summer and often headed to the outdoor rink to play hockey in the winter months. He was dedicated to his family and loved spending time together camping, going on vacations, and playing sports with Justin and Samara.

Glen will be sadly missed but lovingly remembered by his wife, Nellie, son, Justin and daughter, Samara. He is survived by his parents, Albert and Doreen Hildebrand; sisters, Carolyn (Richard) and Leanne (Dave); parents-in-law, Henry and Nellie Klassen; brother-in-law, Henry (Helen); sisters-in-law, Helen (Cornie) and Tina (Shaun) and their families.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023 at the Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Brian Kroeker, Dr. Woelk, HSC Cancer Care, BTHC Medical Ward staff and volunteers.

Donations may be made in Glen's memory to the BTHC Foundation designated to Palliative Care.

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



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• A LOOK BACK

Remembering Uncle Abe

In 1949, my parents bought a small acreage near Horndean.

Dad continued to work and live in Winnipeg. He had an older cousin, Abraham Giesbrecht, who was mentally challenged. After his mother died, different relatives gave him a room in their homes.

Since Dad was working away from home, some relatives thought Mom might need help. We were asked if we could keep Abe. After talking it over, Mom and Dad decided his monthly fee would be helpful. What an interesting year this turned out to be!

Abe was Dad's first cousin but Mom insisted we call him Uncle Abe. He moved in with a huge trunk containing all his worldly possessions. Mom did not allow us to enter his room without knocking or without an invitation. Even then, she kept a close eye on us and Uncle Abe. On different occasions, Uncle Abe opened his trunk to show us various treasured trinkets he had collected over the years. Sometimes he let us handle them, but other times we could just look.

Uncle Abe kept juicy fruit gum in his front shirt pocket. He gave Jeanne a whole stick because she was the oldest. He bent another stick in half to give me because I was the second oldest. Jimmy got half of a half because he was the youngest. When we complained, Mom merely said, "Its Uncle Abe's gum and he gets to choose how he divides it."

Uncle Abe proved to be a blessing for all of us that year. On cold fall and winter days, he hitched our horse, Stout, to the buggy and drove us the two miles to school. He carried water from a nearby dugout for the animals and water from the well for household use. He helped mom gather the eggs and milk the cow.

One winter morning after Uncle Abe had driven us to school, he was outside shovelling snow that had drifted in overnight. Four-year-old Jimmy was bundled up and went out to help with his toy shovel. Sometime later, Uncle Abe came in grumbling about "that naughty little boy" in his Low German dialect. Apparently, Jim-

my, tired of helping, had gone up on top of the bank and shovelled snow down on unsuspecting Uncle Abe. He came in with a snow-covered hat and snow down the inside of his jacket. Mom had a hard time suppressing her laughter as she disciplined young Jimmy.

That long, cold winter we were thankful for Uncle Abe, our strong work horse, and our covered caboose. One morning the tracks were covered in deep snow. Uncle Abe could not see to guide the horse. When the runners of the sled went out of the tracks, the caboose tipped on its side with all of us inside. We scrambled out and stood laughing while Uncle Abe untangled the harness and righted the caboose. He complained to Mom about our laughter that day. But come 4 o'clock, he was faithfully waiting at school to pick us up again.

Uncle Abe whittled spinning tops for us out of the wooden spools Mom's sewing thread came on. We colored them and had fierce competitions. These tops were a forerunner of the beyblades my grandsons play with today.

One winter evening we came home from visiting to find Uncle Abe had left a wonderful gift for us. He had gone into our bedroom, taken our barn with the few plastic animals we had and added realistic looking wooden ones. He set it all up on the kitchen table along with a freshly carved white picket fence. He must have worked on it secretly for weeks!

When Uncle Abe learned we were moving, he was so sad. Not only would he have to find another place to live but he loved us and would miss having young children around. He said no one had ever treated him as well as we had, so he must have forgiven us all our pranks.

Mom and Dad did not keep track of Uncle Abe after we moved to Ontario and then to Morden. They had many more pressing concerns as they tried to find a permanent home for us and a way to live after Dad could not work anymore. Then one day when Jeanne and I already each had two young children, Mom phoned to ask if we would go to Altona with her. Uncle Abe was living in a nursing home there.

He was so excited to see us. He could not believe Jeanne and I were grown up with little ones of our own. He had last seen us when we were 7 and 8 years old.



By Florence Dyck



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The kids with Uncle Abe.

Maybe he couldn't read and write or discuss world events, but to us he was a kind loving friend. We have nothing but good memories of the year we

lived together.

Florence Dyck is a former Mordenite now living in the Okanagan

The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Harrison Doll
Inspired By: Bill Watterson



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