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PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Danielle Penner with parents Jake and Barb Penner of Penner Waste and the free compost they handed out at the Winkler Public Works Yard last week in honour of Earth Day. For the full story, check out Pg. 9.

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Morden thrift shop gives back \$300,250

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Community Thrift Shop is handing out another \$300,000 to the community with its spring grants.

There are 24 organizations and projects receiving a share of the funding, and it covers a wide cross section of community needs, which is a priority for the organization, suggested president Normand Poirier.

"We would like no community need to go unmet," he observed, noting that this time they had to choose from 36 requests for around \$800,000 total.

"We would like to broaden our reach," said Poirier. "We're always looking for good community projects to support ... so if you have a need, big or small, don't think twice about it. Put something in writing, tell us what you need and what you need it for and how it benefits the community, and we will give it serious consideration."

Among the organizations supported this spring is the Morden fire department, which is receiving \$25,000 for water pump equipment. The water pump will augment their water



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Community Thrift Shop board members Kent Noel and Linda Arnt with the donation the store is able to gift back to a wide range of community organizations and projects this spring.

tanker, which normally might have a small portable pump to fill it up. This donation will provide for a permanent pump on the truck.

"It will allow us to pump a larger vol-

ume of water than a portable would," said Chief Andy Thiessen.

He estimated the department has received close to \$400,000 from the thrift shop over the past 30 years.

"It's incredible support. It definitely takes the pressure off our budget," said Thiessen.

Continued on page 5

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A glimpse into the Prairies of the past

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Visitors to Winkler's Discovery Nature Sanctuary (DNS) will have the chance to see authentic Manitoba grassland there in the years ahead.

Thanks to funding from the provincial government's Conservation Trust, DNS is establishing 6.5 ha of native grassland at the northern edge of the sanctuary.

"Southern Manitoba used to be a mix of tall grass prairie historically to the east and mixed grass to the southwest part of the province," explains DNS board president Paul Goossen, noting these areas once teemed with wildlife. "Of course, that was a long time ago. People when they think of the Prairies today they see waving wheat fields and yellow fields of canola. It's quite different than it was a little over 200 years ago."

"What we'd like to do is try to restore some of the lost grassland here ... and provide visitors to the site with an opportunity to see what the prairie once looked like."

The stretch of land designated for this project runs right along Hwy. 14. The existing grass there has already been turned up and the land disced in preparation for the future seeding of native grasses and forbs.

"It's not something that we can do just overnight, unfortunately," says Goossen, explaining it will take a couple of years before they can seed and then a few more before the project really takes root.

Once it does, though, not only will visitors be able to see the land as it once was, but the natural habitat may also attract new species of birds and other wildlife to the sanctuary.

DNS worked with the City of Winkler and the Pembina Valley Watershed District (PVWD) in applying for the Conservation Trust funding, which is covering about 75 per cent of the costs of the undertaking.

Bob Giesbrecht, chair of PVWD's Deadhorse/Buffalo sub-district, says they were happy to team up with DNS on this project.

"The watershed district's involvement with the Discovery Nature Sanctuary has been so rewarding," he says. "From the inception of the project to providing the Discovery Water Festival to students, the construction of the outdoor classroom, and now the prairie habitat restoration, just to name a few things, I believe that the DNS committee is truly keeping in focus with their objectives, vision, and goals."

Continued on page 8



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left; Robert Loeppky, Bob Giesbrecht, and Paul Goossen at the Discovery Nature Sanctuary in Winkler, which has received funds from the Conservation Trust in support of transforming several acres of the sanctuary into a natural grassland habitat.



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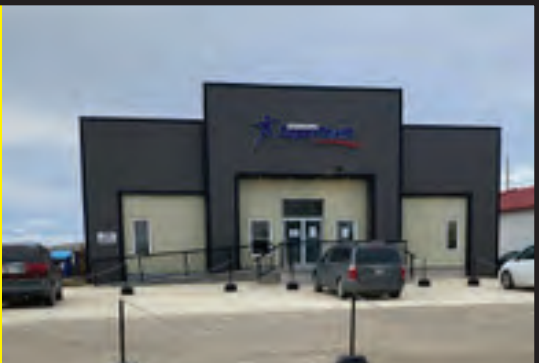
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Vaccine task force headed up by two familiar faces

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A few weeks ago the *Voice* sat down with Johanu Botha, operations lead of

the Manitoba Vaccine Implementation Task Force and a former Winklerite.

But it turns out he's not the only familiar face heading up the vaccine

rollout in Manitoba.

Dr. Joss Reimer is the task force's medical lead and she also grew up right here in Winkler. She is the daughter of Dr. Murray Reimer, who has practiced medicine in the community for over 40 years.

Reimer didn't initially set out to follow her father into medicine, taking a somewhat circuitous route to her current role as a public health leader.

"I spent some time moving around a little bit," Reimer said in a phone interview last week. "I did an undergraduate degree in political science but also spent some time studying in Costa Rica and then teaching English in Ecuador before coming back to Canada and starting medical school."

The jump from politics to medicine came out of a desire to effect real change in the world.

"I really wanted a job where I felt like I was making the world a better place," said Reimer. "And I was feeling like in political science it was hard to get the chances that I wanted to do that. I thought medicine would be a way that I could really see those

changes happening right in front of me and get to make an impact in people's lives directly."

She specialized in obstetrics/gynecology before deciding she could have a much broader reach through public health.

"As I went through medicine I quickly realized that, as much as you can make a difference to each individual person in front of you, changes back at the population level are going to have a much greater impact on many more people."

Reimer became a medical officer of health in 2012 and served as the medical director for population and health in Winnipeg before taking on the role as co-lead of the vac-

nation task force late last year.

Heading up the largest immunization campaign in Manitoba history certainly wasn't something she ever envisioned herself doing, and she's quick to point out it takes a massive team to keep the gears moving as efficiently as possible.

Continued on page 8



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dr. Joss Reimer grew up in Winkler and is now the medical lead of Manitoba's vaccine task force. She's concerned about the historically low rates of vaccination in the Pembina Valley and what that might mean for uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine in the area.



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Morden



getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

Corn & Apple 2021 cancelled due to pandemic

By Ashleigh Viveiros

There will be no Corn & Apple Festival in Morden this summer.

Festival organizers announced last week that the August celebration has been postponed to 2022 in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its related restrictions.

"After consulting with the province, it is clear that we are not going to be able to host the 2021 Corn & Apple Festival this summer," festival executive director Tim Hodge said in a statement. "It's very disappointing to have to postpone to next year, but without being able to ensure the safety of our visitors, vendors, and entertainers, it's the only responsible option."

"There was hope that with the festi-

val occurring at the end of August and vaccinations being available we might be able to have the biggest festival yet, but we will have to wait until next year for that."

This is the second year the pandemic has scuttled plans for the massive festival in the heart of Morden, which draws upwards of 80,000 people to town every year.

But, like last year, there will still be some Corn & Apple fun to be had—Hodge says they've been working on a few smaller activities.

"Fans of the festival can look forward to a concert and livestream similar to what was hosted last summer, and a number of other exciting items," he said.

The festival will also be unveiling its



SUPPLIED PHOTO

new rebrand later this summer.

"It's a thrilling new look that respects the history of the festival while representing us in a more modern light," said Hodge. "I think people are

really going to love it."

Stay up-to-date on the alternative festival events happening this summer by heading to cornandapple.com.

> THRIFT SHOP, FROM PG. 2

"I would say as much as 95 per cent of our rescue equipment has come from them. Bless their hearts for doing what they do ... they just complete the circle, which is awesome."

Receiving funding as well as part of the spring grants are:

- Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation: \$50,000 for medical equipment.
- Menzies Medical Centre: \$39,000 for facility upgrades.
- Legion House One: \$20,000 towards an elevator upgrade.
- Youth for Christ: \$20,000 for laptops and gym equipment.
- Boundary Trails Health Centre Auxiliary: \$18,500 for medical equipment.
- Eden Health Care Services: \$18,200 for swings and tables.
- Morden Handivan: \$15,000 towards a van replacement.
- Morden Activity Centre: \$15,000 for kitchen and washroom upgrades.
- Pembina Counselling Centre: \$15,000 to help subsidize counselling.
- Morden Police: \$10,000 for canine unit replacement.
- Manitoba Possible: \$10,000 for sledge hockey equipment.
- Skate board park gazebo project: \$10,000.

- Scholarships for local students: \$8,000.
- Rock Lake Camp: \$6,000 for renovations.
- South Central Regional Library: \$5,500 for shelving and chairs.
- Darlingford Playground Committee: \$3,200 for swing set upgrade.
- Darlingford Community Centre: \$3,000 towards roof repair.
- Pembina Valley Humane Society: \$2,500 towards a van replacement.
- Morden child development centre: \$1,850 for a play structure.
- Katie's Cottage: \$1,500 towards a kitchen upgrade.
- Morden Parent and Child Centre: \$1,500 for gym equipment.
- Darlingford Heritage Museum: \$1,000 for window replacement.
- Pembina Valley Hawks: \$500 sponsorship.

"Some organizations asked for specific amounts and we were able to provide it. Others are more open-ended and will take what we can give," said Poirier.

He noted the thrift shop has now donated over \$2 million back into the community over the last eight years, and they are happy to keep adding to that total.

"Everything always goes back into the community. Whatever we get, we're going to put it right back out into the community."

BORN ONCE—DIE TWICE; BORN TWICE—DIE ONCE

My first career was in the building trades serving an apprenticeship in Victoria. My journeyman was Edward, a kind man, thoroughly knowledgeable in the trade and a good teacher. Edward had the habit of smoking and up to 3 packs a day. At times other tradesman would warn "Edward, your going to kill yourself" to which Edward always replied "You only die once." This was his common response for the warning he got often. Edward was not one to read his Bible, for if he had, he would have discovered a curious paradox that a great majority of people have not understood. Jesus described a physical birth that every person will experience; and a second spiritual birth that is necessary to obtain eternal life. Jesus said that because of our sin and sin nature, we are all already under the condemnation of God and dead in our sins. (Read John 3:16-19) Once we understand who Jesus is and the reason that He came into the world, we have the opportunity to be born again a second time. At that moment, our spirit within that was formerly dead, comes alive. For those who have been born twice, they can only die once. There is no future judgment, and they will never die again.

The second category of persons are those who have experienced a physical birth but reject Christ's offer of pardon for their sins. These individuals will die in their sins and forfeit the opportunity to obtain eternal life. Having rejected God's offer to remove their sins, these persons will stand before God at the Judgement that is described in the Book of Revelation, chapter 21. All those who die in their sins, will be found guilty and die a second time. This "Second Death," can only be experienced by those who have rejected Jesus' offer to take away their sins. For those born once, they will die twice. Revelation 20:15 "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." All of Jesus' suffering upon the cross was because of our sins and greatly magnified because He was paying for the sins of the whole world. Jesus did all of this because of His great love. It is God's desire that you are saved and inherit eternal life He has planned for you. You can receive Jesus as your Savior right now and settle the issue of where you will spend eternity. Jesus wants you to be saved. He died to make this possible. All that is necessary is that you decide to trust by faith Jesus Christ, and the death He died on the cross for your sins and receive Him as your Savior.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord"

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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

And the pandemic drags on ... and on

It was Day 53,646 of yo-yo COVID-19 lockdown and, now into the 764th wave, people's mental health had begun to subtly fray around the edges.

Golden West Radio had long since become a small pirate station being operated by an aged Ronny Guenther. Left long since abandoned by his coworkers, Guenther sat in a small makeshift bunker beneath the ruins of the Meridian Exhibition Centre playing hits of the '90s and interviewing imaginary guests, all the while cackling hysterically.

Communities had broken and small tribes of people with the same last name formed to ensure protection from gangs of roving, wild Cornie Walls, some with as many as 200; and success at foraging for wild farm animals that now roam the parched and

beleaguered prairie with impunity.

Giant John Deere tractors, now outfitted with spotlights, large, metallic spikes and barbed wire, continuously circled the Fehr encampment south of the smoldering ruins of Winkler, on patrol and being driven by wild-eyed men and women clad from head to toe in plaid.

They watched for marauding groups of Friesens who had formed an alliance with those insidious Dycks from the southern outskirts of what used to be Morden (of which all that remained was the Eternal Lagoon, whose unending stink warned unwary travelers to stay away). They remained ever vigilant before the darkness of winter arrives and they are surrounded by dangerous, rabid Friesen-Dycks.

Most had gone west in long trains of rusted out, old Ford F-150s and Dodge Rams (never together in the same train) being pulled by massive teams of giant chickens, strengthened by years of hormone and steroid injections, making their way to New Calgary and the possibility of hope and an open movie theatre.

It had become a crazy time on the prairie.

Future historians will struggle to explain what led to Canadian society collapsing into the second Dark Age.

Some will blame the rising cost of fuel, others the collapse of the housing market and with it the economy, while still others will blame a kind of madness that began to creep in late in 2021 as lockdown after lockdown continued with no end in sight while their political leaders fought over every small detail, incapable of coming to a non-partisan solution.

"If only they had sought some balance," they lament. "If only they had considered the mental and economic well-being of the populace and not simply the physical."

"They did the best they could with the information they had," others retort and the endless argument continues while the Council of Lord High Doctors look on impassively.

Hindsight is 20/20, they say, but in this case even hindsight cannot discern what really happened. All that is known for sure is that a pandemic came and a kind of madness crept into the population, leaving normally kind and friendly people in a constant state of anger. It was a recipe for disaster of biblical proportions.

Perhaps the Eternal Musk (may he live forever) in all his Elon-ness will find a solution from his Martian stronghold. Time will tell.



By Peter Cantelon

letters

EDUCATION REFORM BENEFITS THE GOVERNMENT, NOT STUDENTS

Last month the Garden Valley School Division wrote a widely distributed letter succinctly describing some of the major changes proposed within the Education Modernization Act (Bill 64). As a teacher in Garden Valley School Division, I wanted to state my support for the work of our trustees and my opposition to Bill 64.

The relationship between Garden Valley teachers and our board is a positive one. We share a common goal of ensuring our students receive the best education possible. We believe that education is not simply achieving better grades, but it is about building better people. Our shared vision, and the ability to work toward that vision, have led government officials to state that they want to

replicate our local model in other parts of the province.

However, Bill 64 will disrupt our local structure by eliminating local school boards and making it so that nearly all our Garden Valley School Division trustees would be unable to serve in the proposed governance of education. At the very least, losing that volume of experience and institutional knowledge will be a detriment to the operations of local educational programming. Further, Bill 64 would increase bureaucracy and remove meaningful local decision-making.

Bill 64 calls for non-parent, political appointees to hold a controlling majority in a group of six to 11 people who will determine the direction of education in Manitoba. This group of people will be the Provincial Education

Continued on page 7

All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Winkler Morden Voice.

letters

From Pg. 6

Authority Board. This board make-up will allow for systemic politicization of our education system that benefits the government—not our students. A truly student-centered approach to education reform would have begun with direct investment in students and not with a government power grab.

In hearing the government talk about Bill 64, you may hear about \$40 million in savings. To be clear, there is no world where there would be \$40 million in savings without massive job loss. Depending on how the BEST strategy is implemented, Bill 64's proposed structure may end up costing more than our current system.

Admittedly, there is also the possibility of slight savings. Most of the marginal savings would be because of proposed centralization, which endangers rural jobs. In fact, the currently proposed strategy seems almost certain to result in job migration from rural areas to Winnipeg. This will be due to procurement contracts, human resources, technology, and finance positions moving to Winnipeg with the establishment of the centralized Provincial Education Authority.

If passed, Bill 64 will take jobs away from our area, increase bureaucracy, politicize education, and bring about no meaningful benefit to students.

I encourage everyone to stand against Bill 64 and to ask your government representative to do so also.

Mike Urichuk,
Winkler

RESPECT GOES BOTH WAYS

I am writing in regards to our rights and freedoms as Canadians. I have been reading the letters to the editor every week and I feel like we are forgetting what is really important.

Our rights and freedoms say that we should be allowed to make our own decisions, whether they are good or bad. There can be consequences based on the decisions that we make, but we should be allowed to make them.

I have had quite a few chest infections in the past and wearing a mask has made it difficult to breathe. At the beginning, I had to wear a mask only while I was working and, if I had a day or two off, my breathing would improve. Then we were told that we had to wear a mask everywhere in public. I followed the rules and there were consequenc-

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es. I was getting out of breath just from going up and down the stairs and was finding it hard to carry on a conversation while walking my dog. The government keeps saying "two more weeks" and blaming us saying "people are not following the rules, so we are going to shut everything down another two weeks." Not seeing any end, I decided about a month ago that I needed to take care of my health, so I no longer wear a mask unless I am at work (I do not have a choice). As a result, my breathing has improved.

I have had people yell at me and someone even got in my face. The problem with this is that I have always been told that my medical information was private. No one else has to wear a sign around their neck saying that they are a diabetic, have a mental disorder, or even that they are battling cancer. I decided to talk about my health in this letter so that maybe people will see that there is another side of the story than what is being talked about.

I understand that some people are afraid of getting sick. I think that everyone has a fear of something. I try very hard to be considerate of others while I am out shopping. I give people space, follow the arrows on the floor, and try not to go out more than I need to.

What this all boils down to is respect. If someone feels safer and more comfortable wearing a face mask, let them wear one. If someone, for whatever reason, doesn't want to wear one, let them make that choice.

People who have a real fear of getting sick have some options regarding shopping as well. They can continue to do curbside pick-up, order online, or shop at less busy times. If they want

to limit the number of people they see, let them make that decision. If someone feels like they need more space, tell the other person RESPECTFULLY: "Excuse me, I feel uncomfortable. Would you mind backing up a bit?" Respect is a two-way street.

The thing that frightens me is that the government is totally disregarding our rights. Our right to make our own choices, our right to gather with others, whether it is family or church, and our right to free speech.

Instead of fighting amongst each other and showing disrespect, we need to stand together and let the government know that we value these rights. We need to do this for the next generation so that they know what it means to have freedom.

Terra Peters,
Rosebank

BE RESPECTFUL AND CONSIDERATE

Regardless of people's views about COVID-19, we have all been experiencing negative thoughts and emotions and, in many cases, unemployment or financial difficulties.

We need people to be respectful and considerate of others. We don't need the added stress of those who impose their noise-making and harassment on others.

We deeply regret the harassment of our mayor, Brandon Burley, who has been devoted in his service to Morden. He and his family did not deserve the outrageous behavior of protesters from within and outside of Morden. If you are thinking of coming to Morden to protest, please don't.

We have always trusted our doctors. How could we now reject the urgent direction of medical professionals to mask, distance, sanitize, and avoid gathering? The devastating effects of COVID have not been exaggerated. Almost one thousand Manitobans have died of the disease. Others are suffering lasting debilitating effects.

Think for yourself. Please don't spread misleading or false information. Help stop the spread of COVID.

Be kind. Stay safe.

Pat and Randy Neuman,
Morden

Letter policy

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

Please keep your letters short (excessively long letters are unlikely 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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Explore Morden Winkler Poutine Week is underway

Morden Chicken Chef owner Chris Krushel and staff member Hailey Martin were already busy getting out orders for their southwest chicken poutine as Poutine Week kicked off Monday. Featuring chipotle BBQ chicken and finished with a Santa Fe dressing, the Chicken Chef creation was one of 30 being offered by local restaurants taking part in the Explore Morden Winkler promotion. The tourism agency will crown a winner after the end of the week. The number of participating locations easily tops the totals for both the burger and pizza weeks held earlier this year.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Low local vaccination rate has task force doc concerned

From Pg. 4

"Emergency response and pandemic planning is part of what we're trained to do in public health, but you always hope that you don't have to do it," Reimer said. "I think all of us at public health felt overwhelmed by the amount of work, but also that this is what we trained for and this is our opportunity to use that expertise to try and minimize the harm that happens in this pandemic."

Reimer feels having grown up in rural Manitoba helps her to see the bigger picture when it comes to the vaccination campaign.

"Both growing up there and still having my parents and my in-laws living in rural Manitoba helps me to focus on the needs of all Manitobans and try to think about what's best for everybody, knowing that the way we do things is different, the way we access health services is different, the way people move around is different, and so we need to have tailored approaches."

According to Reimer, there are two big challenges facing the COVID-19 vaccination rollout right now.

"Our main issue is that we don't have enough supply, and so we have far more Manitobans who want doses than we can give to people," she said. "But we know that very quickly it could shift to people being either hesitant to get the vaccine or just having other things going on in their life that make it not their top priority."

"Regardless of why people don't get the vaccine, I'm very concerned that Manitobans may not get the vaccine as quickly as they can," Reimer said. "I want to see this pandemic end. I

want to see us get rid of some of these public health restrictions. The more of us that are vaccinated the quicker we can save lives, the quicker we can move back to a bit more of a normal way that we can interact with each other."

Reimer is especially worried about how the push for vaccination is being received locally.

"When I look specifically at places like the Pembina Valley, they have very low rates of vaccine uptake all the time," she said. "And so I get extra concerned when I look at my hometown and see that the uptake is not as high and that maybe there's go-

ing to be more people who get really sick, maybe there's going to be more deaths in my hometown that we can prevent if we come together as a community."

Misinformation about COVID-19 and the vaccines is running rampant on social media. Reimer urges people to look for and make decisions based on trusted sources, not rumours or speculation.

"[Go to] something like protectmb.ca where you know that you're going to get a science-based approach," she said, directing people to the government's vaccination information website. "We will never share anything

that we don't feel confident that we can back up with a ton of data and safety information."

And if you're still a little leery, Reimer would like to appeal to you as both a fellow human being and a former neighbour.

"I can say as someone who grew up rural, as a Manitoban, as a Winnipegger, as a doctor, and as a public health doctor, I would never recommend something that I didn't think would be beneficial for my patient," she said. "This vaccine is so overwhelmingly beneficial compared to any potential risk that I want everyone who's eligible to go for a vaccine."

> NATURE SANCTUARY, FROM PG. 3

The grassland project is just one thing the committee is working on this summer.

"The pollinator garden, which was initiated last year with over 2,000 plants planted, is going to continue to be developed this year," Goossen says. "We got about half of it planted and we hope to plant the other half of it this year."

"It'll be a place to provide habitat for some of Manitoba's native bees as well as hopefully for the monarch butterfly as well," he says. "And it will be a chance for people to see different native flowers and hopefully encourage people also to plant some within their own gardens at home."

A series of interpretive signs that will dot the sanctuary's trail system are also in the works.

"These will provide an opportunity

... to provide people with an interpretation of nature which they don't necessarily read about or see every day," Goossen says, "but will give them a much better understanding of what the sanctuary is about."

Also on the to-do list is a viewing platform.

"This will be a really cool addition to the sanctuary," says Goossen. "It's a boardwalk that takes you out to the edge of the creek and you get a great view of the creek and the woodland area. You'll be able to see wetland plants, water fowl, perhaps some of the songbirds in the nearby shrubbery."

Since its opening a few years ago, the sanctuary has become a true haven for wildlife and humans alike.

"It's an excellent place to get out for relaxation, for viewing wildlife, and just a chance to get away, in a

sense, from the pandemic season that we're currently in," Goossen says.

He does, however, caution people to keep in mind that this is a nature preserve, which means visitors are asked to stick to the maintained trails. Dogs are also not allowed in the sanctuary.

"The nature sanctuary is a place set aside in this urban environment for the safety of both the plants and the animals," Goossen says. "It's disturbing to see people making their own trails off the main trail, trampling down grass and creating disturbances in areas where they shouldn't be going."

"That unfortunately is causing a disturbance to the habitat. And when you disturb the habitat you disturb the wildlife," he says, urging people to stick to the trails.

getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

City accessing Winkler water tower

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler water tower got a good dousing last week as workers attempted to figure out what repairs will be needed to keep pieces of the tower from falling into neighbouring yards.

A small chunk of the defunct structure's protective exterior coating let go recently, says city manager Jody Penner.

"We had someone come in and let us know that a piece had fallen off and so we were wanting to know if there were going to be other pieces that might fall off," he said, explaining they hired a company from Kleeefield to come do some tests on the tower.

Workers used a high-pressure water blaster to see what, if any, other pieces were loose and whether water will be enough to knock them off.

"We want to find out what's the long-term plan, what can we do to get rid of that coating and then what needs to be done after that. Do we paint it? What's the next step?" Penner said, noting the city wants to make sure the tower poses no risk to residents. "This is something that's been on the radar for city council for some time, but this now kind of presses it into a higher priority because we want to make sure there's no safety concerns."

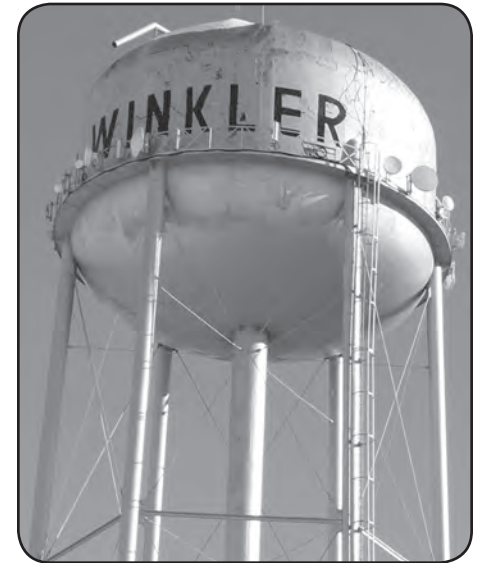
This problem actually popped up back in 2007 and required the tower to be repainted.

The tower has not been used for its original purpose in years. The former water treatment plant beneath it is now home to the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre.

Penner said there have been no recent discussions to take down the tower. In fact, plans have been in the works for years to improve it as a local landmark.

"The only things we've talked about is how can we refurbish it and are there some other things we can do to light it up," he said, noting the results of last week's tests will obviously have to be considered in any future plans.

The city will be providing updates on the tower's status online at winkler.ca/p/water-tower-project.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Workers sprayed water on the Winkler water tower last week to see how loose the pieces of protective coating are and whether more will likely fall off.

Penner Waste hands out compost for Earth Day

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Penner Waste Inc. honoured Earth Day last week by giving back to the community in a big way.

On Tuesday, two days before Earth Day, the company handed out free compost from the Winkler Public Works Yard on 1st St. Any left-over compost was donated to the city to use in the public garden plots.

It's their way of thanking Winklerites for their commitment to composting, says Danielle Penner, daughter of Penner Waste owners Jake and Barb Penner.

"They give us their compost and we so appreciate that because that helps us create all this," she said, gesturing to the 25-yard container filled with rich, certified compost. "So this is our way of giving something back to them."

"It's a way of showing full-circle composting," added Barb, noting they process 4,000-6,000 tons of diverted waste material on their site north of Winkler each year, transforming it into a variety of products—everything from compost to wood mulch to bio-fuel.

"From Winkler alone we do about 2,000 tonnes a year," she said. "That's just from the curbside pick-up each week and what people drop off."

Winklerites have really gotten on the composting bandwagon in recent years.

"The household composting has really picked up, and we've also got restaurants on board and grocery stores on board," Barb said, pointing out Winkler Co-op also sells Penner Waste compost product in their stores.

Jake noted the journey from your green bin to a usable compost for gardening is by no means an easy one.

From curbside pickup to sale-ready compost is about a six month process, though Penner Waste does have some compost piles that have been aging for several years.

"The longer you have your compost sitting the better it is, essentially," Jake said, likening it to a fine wine.

"It's actually a big process," he continued. "It's a lot of work. It's not just dumping into a pile and it rots away, like some people think."

"We're very particular in the product that we take in our yard. We will hand inspect pretty much every tote that's out there and if there's contaminants that's in there it doesn't go into our facility ... we only want the good stuff."

Uncontaminated green waste is then combined and laid out in windrows that are turned regularly.

"We take their temperatures every day to make sure we're going through the heat cycle" to kill any pathogens and ensure a high-quality end compost, Jake said, explaining that from there the material gets put on a curing pile for several months before undergoing a final screening to get rid of wood chips and whatnot to get to the final product.

All that work not only results in a quality compost but also keeps thousands of tonnes of organic waste out of the landfill each year.

"This day, Earth Day, is a very important day to promote organic recycling ... to show how important green waste is, to keep that out of the

landfill, just like you do with your blue box material," said Jake.

"We are so proud of Winkler for composting and doing such a great job at it," Danielle added. "We appreciate all the hard work they do."

Is your pest management expert licensed?

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For more information, contact the Manitoba Agriculture office in Carman at **204-745-5648**.

Manitoba 

Pulling ugliness into the light

By Ashleigh Viveiros

"Go back to where you came from." Where Tim de Bekker comes from is Winkler, Manitoba, Canada.

He was born at the old Bethel Hospital, though the customer who yelled at him in a heated exchange last month didn't know that, opting instead to make assumptions based perhaps on an unusual-for-here last name, a slighter darker skin tone.

The man, a shareholder in the restaurant in question where de Bekker no longer works as a host, was upset about the public health orders, felt they didn't apply to him, and lashed out when asked to fill out the contact tracing form mandated by the provincial government.

"When I handed it to him he started arguing with me ... 'No, we're not signing that,'" de Bekker recalls. "He told me, 'Take this paper, go back to where you came from, and just get out of my face.'"

"OUR BLACK FRIEND"

De Bekker's family is not from here. They immigrated to Winkler over 20 years ago from the Netherlands, where his father is from. His mom is the daughter of a white English mother and a black Jamaican father. She was raised in England by adopted parents.

The de Bekkers lived in a couple of other countries before settling down in Winkler, welcoming Tim as their first Canadian-born son.

Their children, mom Jane de Bekker says, are mixed race, like her, and their sometimes dark complexions have led to situations where friends would single them out—jokingly, perhaps, but no less upsetting—as "their black friend."

"My kids in some way or another have all experienced racism," she says.

"THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE DEALT WITH ALL MY LIFE"

As part of an immigrant family and as a person of colour, Tim took the comment made by this customer personally.

It shook him up and angered him in equal measure, he says, especially in light of a dedicated co-worker, also a person of colour, having been let go unexpectedly earlier that week, leading staff at the restaurant to be on edge and confused.

A meeting later between the customer, management, Tim, and his mother ended poorly, one side vehemently denying charges of racism by deflecting and downplaying the comment; the other not buying the excuses, asking simply for some acknowledgement of the boundary overstepped.

"I was just doing my job," Tim says. "And then he chooses to make that comment. The choice of words that were used sort of underscore what his attitude and beliefs are."

Tim was ultimately let go, he feels unjustly, though he admits he lost his temper and swore at the man when it became clear he was doubling down on insisting his actions—and words—were not at fault.

Jane cringes when Tim recalls the expletive he used. But she understands his anger. It's one she shares.

"This is something I've dealt with all my life," she says.

Jane has called the Pembina Valley home for decades, but even still there are sidelong glances when she's out with her light-skinned grandkids, assumptions made about where she's from based on the colour of her skin.

"When this community is trying so hard to be open and inclusive, they're shooting themselves in the foot every time they stare at you too long. It's just so many little idiosyncrasies. It's not like people are going around with banners 'Go back to where you came from.' But it's all the little things."

A million microaggressions that, over the years, have built up and left her not willing to give any quarter when she hears her son was told,



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Pembina Valley prides itself on being a diverse, multicultural community, but we need to address the casual racism that exists just as much as we do the purposeful kinds of discrimination, say local immigration service providers.

hurtfully, "Go back to where you came from."

"You know, I have never really let it bother me, but when it starts affecting my kids then it starts to really bother me," she says.

She loves this community, Jane stresses, but even with all the newcomers from all over the world that we've welcomed here over the past few decades, we still have a ways to go to stamp out an ugly undercurrent of racism that seems determined to persist.

HOLDING PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE

In some ways, for Tim, it's the careless racism that bugs him the most, more so than the purposeful displays of ignorant thinking.

"Because they've grown up in this area that's predominantly white, they don't think about the fact that

what they say could offend somebody based on their culture," he says. "They think people know they didn't mean something a certain way."

"And then other people just tell me, well, that's just how he is. But when you do that you're just enabling that behaviour."

People in this area, Tim observes, have a tendency to sweep bad things under the rug, not talk about them, and hope they all just go away.

But it will never go away if we all keep doing that.

"I think it comes down to the individual person," Tim says. "If you see this sort of stuff happening to not think that, oh, somebody else is going to deal with it, because you are the somebody else who's supposed to deal with it. You should tell the person it's not right."

"If no one else is ... holding people accountable, then when are they going to stop?"

"It's a very common, regular occurrence"

De Bekker's experience is sadly not a unique one.

Elaine Burton-Saindon, coordinator of the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership, has heard versions of it time and time again from many of the newcomer families she works with.

"Without a doubt, it's a very common, regular occurrence," she says, explaining they hear from parents whose kids are being bullied on the playground for being from another

culture and from adults who are made to feel that they will never be welcome in their new home.

Burton-Saindon points out how ridiculous some of these us-versus-them attitudes are, especially considering most of the families who have lived in this area for generations were once immigrants themselves.

"Everyone has come with the roots of being from another country and another culture, whether you've

been here 20 years or you're the third or fourth generation."

A big part of PVLIP's mission is to create more inclusive and welcoming communities. To help guide them in their programming development, they recently reached out with an open survey on discrimination to hear what sort of experiences people have had.

The most eye-opening part of the

Continued on page 11

> DISCRIMINATION SURVEY, FROM PG. 10

survey came in the open-ended responses at the end, where people were invited to candidly share their thoughts:

"[I] was teased and bullied my whole school days because I wasn't born in Canada."

"I believe that people in our communities do not even realize how racist they are ... there is not enough acceptance of differences."

"I and my children have felt discriminated against because we are not Mennonite. I feel for people who worship religion[s] other than Christian as I have a small idea what it must be like. I welcome the diversity I have seen in the Pembina Valley in recent years, [but] we have a long way to go."

"Many feel that having other cultures (particularly certain ones) in our community somehow threatens their own and contributes to the train of thought that it threatens their 'rights.'"

"People like to be outwardly nice to newcomers, but I've heard enough intolerance and ignorance to last me a lifetime."

"For a community that self-professes to be a strong 'Christian' community, I've never lived in a community before that is so self-righteous, selfish, and unfriendly ... whatever happened to living by the Golden Rule ... treat others the way you would want to be treated."

These are just a few of the dozens of personal thoughts people shared, many painting a picture of a difficult community to ever truly feel a part of if you're not "from here" originally or at least a member of the white, Christian majority.

"It leaves me kind of speechless and it's disheartening," Burton-Saindon says.

Most newcomers stress that they love their adopted home and are grateful for the positive interactions they have had with welcoming community members, but the bad experiences, the rotten apples threatening to spoil the bunch, still need to be addressed.

"So many [prejudiced] comments serve to make people feel othered, like you're not part of the main group and you don't belong," says Steve Reynolds, head of Regional Connec-

tions Immigrant Services. "Even if the comment's unintentional ... it makes them feel like an outsider because of their skin colour, their background."

Many recent additions to the area hesitate to share the bad experiences they have for fear of making things worse, Reynolds says, or out of a belief that it's simply the way things have to be.

"It's, 'I'm the one that came here and that's what happens.' They've accepted this is just going to be part of life rather than something we can talk about and try to address."

Dragging the ugliness out into the light and talking about it doesn't discount the successes of the immigration boom of the past 20 years—it will serve to make our communities better.

"Immigration's been really successful, the community connections overall have been really good, and it's been really positive, but that can be true and it can also be true that people are still having these negative experiences in the community," Reynolds points out.

The survey respondents overwhelmingly stated they want to have this be a topic of discussion moving forward—discussion that leads to real change.

"One person said, 'We don't solve issues by ignoring or running from them. This only enables more problems. But when we start having these uncomfortable discussions it means we are truly wanting to grow and to be better,'" shares Burton-Saindon.

"That's the attitude that will bring positive change and hopefully awareness to people's unconscious biases," she says, stressing PVLIP will continue its work of sharing immigrant stories, fostering connections to dispel ignorance and fear, and lobbying local leaders to step up and truly hear the voices and concerns of the entire cultural mosaic of the community.

"I think the general motivation would be to do better and take the next step as a community and grow as a community," says Reynolds. "But it can't happen if we don't even want to have a conversation about some of the experiences people are having."

"Or pretend it doesn't happen here," adds Burton-Saindon.

— Ashleigh Viveiros

"WE DON'T SOLVE ISSUES BY IGNORING OR RUNNING FROM THEM ... BUT WHEN WE START HAVING THESE UNCOMFORTABLE DISCUSSIONS IT MEANS WE ARE TRULY WANTING TO GROW AND BE BETTER."

Morden church fined for health order violations

By Voice staff

The Christian Church of Morden has been fined for violating public health orders.

The church, which very publicly stated its intention to open for full services earlier this month despite ongoing capacity restrictions, has received two \$5,000 tickets, according to the province's weekly enforcement report April 20.

The week of April 12-18 saw a total of 21 tickets handed out for health order violations across Manitoba, including 14 to individuals for various offences (\$1,296 each), four \$5,000 fines to businesses (which includes the two to the church), and three fines of \$5,150 to individuals under the federal quarantine act.

The other two businesses fined were Flea Whiskey's in Winnipeg and Original Joe's Restaurant and Bar in Brandon.

The province notes that eight of the \$1,296 fines were issued in re-

lation to gatherings in private residences or outdoors.

Enforcement officers received a total of 4,699 calls that week and issued 121 warnings on top of the 21 tickets.

The province notes that enforcement officials continue to work with businesses to provide guidance on the health orders and that the majority of interactions are educational in nature.

Most Manitobans, they say, are doing their part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and are following the fundamentals.

Since enforcement efforts began in April 2020, a total of 3,804 warnings and 1,180 tickets have been issued, resulting in more than \$1.6 million in fines to businesses and individuals.

You can report compliance concerns online at www.manitoba.ca/COVID19 or by calling 1-866-626-4862 and pressing option three on the call menu.

#PROTECT MB



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Manitoba 



Young children on bikes are the only ones technically allowed to drive on sidewalks, say local police, who urge people to follow the rules of the road while out on two wheels this spring.

Cyclists: follow the rules of the road

By Lorne Stelmach

With the arrival of spring and people getting more active, local police are reminding residents to keep bicycle safety in mind.

Cyclists need to always be mindful of following the rules of the road, including being on the road rather than the sidewalks.

"A majority of people know the rules ... there's going to be some who don't, though" said Cst. Jeff Forster, who handles much of the bicycle safety awareness for the Morden Police Service.

"It's mostly kids you will see riding on the sidewalks. It basically comes down to if it's a young child, it's okay

... we don't want any bikes on the sidewalks ideally," he said, noting the only bikes allowed on sidewalks under the Highway Traffic Act are those with a wheel diameter of less than 450 millimetres.

"We do like to encourage people to follow all the rules ... that includes being on the streets rather than the sidewalks as much as possible," agreed Winkler police Chief Ryan Hunt.

Both agreed that it is not a big concern and that a majority of cyclists follow the rules, so they tend to emphasize education over enforcement.

"I wouldn't say it's at the top of our enforcement priorities ... unless if it's

Continued on page 19

Tighter gathering restrictions in effect Wednesday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Stricter public health orders go into effect this Wednesday, April 28, as Manitoba tries to stem the third wave of COVID-19.

Officials on Monday announced plans to further restrict gathering sizes after seeing the province's COVID-19 case counts rise by the hundreds daily over the previous week.

"Despite our best collective efforts ... Manitoba's case numbers, our test positivity rates have been rising and our hospitalizations have been going up somewhat as well," said Premier Brian Pallister, noting the more contagious variants of concern are spreading rapidly.

An overburdened health care system puts not just COVID patients at risk, the premier noted, but anybody who may need care for other serious ailments and injuries.

And so, new public health measures have been added to the existing code red restrictions.

Until May 26, no visitors are allowed in private households, either indoors or outside, with certain exceptions allowing one visitor for people who live alone.

No indoor gatherings are allowed and outdoor gatherings in public spaces are limited to 10 people.

Faith-based gatherings are limited to 25 per cent capacity or a maximum of 10 people, with indoor mask use now required at all times.

Patio dining is restricted to groups of four people, with no household restrictions. Indoor dining remains capped at 50 per cent and people may only dine with others from their household.

Food courts in malls and shopping centres must close.

Gyms and fitness centres continue to be limited to 25 per cent capacity, but everyone inside is required to maintain physical distancing of nine feet from one another.

Spectators at outdoor sports and recreation facilities are limited to one parent/caregiver spectator per youth participant, so long as physical distancing of six feet is maintained.

Dance, theatre, and music schools continue to be limited to 25 per cent capacity, but the new orders limit the maximum number of people on site

to 10 with one parent/caregiver spectator per youth participant, all physically distancing.

Personal service businesses can continue to operate at 50 per cent capacity, but appointments are required.

Day camps are permitted to have up to 10 children indoors and outdoors.

Retail stores are limited to 25 per cent of the capacity of the store or up to 250 patrons, whichever is lower, while malls are limited to 25 per cent of the facility's capacity.

"To all Manitobans I say this today: stay at home if you can, significantly limit your close contacts, and get your vaccine as soon as you are eligible to get it," Pallister urged.

The vaccine eligibility requirements continue to change rapidly. As of Monday, anyone age 50 years or older and First Nations people age 30 and

up can book an appointment at the vaccination super sites.

The province has also expanded eligibility to allow all front-line police officers and firefighters age 18 or older to be vaccinated at the super sites.

Manitobans 18+ who live and work in what the province has deemed high-risk communities are also able to be vaccinated. Right now that list includes several neighbourhoods in Winnipeg and the entire Northern Regional Health Authority.

Meanwhile, any Manitoban age 40 or older can book an appointment at a pharmacy or medical clinic offering the AstraZeneca/Covishield vaccine.

For up-to-date vaccination eligibility and booking information, head to protectmb.ca or call 1-844-626-8222.

210 new cases announced Monday

Health officials on Monday announced 210 new cases of COVID-19 and a test positivity rate of 7.6 per cent provincially and 8.2 per cent in Winnipeg.

There were 2,093 active cases of the virus at the start of the work week. A total of 34,747 Manitobans have recovered from the virus since last spring. The number of people who

have died is 968.

COVID-19 hospitalizations were at 148 Monday, including 37 people in intensive care.

Breaking it down by health authority, Southern Health-Santé Sud was reporting 145 active cases, 22 hospitalizations, and six ICU patients. The region has lost 145 residents to the virus.

In the Pembina Valley, Winkler's active case numbers are up to 21, Morden and the Altona area both have six cases, Carman has three, Morris and MacDonald both have one, Stanley, Lorne/Louise/Pembina, and the Roland/Thompson area all have four, and the Red River South area has 23 cases.



Books arrive in Kenya

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden teacher finally realized her dream of getting books into the hands of the people in her hometown in Africa.

The project has been a long journey for Rosemary Zahn, a liaison worker at Morden Collegiate, but the shipment of about 53,000 pounds of books finally recently arrived in Eldama Ravine in Baringo County, Kenya.

A team of volunteers there set to the monumental task of unloading the 23 large bins and 353 boxes of books from morning until evening April 16.

"The books got unpacked the whole day because they had to do it manually," noted Zahn.

"The work is not done now—it's just begun there in Kenya," she continued. "It's going to serve a lot of areas in that county, and I'm going to make sure that they encourage people to use it. They have different ways that they want to try to get people to make use of it."

The shipping container left Morden in mid-December. Its journey was plagued by delays caused in part by the global pandemic, getting stuck first in Winnipeg and then Montreal

for months before finally reaching the port of Mombasa at the end of March.

From there it was moved inland by train to Nairobi, where it got stuck again.

"It was delayed for almost two weeks because there was a new lockdown," Zahn explained. "Finally it was cleared, and on April 15 the container was finally able to be taken to my hometown. It arrived there on April 16."

Zahn said she never lost faith through the whole process, despite the many challenges and hurdles along the way.

"We needed to stay on track and not be focused on that but focus on the possibilities ... I think that during the whole pandemic, that is what has kept me sane. I wanted to keep going with it and not let the fear engulf me and just keep on going and keep on praying."

Having grown up in Kenya before coming to Canada in 1986, Zahn credits her parents for instilling in her a passion for books. She knows firsthand the difference access to books can have on a child's life.

Continued on page 14



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The 53,000 pounds of books collected in Morden-Winkler last year finally made their way to Kenya this month. Above: Volunteers spent all day unpacking hundreds of boxes for distribution into the community.



CAMERON FRIESEN, MLA

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NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

Legion House One looking to replace aging elevator

By Lorne Stelmach

Legion House One is turning to the community for support to help refurbish the elevator in the seniors block in downtown Morden.

The project comes at a cost of about \$192,000, about half of which the board of the non-profit already has ready to

go. They hope to raise the remaining half through community donations.

"We've reached out to the community in a few places looking for donations, but with COVID, everybody's purse strings are pretty tight," said Marina Brown, chairperson of the Legion House board. "We've gotten a few donations, and we did have some

money put aside, but it would be nice to have more funding available."

Built in 1981 on land donated by the Morden Legion, the building came about to provide a housing option for low income veterans.

Since that time, much of the building's original features remain in place, including the elevator, which the board has recognized for some time was in need of an upgrade.

"There's been a few times where it has stalled and there's been people stuck in the elevator, which has been frightening and very difficult," Brown said, noting it costs upwards of \$1,000 each time the elevator requires a major service call. "So it just got to a point where it really needed to be refurbished."

They are moving ahead with the work on Monday with the portion of the funds in place and hope the community will come through with the rest.

The plan to get it done as quickly and safely as possible.

"It could have taken up to six weeks,

but because we have a number of seniors on the second, third, and fourth floors who desperately need that elevator to get up and down, we chose to spend the extra money and have it done in three weeks," Brown explained. "The residents are looking forward to not getting stuck in the elevator."

This is just part of the challenges they face with a 40-year-old building in need of a significant amount of work.

"The flooring is still all original, the cupboards are original, so we're in desperate need of some upgrades, but our elevator was our most urgent project," Brown said.

"It will all be like it is brand new," she said, noting the refurbishment will include new elevator controls, a phone system, and lighting.

Anyone wishing to support the project can do so with a donation through the City of Morden for the Legion House One elevator project.

You can also contact Brown at 204-823-0594 for more information.



Legion House chair Marina Brown says the decades-old elevator needs to be replaced. They're hoping the community can help them out with the cost.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

> KENYA BOOK PROJECT, FROM PG. 13

With that motivation, she had the idea of what became the Kenya Library Book Project after seeing all the books left over after the annual library used book sale in Morden.

Zahn eventually rounded up 53,000 pounds of books for shipment overseas and raised upwards of \$8,000 in monetary donations to cover the costs of getting them there.

She gives credit to the many people who helped make it happen.

"Western School Division staff were very helpful, and my friends in the Morden community as well," said Zahn.

"This project could not have happened with just one person. I think it was probably the right timing and the

right kind of people that believed in reading," she said. "I'm just an instrument ... a bridge builder between two countries."

And she knows that the people of Eldama Ravine are very grateful to the community of Morden and all the people who helped make it possible to send the books to them.

"I'm getting a lot of responses from the people there on Facebook. They are grateful, they are happy, and they think it is something the community really needed.

"It's like a miracle happened," Zahn said. "I remember my life before ... I think if you have a dream in life—it came true for me, it can come true for anyone."

"THEY ARE GRATEFUL, THEY ARE HAPPY, AND THEY THINK IT IS SOMETHING THE COMMUNITY REALLY NEEDED."

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Stakeholders have big plans for Swan, Rock lakes

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Tri-Lakes Development Group finally has feasibility studies in hand for improvements to Rock Lake and Swan Lake.

The group, which includes members from the municipalities surrounding Rock, Swan, and Pelican lakes, have been looking at ways to improve the overall health of the lakes.

Top of mind for both Swan and Rock lakes is addressing the water levels, which have been on the lower end of the spectrum for some time.

"Swan Lake, we can't do anything there without raising the level. That's absolutely number one," said board chair Kory Van Damme, acknowledging it's a major task that will require a water control structure on the east end of the lake. "That's legitimately what we need to do because most of the time, lately, it hasn't been high enough and it's infilled over the years."

"That would have to be the first step. And then if it stays as dry as what it is and we keep getting these drought-like conditions, that might be the first step also for Rock Lake," he said, adding, however, that the study noted they could perhaps start instead with an aeration system on Rock Lake, water levels allowing.

In addition to aeration, the Rock Lake study recommends installing rock shoals upstream in the Pembina River to provide a spawning habitat for walleye and white suckers, stocking the lake with a variety of desirable fish species, removing carp from the lake, and addressing water level issues by either building a new dam or rebuilding the existing structure.

Van Damme explains they're less concerned about actually raising the water level at Rock Lake than they are



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Tri-Lakes Development Group has received a pair of feasibility studies with recommendations for improving the health of Rock Lake (above) and Swan Lake.

making sure it doesn't dip below a certain point.

"Traditionally, 1,329 feet was the level that we didn't want it to go below," he said. "Most of the time the lake level was 1,331 or so, so most of the time it is good. It's just heading into drought conditions ... we want to make sure the level doesn't go below 1,331."

Meanwhile, the Swan Lake recommendations touch on building a dam to raise the water level, installing an aeration system, implementing a fish community monitoring plan, removing carp and preventing them from entering the lake in the future, installing spawning shoals, undertaking a bathymetric survey to determine the rate of deposition and infilling of the lake, dredging the lake, and ongoing riparian rehabilitation and nutrient

management efforts.

The studies go into detail on how each of these measures would impact each lake's health, including improving fishing.

As such, they provide the Tri-Lakes Development Group with a detailed road map of what exactly can be done so they can start to draft their plan for the years ahead, said Van Damme.

"Now that we know what we want to do, none of it will physically happen this year," he said, explaining the group will spend the rest of the year coming up with a master plan and figuring out how to pay for it. "We want to get a game plan going so that we know what we're doing and possibly get something done next year."

"We've got a fairly active group right now that wants to see something happen, so I'm hoping that we can keep

that momentum going and secure some funding and grants to get something done."

Cost is the biggest barrier and so the group will be working hard to find the funds, be it by reaching out to local municipalities, tracking down and applying for grants, or appealing to upper levels of government for support.

Van Damme said the communities in the area all have a vested interest in the health of the lakes, which draw people from across southern Manitoba for recreation. Those tourism dollars have a significant impact on the local economies.

"People want better fishing, they want to secure the lake level," he said, stressing they will work with property owners around the lakes on all these efforts. "We have to have those conversations with landowners and make sure everybody's on the same page."

"We're not wanting to flood anybody out. We're definitely not going down that avenue," Van Damme added. "We don't want to have anybody thinking we're raising the level and we're going to wipe out farmland or anything. We're not at all wanting to do that."

If you'd like to learn more about the Tri-Lakes Development group's plans, you can reach out to them through the Pembina Valley Watershed District.

"WE WANT TO GET A GAME PLAN GOING SO THAT WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING AND POSSIBLY GET SOMETHING DONE NEXT YEAR."

Gateway Resources hosting pick-up soup nights

By Lorne Stelmach

Gateway Resources is holding a May fundraiser to help fill the void left by not being able to hold its annual gala again this year.

The organization is hosting the Dinner for Two Soup Fundraiser not only for the financial support but also to help maintain awareness, suggested executive director Kim Nelson.

"We have such great support from the community, so we just want to continue those connections," Nelson said in advance of the fundraiser set

for May 6 and again May 20.

Gateway usually holds the Faces of Gateway gala in May as a celebration of the staff, volunteers and the people they serve in the community.

It has become an important event for the non-profit that provides a range of services and programs for adults living with an intellectual disability.

"Unfortunately, both last year and this year we haven't been able to hold the gala, so we're trying to find a different way for us to connect with the community," Nelson said.

"We wanted to hold a fundraiser, but

with each order people get, we're also going to put in a pamphlet so people can still remember what Gateway does," she explained "Gateway offers a number of services, and I think people forget some of the services that we offer, so this will be a way to maintain that connection ... and one day, we will be able to open our doors again and just be part of the community again."

The cost of the Dinner for Two meal is just \$15. Each ticket covers four buns, one litre of soup, four signature cookies and two bottles of water, with extra soup available to purchase at a

\$10 cost per litre. Soup choices will include taco, cream of broccoli or vegetable soup with the latter being gluten and vegan friendly.

You can place your order in advance by calling 204-325-7304 ext. 233 or e-mail gradmin@gatewayresourcesinc.com. You will get a confirmation e-mail with the numbers to call for curbside pick-up, which can be any time from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Donations above the cost of the meal are graciously accepted, with any donation over \$10 receiving a donation receipt.

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NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

Blessings in disguise for Explore Morden Winkler

By Lorne Stelmach

The regional tourism agency was forced to look more inward this past year in the face of pandemic restrictions, and it became a blessing in disguise.

Explore Morden Winkler found many benefits in focusing on stay-at-home tourism, president Reg Braun observed at the organization's annual general meeting last Wednesday.

"We found ourselves having to adapt and create and develop new ways to attract visitors to our region. We decided very quickly that we would continue to deliver social media to stay connected to our visitors," Braun said in addressing the online meeting.

"Our market was short haul day trips inviting Manitobans to safely visit, and it turned out that doing things like inviting locals to be a tourist in your own town was a very timely and well received type of marketing," he said. "We know that our parks, our golf courses and all of those outdoor attractions had lots of visitors."

"We were continuously having to adjust plans to promote visits that were in line with the changing provincial guidelines."

Braun also touched on ideas and opportunities for the agency as it moves forward.

"We know that it's going to be important to exit the pandemic with a plan for the future," he said, noting the potential for attracting more conferences with facilities like the Meridian Exhibition Centre as well as expanded hotel capacity in both Winkler and Morden.

He also feels the organization has achieved a greater level of credibility and recognition, and he especially welcomed their alliances and partnerships with businesses and other organizations in the area that recognize the potential benefits of bringing people to the area.

"Attracting visitors is often a first step in helping people to decide that they want to move here," Braun sug-

"WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE AS A REGION THAN WE CAN AS INDIVIDUAL ENTITIES. WE THINK OUR GROWTH POTENTIAL IS VERY GOOD."

gested.

While continuing to emphasize their regional approach, Braun also noted it is important to still utilize the individual strengths of each local municipality.

"We think it's important that the cities and the RM continue to promote their own identities because we are unique."

Braun also celebrated the continuing success of their food weeks, including this week's Poutine Week, which follows their previous burger and pizza weeks.

"It was very rewarding to know that we were having real economic impact in the region," he said in referencing positive feedback from a number of participating restaurants who saw sales skyrocket.

Braun went on to highlight other ideas that are in the works, including developing an online interactive visi-

> BIKING, FROM PG. 12

a recurring problem or we clearly see something like someone almost getting hit," said Forster. "Education is always the best way to go about it. Enforcement in this case is a last resort."

"We don't enforce it as much because sometimes it is safer for bikes to be on sidewalks depending on what area they are in," noted Hunt.

Both officers encourage cyclists to



In this screenshot from Explore Morden Winkler's virtual AGM last week, the tourism agency outlines some of its plans for the year ahead.

tor guide that could serve as a source of information on current events and a revamp of their website to help build a larger presence as the tourism hub for the region.

"It's a very intentional strategy to be the source for anything happening locally," agreed director Drew Friesen in his marketing report.

He also cited the success of the food weeks as an example of how they could help energize and embolden the local communities.

"The food weeks have been an amazing engine to build trust in the brand," added Friesen. "We decided to spend on the local communities to make sure that we can energize both the restaurants that are still suffering and local experiences that can still run."

The past year was also successful financially for the organization, as it came out of the year with about a \$20,000 surplus on revenue of about \$45,000 and expenses of \$25,000.

The budget for the year ahead is

boosted to \$71,000, with key sources of revenue including \$15,000 from the three local municipalities, \$20,000 from Travel Manitoba and \$29,000 from partners such as Access Credit Union, Icon Technologies, Decor Cabinets, Co-op, Travel Manitoba, and Community Futures Heartland.

In addition to Braun as president and Peter Cantelon as vice president, the Explore Morden Winkler board also includes Andrew Stewart, Michelle Sawatzky, Lily Krushel, Ray Unrau, Karina Bueckert, Drew Friesen, and Viktor Karklins.

"We want to continue to be a leader in building trust and unity between the cities and the RM ... that unity that we found at the board level is now a voice for working together," Braun said as part of his concluding remarks. "We can achieve more as a region than we can as individual entities. We think that our growth potential is very good. Our brand is strong."

rules of the road as a vehicle."

While the helmet rule applies to anyone under 18, Hunt encourages adults to consider using them as an added precaution as well.

"Another issue if they're riding at night or even at dusk is the visibility," he added. "It's a good idea to have something reflective on your clothing or for sure on the bike at least so that motorists can see you properly."

Coulee school finds new ways of teaching music

By Lorne Stelmach

Plum Coulee School has been finding unique ways to keep kids learning and playing music despite the ongoing COVID restrictions.

Adopting new ways to teach in a pandemic has been a challenge faced everywhere, but principal Mary Eberling-Penner is especially proud of both her staff and students for their creativity and resiliency.

Their efforts have ranged from using basketballs to learn rhythm to learning to play ukuleles instead of their usual wind instruments.

"It's been very challenging ... but it's also important to try to find creative ways to keep student morale high," said Eberling-Penner.

"All the special things seem to be the things that have added restrictions, and that's really heartbreaking," she noted. "We're a school that typically has focussed on a quality band program and drama and musicals. We haven't yet figured out how to do the theatre piece ... but we realized this was going to go on longer than we had anticipated with the restrictions."

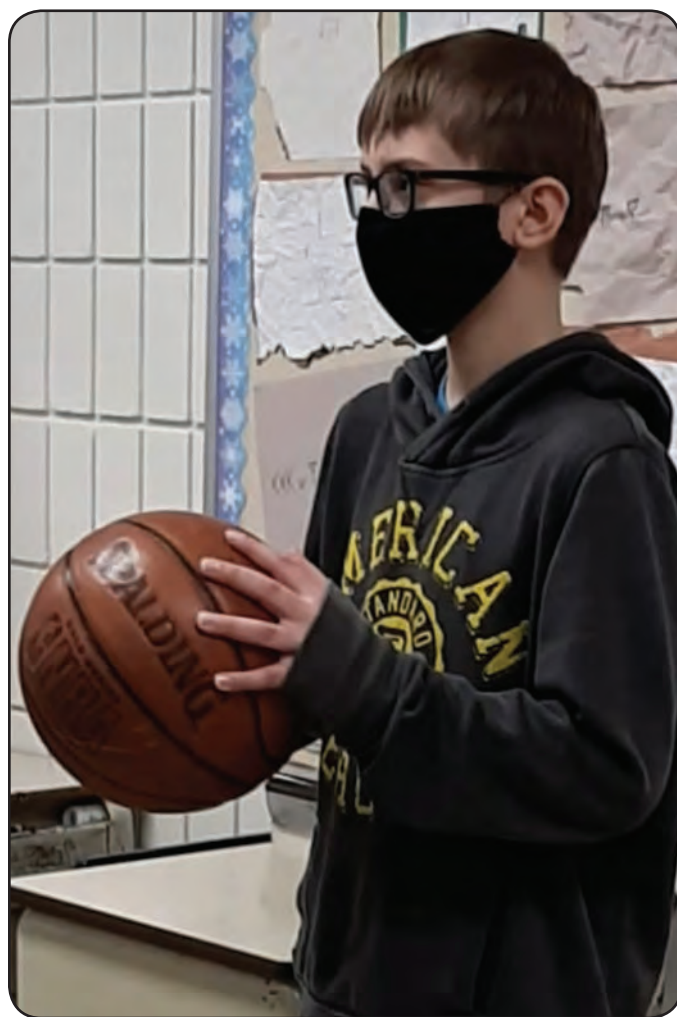
Plum Coulee School has all Grade 5-6 students learn a band instrument. It is then optional for them to continue in Grade 7-8.

Things of course changed when the pandemic restrictions tightened.

"For a while, we were able to run our band program in the gym with six foot spacings between the children, and we did that as long as we were allowed," said Eberling-Penner. "Then the restriction was completely no wind instruments ... so after that, we began using some creative strategies."

One unique idea involved students using basketballs to learn the rhythms of three different songs. It brought together reading notes, following a rhythm, and working together to provide one sound in unison and proved to be a great way to involve movement and musical expression within the restrictions.

"They learned basically how to read



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

With COVID-19 restrictions putting the kibosh on woodwind instruments this school year, Plum Coulee School students have been using basketballs and ukuleles to feel the music. Right: A local cabinet maker created a shelf for the instruments.

a beat and use the basketball as the percussion," said Eberling-Penner. "We also did a unit on pail drumming using upside down 20 litre pails. They could use the pails to make a variety of sounds."

And when they were not able to use wind instruments anymore, the school found a solution by investing in ukuleles.

"It's not a very expensive instrument. It's usually under a \$100, so that's a more affordable instrument for a school to own," said Eberling-Penner, who added that a local cabinetmaker constructed a nice mobile shelf for them to use to both store and transport them. "We made the decision to invest in them, thinking in the future we could use them in other grades as another option for our music program."

She has been pleased to see how well the students responded to learning to play the ukuleles.

"Some find a stringed instrument



challenging and some find it easy," she said. "It allows kids to explore something new and for some of them to find a new talent or a new gift."

The students say they've had fun with the ways they have had to adapt.

"I love basketball, and it was fun to use it to get the beat," said Rachel. "We connected basketball to music. It was a lot of fun."

"I enjoyed it. I had a ukulele at home, but never knew how to play it. It is a good instrument," added Raven.

"I'm really excited to see things working with the ukuleles so well," said Eberling-Penner. "The kids are making music, and they've only been playing them for less than a month."

Eberling-Penner added she is appreciative of the efforts of their staff, including Gr. 6 and Gr. 7 teachers Clare Goertzen and Curtis Harms and music and band teacher Harold Epp.

"He's flexible to try these things, and he's also a gifted musician. We're really blessed to have him."

"THE RESTRICTION WAS COMPLETELY NO WIND INSTRUMENTS ... SO AFTER THAT WE BEGAN USING SOME CREATIVE STRATEGIES."

Foundations launching Pay It Forward May campaign

By Lorne Stelmach

The Winkler and Morden community foundations are once again encouraging people to spread a little kindness during Pay It Forward May.

The annual spring campaign can take the focus away from ourselves and spark generosity in others, say local organizers, who stress that when we look beyond our own needs and help someone else, we better our community in more ways than one.

"Pay it Forward May is about impacting our community. We know kindness happens year round but we are taking one month to highlight it; helping the community see all the good that is happening around us," said Myra Peters, executive director of the Winkler Community Foundation.

"It isn't all doom and gloom. There's positive things going on out there," said Lynda Lambert, executive director of the Morden Area Foundation. "I think to have someone do something kind for someone else is especially welcome right now."

Both observed that the past pandemic-plagued year has led to many stories of kindness, as community members have stepped up to help in ways ranging from delivering groceries, shopping for others, and stocking

shelves to helping families with at-home and online learning, supporting teachers, and bringing meals to front-line workers.

Now, as the restrictions continue to wear on, those acts of kindness are perhaps needed more than ever now.

"There's so many people who are not getting out, not visiting or just feeling the stress, so to have someone do something kind for you just gets you out of that mind frame," Lambert suggested.

"There are so many things that don't have to cost money, can be socially distant, and are safe," she added, noting they encourage people to share their acts of kindness to encourage and inspire others. "We don't know about what all goes on out there, and it's not that we want people to give us a report card ... it's just to share so that other people can see it."

"You can have minimal contact and still do that act of kindness for someone," said Peters. "I think it's been encouraging to see the kindness around us. I think that's why we highlight it. We know it's happening year-round, but when we take the time to focus on it and look for it, we actually realize how much kindness is around us."

To mark Pay It Forward May, the Winkler foundation will be hosting



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden Area Foundation is holding a parade for Pay It Forward May while the Winkler foundation's PIF van will be out and about.

a special day of random acts of kindness on Tuesday, May 11. Other local groups and organizations will be doing things as well throughout the month, and the Pay It Forward van is available to pop up as a mobile billboard for the campaign.

In Morden, the foundation is planning a Pay It Forward parade on May 27 through town starting at 6:30 p.m.

"We're just trying to brighten people's day," said Lambert.

Both agencies will be posting ideas and stories on their social media pages and they encourage the community to do the same using #pifmay and tagging the Winkler Community Foundation or Morden Area Foundation.

Bergen less than impressed with Liberal budget

By Lorne Stelmach

The recent federal budget shows once again why the Liberal government can't be trusted to manage the economy, suggests Portage-Lisgar MP Candice Bergen.

The Conservative deputy leader panned the budget presented last week as promising big spending with little to no focus on the sectors of the economy hit hardest by the pandemic. She further described it as an election platform rather than a financial plan for our future.

"The prime minister thinks you can just keep printing money and then the budget will balance itself. Our children know better than that, but our prime minister doesn't," said Bergen.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland suggested the budget offers a plan to finish the fight against COVID-19 and ensure a robust economic recovery.

It includes \$101.4 billion over three years in proposed investments as part of the growth plan that will create jobs and support a resilient and inclusive recovery, Freeland said.

"This budget is about finishing the fight against COVID-19. It's about healing the wounds left by the COVID-19 recession. And it's about creating more jobs and prosperity for Canadians in the days and decades to come."

But Bergen said Canadians deserve a plan to safely reopen our economy, not a risky plan that gambles billions on lofty promises and economic experiments. She suggested they were looking for more targeted support and not just a huge spending spree that is basically aiming to buy votes.

"We were looking for a government to present a plan that would enhance productivity, attract investment and jobs, and get people back to work, not people getting support cheques but people being able to get paycheques," she said. "It really leaves our future generations behind. It provides no hope for future generations."

"Across Portage-Lisgar we continue to face issues with reliable cellphone and internet coverage. This budget promises billions but fails to present a plan on how rural communities in this province can finally access reliable internet and cellphone services," Bergen continued.

"I'm also disappointed at the lack of support for our agricultural industry—the backbone of our economy in Southern Manitoba," she added. "The Liberals have failed to create the economic conditions so that sectors like agriculture can not only break interprovincial trade barriers, but also access global markets."

"Our country's economy has seen hardship before, like the global recession in 2008 when

our Conservative government invested in Canadians without trying risky experiments," Bergen said. "We focused spending where it was needed most, and through initiatives such as lower taxes and less red tape, Canadian businesses were able to grow and adapt during such difficult times."

Continued on page 22

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The Winkler Morden
Voice

• INCREDIBLE CREATURES

The great spring migration of the tundra swans

By John Gavloski

It is always exciting to see migratory birds and insects returning in the spring.

There are some species that we only get to see for short periods in the spring or fall when they migrate through on their way to their summer or winter homes. One such species is the tundra swan. A large flock of these was present on the lake at Stephenfield Provincial Park recently, along with an assortment of migratory ducks. The assortment of waterfowl that we observed on the lake April 5th included tundra swans and ducks such as ring-necked, northern shovelers, canvasbacks, mallards, common mergansers, and scaups.

In this month's Incredible Creatures we will explore the tundra swan, a bird with a long migration and interesting breeding rituals.

There are seven species of swans in the world. Two of these, the tundra swan and the trumpeter swan, are native to North America. Any swan seen in Manitoba will either be a tundra or trumpeter swan. One non-native species, the mute swan, is also found in some eastern parts of North America. People brought mute swans from Europe and Asia for ornamental display in parks and zoos, and now this species is found in the wild in certain areas.

Telling tundra swans and trumpeter

swans apart can be tricky. Trumpeter swans are slightly larger than tundra swans. At close range, a small yellow mark at the base of the bill, close to the eye, can be seen on the tundra swan. There is no such mark on the trumpeter swan.

Twice a year, tundra swans migrate up to about 6,000 kms between the areas where they spend the winter, and the Canadian Arctic and Alaska where they spend the summer. They fly in a V-shaped formation. Tundra swans used to be called the whistling swan, which referred to the sound made by the slow, powerful beating of their wings in flight.

The courtship and pairing of young adult birds is in full swing in late winter and continues through the spring migration. Adults already paired reinforce their bond by vocal and visual displays. The most spectacular of these is the so-called victory display, where male and female face each other, extend and wave the wings slowly, bow the head and neck forward and backward, and, in duet, produce a formalized sequence of loud, melodious sounds. Swans and geese generally mate for life. By contrast, most ducks pair for only one season.

Tundra swans usually do not breed until their fourth or fifth year. A year before breeding, pairs normally "go steady" and select and defend a territory without actually nesting. At breeding age, they begin to nest in late



PHOTO BY JOHN GAVLOSKI

Tundra swans date for four or five years before breeding.

May or early June before the snow is off the tundra, while many of the lakes are still frozen.

In the summer, tundra swans feed mainly on the seeds, stems, roots and tubers of aquatic plants, as well as a few small invertebrates. They plunge their long necks into shallow water and pull out vegetation from the bottom. Adults may paddle their feet to

bring submerged food to surface for the young. In other seasons, they will eat grain in harvested fields of crops such as corn, barley and soybeans.

Observing the return of birds, butterflies and some of the creatures that we have not seen in awhile is an exciting part of spring. It's exciting to think about what will be returning or flying through that waits to be seen.

> BUDGET, FROM PG. 21

"Canadians deserve a government that champions our agricultural industry and resource sector; that unites our country and makes it easier for small businesses to grow. With this budget, the Liberals proved that they're only interested in buying votes and never following through."

The Liberal government, meanwhile, touted a range of measures in the budget, including:

- Establishing a Canada-wide early learning and child care system with new investments totalling almost \$30 billion over five years.

- Extending emergency supports including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support until Sept. 25.

- Extending the number of weeks available for income support such as the Canada Recovery Benefit and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit.

- Supporting small and medium-sized businesses through programs such as a new Canada Digital Adoption Program that will assist over 160,000 businesses with the cost of new technology with the help of 28,000 young Canadians who will be trained to work with them.

- Allowing small businesses to fully expense up to \$1.5 million in capital investments in a broad range of assets including digital technology and intellectual property. This represents an additional \$2.2 billion investment over the next five years.

- Revitalizing Canada's tourism

sector through \$1 billion to help businesses recover and support festivals and events.

- Supporting women, Black Canadians, and other underrepresented entrepreneurs who face barriers to launching and owning businesses through \$300 million to enhance initiatives like the Black Entrepreneurship Program and the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy.

- Enriching the Canada Workers Benefit, which will support about 1 million more Canadians and lift nearly 100,000 people out of poverty. This will result in additional support of \$8.9 billion over six years.

- Helping to build, repair and support 35,000 affordable housing units for vulnerable Canadians through

an investment of \$2.5 billion and a reallocation of \$1.3 billion in existing funding.

- Investing \$17.6 billion in a green recovery that will help Canada to reach its target to conserve 25 per cent of Canada's lands and oceans by 2025 and exceed its Paris climate targets and reduce emissions by 2030 and move forward on a path to reach net-zero emission by 2050.

- Closing the gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, supporting healthy, safe and prosperous Indigenous communities and advancing meaningful reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation through an historic investment of over \$18 billion.

Morden council eyeing algae bloom solution

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is assessing a possible measure to help deal with algae blooms on Lake Minnewasta.

The discussion at a recent council meeting focused on the potential of a system that uses ultrasonic sound waves to break up the algae.

"It has proven to be successful on smaller bodies of water," said Mayor Brandon Burley, who noted for example that Hutterite colonies use it on their water retention ponds. "It would look like three floating pontoons out on the lake ... they would basically operate 24/7."

It would not only be a more environmentally-friendly method of addressing the problem but also less costly, he added, estimating the price tag at just under \$200,000.

"The cost of treating algae in the lake is a lot cheaper than treating it in the plant," said Burley, adding they are having a review done to ensure it would be effective on water the size of Lake Minnewasta. "It's a very promising method. We're still trying to de-

termine whether it is an investment that is worth making, so we want an independent review of the technology before we move further on it.

"If it comes back satisfactory, we would be looking at a rather quick implementation."

Also at its April 19 meeting, city council introduced a new bylaw to regulate the use of any firearms or other shooting devices in Morden.

The bylaw came about as a result of a recommendation from the Morden Police Service and the bylaw enforcement officer.

It will restrict the use of any shooting device within city limits without approval, said Burley, who described it as a tool for enforcement and safety.

"You can get a permit for use, but it just has to be vetted through the city," he explained. "There's been some reckless use, so [the police] need a way to deal with it. With a bylaw, they can deal with it more appropriately."

Burley noted that he anticipated there would be more discussion and feedback before the bylaw comes back to council for final approval.



"Second and third reading still has to happen on the bylaw, and my assumption is that there will be more engagement before it ever gets there."

Council is also having discussions with a group of RM of Stanley residents with a potential interest in developing land that is in the vicinity of the proposed site for a new cemetery.

The city-owned 53 acres of land immediately south of the lake includes

about eight acres eyed for the cemetery, and the group of four residents who may have interest in developing other land in the vicinity met with council to discuss such concerns as how it might impact the servicing of their land and the cost of that work.

Burley said there will be more information coming to council and that further discussions will be needed.

Manitoba partners with N.D. to get truckers vaccinated

By Lorne Stelmach

Government and industry officials last week heralded a partnership that will allow Canadian truckers to get COVID-19 vaccinations across the border in North Dakota.

North Dakota Governor Doug Burdum and Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister welcomed the Essential Worker Cross-Border Vaccination Initiative as an opportunity to support the integrated economies by co-operating on the vaccination of individuals who work in both jurisdictions.

The Manitoba Trucking Association (MTA) and its members identify and co-ordinate with eligible individuals and work with North Dakota to schedule vaccination appointments for truck drivers during their routine trips to the U.S. over the next six to eight weeks.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation's rest area near Drayton will initially serve as the vaccination site, which will also be open to North Dakotans ages 16 and older to get vaccinated. Vaccinations will take place from noon to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

The state and province are establishing a joint-operations group to manage the initiative. The North Dakota

Department of Health will provide nurses and other staff to administer the first and second doses of the vaccine to provide full immunization of truckers. There is no cost to the state or province as the U.S. government supplies the vaccine and reimburses the costs to administer.

It remains to be seen how many truckers may take advantage of the opportunity, although officials are estimating roughly 2,000 to 4,000 Manitoba drivers could participate.

"When it comes to the COVID vaccine, the most important question is not where can one get it but when can one get it?" noted Bernie

Driedger, president of Portage Transport in welcoming the initiative.

"To see Manitoba and North Dakota coming together to creatively collaborate on a vaccination strategy that will expedite the vaccination of Manitoba truck drivers working to or through North Dakota is excellent news. This move protects these important essential workers and their families, while

also freeing up vaccination spots back in Manitoba. A genuine win-win."

The shared goal of this initiative is to create a model of continental co-operation as the governments aim to safely reopen the shared border. Officials noted Manitoba and North Dakota will consider further joint initiatives

to vaccinate other essential workers and Manitobans.

"As Manitoba faces the third wave of the pandemic and the significant challenges associated with variants of concern, our number one limiting factor in protecting Manitobans is the availability of COVID-19 vaccines,"

Pallister said.

"Manitoba is proud to partner with North Dakota on this innovative strategy to provide life-saving vaccines to Manitoba's essential workers delivering the goods and services Manitobans, Canadians and Americans rely on," he added. "Manitoba and North Dakota have enjoyed a strong relationship of mutual respect and friend-

ship, and I want to thank them for their willingness to support Manitoba through this joint vaccination effort."

But not everyone is so excited at the prospect of heading south for vaccination.

"I'm not sure of the logistics, but it would require an extra trip for myself," said Jon Martens, a Winkler trucker.

It seems like a good idea in theory, but there are issues with it, he suggested, noting that his driving takes him across the border regularly but usually not to the rest area on Interstate 29.

As well, Martens noted it is his understanding that an extra trip such as this without transporting product is not allowed under existing restrictions.

"So right now, I would have to take a day off work along with taking a trip that's not allowed, and that's on top of the fact that I'm in the percentage of people that doesn't quite trust the vaccine yet, although I could be convinced by my family," he said.

"If I should decide to get vaccinated, I think it would be much simpler if they would open it up to my age or my employment to get vaccinated locally here."

"WHEN IT COMES TO THE COVID VACCINE, THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IS NOT WHERE CAN ONE GET IT BUT WHEN CAN ONE GET IT?"

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Morden skating coach honoured

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Figure Skating Club is looking ahead to what it hopes will be a more normal season this next year.

As the club held its annual meeting recently, representatives also reflected on how they had to just make the best of it this past year under the pandemic restrictions which impacted most of their regular activities.

Helping to keep the club members active and engaged was head coach Pam Parker, who was honoured for her efforts with a Beyond The Pond: Dedication Through COVID-19 Skate Canada Manitoba Award.

It recognized her dedication in keeping figure skating going during the pandemic, and Parker was appreciative although reluctant to be thrust into a spotlight.

"I was honoured they thought of me and that they nominated me for it ... but I like to keep a low profile," she said.

It was a challenging year for the club with very little being possible under the code red restrictions in place.

They started with a summer school and then a regular season until November when things got shut down, and they were later briefly back on the ice in a limited capacity before things all came to an end again.

Parker suggested that the skaters were able to gain something from having to approach things in a different way.

"Skating is a lot more than just competing and going to competitions and trying to win a medal," she observed.

"With any sport, I feel there's a lot to be learned from it ... and as a coach, I had to find a way to let them know that even though we are not in an ideal situation, we had to adapt and make the best of it, and there are other ways that we can train.

"We found that there are so many things that we often don't have time to work on because there are only so many hours in a day," she said. "We're able to build our strength, work on our flexibility, practice our jumps off ice.

"I actually feel like they have learned a lot from it," said Parker, who noted they had at least a couple skaters take part in virtual competitions where they do their program and film it then have it submitted to the judging panel.

That was a good example of how the club had to adjust in the past year, agreed president Tasha Roberts.

In addition to virtual competition opportunities, there was off-ice programming, training session at The Rink in Winnipeg, and other multiple COVID-friendly spring sessions.

"They have been awesome at adjusting and accommodating," said Roberts. "Looking back on this past year, we have definitely had to adjust our programming and keep looking at new ways to offer skill development, but together this has been successful season overall.

"Our board continues to be a huge benefit to the club. We have a great group willing to help and pitch in when necessary. I am so thankful for all that they do," said Roberts. "Looking ahead, we are continuing to plan for the upcoming season and excited to have some new board members.

"And our coaches also have been consistently



MORDEN FIGURE SKATING PHOTO

Morden Figure Skating Club coach Pam Parker received an award from Skate Canada Manitoba in recognition of her work with the club through the pandemic.

showing up for our skaters and going above and beyond their regular roles," she said, adding her congratulations to Parker for her "dedication, support, and positive leadership. We are so lucky to have her on our team."

Minor ball optimistic about the season ahead

By Lorne Stelmach

Minor ball organizers in Winkler and Morden are optimistic about the upcoming season.

Registrations have returned to more normal levels again after being impacted last year by the pandemic, and they see the local programs perhaps also benefiting from a new provincial initiative focusing on girls baseball.

Baseball Manitoba is introducing the new development program for girls ages 7-13 in Winnipeg, Brandon, and Morden this spring with the goal to develop and improve a baseball skill-set while giving players an opportunity to grow and develop in a fun, all-

girls setting under the leadership of senior women's team members.

"In Winkler, we do have a few girls who choose to play baseball. We have a couple girls in our baseball program who have had great success," noted Matt Friesen, president of Winkler Minor Ball. "It's definitely something that gives more of an option for those who want to do it. The more options you have out there, the better."

"It's another opportunity for girls to get out and participate, whether it's softball or baseball, we want to see them out there," said Brent Laverty, vice-president of Morden Minor Ball. "We've got a strong softball program ... I think it's a great thing to bring to

Morden and try out."

In Winkler, league registrations recently closed. There were 411 signed up ranging from five-year-olds up to Grade 12. Friesen feels that's a good number after 2020 being a down year because of the level of uncertainty.

"We dropped a lot last year, but on average for us would be anywhere between 400 and 450," he said. "Baseball last year was a bit of a different situation with no tournaments and no provincials ... but it was still good to get out and do something. I think people and families are really excited and hopeful that something will be able to be 'normal.'"

"If any sport is the easiest one to be

COVID friendly, it would be baseball just because of the natural distancing that happens and the fact that it's outdoors," Friesen continued. "Right now, we're very optimistic that there is going to be a season. We've been in steady contact with Baseball Manitoba and Softball Manitoba.

"With what we were able to do last year in having a season, both organizations feel the sport should be able to function at a fairly normal capacity."

In Morden, Laverty was also seeing this season as a bounce back year for the program.

At the close of registrations, there

Continued on page 25

Stony Mountain hosts successful disc golf tournament

By Brian Bowman

There were plenty of discs flying around Stony Mountain's Old Quarry Park last Saturday.

Disc Golf Manitoba hosted its first sanctioned tournament of the season there and it was a huge success.

The tournament had to limit the number of competitors to 54.

"The registration for the event filled up in about 20 minutes," said West St. Paul's Daniel Edinborough. "Lots of people weren't able to play that wanted to."

There were just as many spectators from the disc golf community and the local area that came out to watch the event.

The sport is similar to traditional golf except it's played with a disc.

Instead of hitting the ball into a hole, players throw a disc into a supported metal basket with the goal of completing the course in the fewest number of shots.

Leagues in Winnipeg started this week and the popularity of the sport is going through the roof worldwide.

"In the last few years, it has really exploded," Edinborough noted. "Most courses are free so it's really family

friendly and you're not breaking the bank."

For Winkler's Eric Giesbrecht, disc golf is a great sport to play.

"Back in 2014, my parents heard there was, at that time, frisbee golf and they took me and my siblings out to play and eventually I found myself into disc golf and I kind of got into it from there on the fly and I was hooked," he said.

Giesbrecht said more courses are definitely needed in Manitoba, especially in Winnipeg. He really enjoyed the many challenges that the Stony Mountain course offered.

"It was definitely unique," he said. "I've never played on a terrain like that. Everything is stone, everything is rock, gravel, so it was just different. But the course is really fun with a lot of unique holes. It's definitely something that a lot of Manitobans have not played before. It was cool to have the unique setting."

Giesbrecht invited disc golf players to check out the courses in the Winkler and Morden area.

"People should come play down here in Winkler/Morden," he said. "We have two nine-basket courses here in Winkler and then Stanley Park, south



PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER/VOICE

Winkler's Eric Giesbrecht throws a disc during last Saturday's disc golf tournament in Stony Mountain.

of Morden, is a beautiful 18-basket course that has gone through a lot of change over the last year. We made it a full 18-hole course so you can come

play. It's a great time and a beautiful park. People should come check it out down here."

Manitoba Soccer Association kicks out fans this season

By Voice staff

The good news is that there will be a soccer season this summer.

The bad news is that no fans will get to see it.

The Manitoba Soccer Association last week announced that it is banning all spectators from the sidelines at any youth or senior practice, exhibition, or league game.

For mini soccer players (ages three to eight) a parent will be allowed to attend but must participate on the field with the player.

Leagues can start exhibition games immediately, with the outdoor competitive season beginning this Saturday.

Current public health orders have a 10-person outdoor gathering maximum but the province says if people are playing a game, more than 10 people may be involved, including play-

ers, coaches, and others who may be helping with the game from the sidelines.

The Manitoba Soccer Association said it reviews their Return to Play protocols as new public health or-

ders are released from the provincial health authorities. The current restrictions are in effect until May 12, 2021, at which time the new restrictions will once again be reviewed with their Return to Play.

"It is our hope that the pandemic situation improves and that the health orders increase the number of persons allowed at gatherings so that we may consider the return of spectators to games," read a statement.

> MINOR BALL, FROM PG. 24

were around 200 boys and 80 girls signed up as well as 77 kids for tee and toss ball.

Tee Ball is for players aged five and six, while toss ball is for seven-year-olds. For baseball, the divisions include 11U, 13U, 15U and 18U, while softball for girls ages 7-19 includes U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U19.

"Our numbers were down a bit last year, so there was that cautious optimism that people would come back this year," said Laverty. "I think overall we're pretty happy with our num-

bers. They seem to have returned to the levels they were pre-COVID ... our numbers are good through all age categories."

The season will look similar to last year, running May through July.

Laverty agreed that baseball is ideally suited to move forward and work well under whatever restrictions that would be necessary.

"We've been following the restrictions ... it's going to look pretty similar to last year with sanitizing equipment and social distancing ... so

we're really hoping the ball season is going to be able to move forward and everybody is gearing up now with the weather being nicer."

"Being outside and in the fresh air definitely helps us and having large spaces ... there will be some restrictions on spectators and such ... but it's the ideal sport under the circumstances," he said. "It just seems that everyone's excited to start and get going and allow the kids to get back into some sort of organized team activity and have fun."

Winkler Meats part of workforce COVID screening

By Lorne Stelmach

A local company is playing a role in the province's COVID-19 screening strategy.

Winkler Meats began a workforce screening program April 12 as part of the Manitoba government's rapid testing screening plan.

The provincial strategy is aimed at supporting businesses and critical service providers by helping to limit the spread of COVID-19 through early detection.

Company officials declined to comment on their involvement, but Health Minister Heather Stefanson last week lauded her government's partnerships with small business, industry, and critical services sectors for helping limit the spread of COVID-19.

"We are partnering with Manitoba businesses and critical services to make the best use of our rapid test

supply with the goal of identifying asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 in the workplace and other critical settings that would otherwise go undetected," Stefanson said in a news release. "This rapid test program will help us protect more Manitobans as we deal with a rise in COVID-19 cases."

This program builds on the current Fast Pass asymptomatic rapid testing in place for teachers and education workers.

Rapid testing using an antigen-based test is already in place for asymptomatic staff at select personal care homes in Manitoba, and the expanded strategy will focus primarily on providing rapid tests to targeted industries and critical service providers in non-health care settings.

It focuses on organizations that can self-administer a sustainable asymptomatic screening program and whose specific setting may benefit

from routine testing because of their geographical location, potential supply chain, community or population impacts, transportation or living arrangements, or who have a workforce that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Partner organizations will be responsible for administering the tests and tracking and reporting results to the province, which has distributed a three-month supply of rapid tests to participating organizations and is providing training and other resources to support launch of the program.

The majority of sites will use nasal swabs, which can be administered by non-health care professionals. Red River College is supporting the project by offering participants a two-hour virtual training module on nasal swabbing and how to conduct a rapid test.

The initial rollout included a num-

ber of organizations from a cross-segment of Manitoba sectors including not only Winkler Meats but also the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Manitoba's Wildfire Service, mining operation Alamos Gold, and Air Canada.

The program may expand to other industries or look to implement other delivery models such as pop-up screening clinics at a later date.

Meanwhile, Manitoba also launched a second Fast Pass site in Winkler April 12 that expands access to rapid testing for school-based and child-care staff.

"As we continue to immunize and protect more Manitobans, this rapid testing program can help screen even those who have been immunized to provide assurances to workforces and their employees," said Stefanson.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Classic Cheese Bouquet

that fits inside vase. If using bouquet paper, use base at least 3 inches across and 4 inches high.

Wrap floral block in plastic wrap to keep from touching items in bouquet; place inside vase. If using bouquet paper, place wrapped floral block in mug to keep from falling over.

Use various cookie cutters to prepare cheeses as flowers.

To create salumi roses, lay out 4-5 slices salumi overlapping one another. Fold row in half and roll into rose bud, securing with u-shaped toothpick. Place on skewer, add herb leaves and use floral tape to secure ends of toothpick to skewer. Repeat.

Skewer cheeses, salumi roses, goldenberries, lemonquats, mini apples and mini artichokes.

To assemble, start in center with larger items. Use shorter skewers or toothpicks to secure smaller items closer to edges.

Use rosemary, bay leaves and wax flowers to fill gaps in back of bouquet.

To wrap: Once finished, gently lay block with skewers on top of paper, wrap and secure with tape and ribbon.



Craft courtesy of Jessica Lawrenz (@mongermoldandmilk)

Real California White Cheddar
Real California Smoked Jalapeno Cheddar
Real California Brie Cheese
Salumi or Salami (thinly sliced)
Lemonquats
Mini apples
Fresh figs
Green grapes
Goldenberries
Dried apricots
Mini artichokes
Rosemary
Bay leaves
Olive leaves
Wax flowers
Tools:
Knife
Floral foam block
Plastic wrap

California Bounty Cheese Bouquet

Vase or bouquet paper
Flower cookie cutters (various sizes)
U-shaped toothpicks
Wooden skewers
Toothpicks
Floral tape
Ribbon or twine

Using knife, cut floral block into shape that fits inside vase. If using bouquet paper, use base at least 3 inches across and 4 inches high.

Wrap floral block in plastic wrap to keep from touching items in bouquet; place inside vase. If using bouquet paper, place wrapped floral block in mug to keep from falling over.

Use various cookie cutters to prepare cheeses as flowers.

To create salumi roses, lay out 4-5 slices salumi overlapping one another. Fold row in half and roll into rose bud, securing with u-shaped toothpick. Place on skewer, add herb leaves and use floral tape to secure ends of toothpick to skewer. Repeat.

Skewer cheeses, salumi roses, lemonquats, mini apples, fresh figs, green grapes, goldenberries, dried apricots and mini artichokes.

To assemble, start in center with larger items. Use shorter skewers or toothpicks to secure smaller items closer to edges.

Use rosemary, bay leaves, olive leaves and wax flowers to fill gaps in back of bouquet.

To wrap: Once finished, gently lay block with skewers on top of paper, wrap and secure with tape and ribbon.

Craft courtesy of Jessica Lawrenz (@mongermoldandmilk)
Real California White Cheddar Cheese
Real California Brie Cheese
Salumi or Salami (thinly sliced)
Goldenberries
Lemonquats
Mini apples
Mini artichokes
Rosemary
Bay leaves
Wax flowers
Tools:
Knife
Floral foam block
Plastic wrap
Vase or bouquet paper
Flower cookie cutters (various sizes)
U-shaped toothpicks
Wooden skewers
Toothpicks
Floral tape
Ribbon or twine
Using knife, cut floral block into shape

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The Winkler Morden
Voice
CALL: 325-6888

HEALTH

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

LIVESTOCK

Rainbow Trout Fingerlings for private pond stocking. Available now. For more information call 204-322-5558 or email: info@watersongfarms.com

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CAREERS



La Division scolaire Border Land invite les candidatures pour combler le poste
D'ENSEIGNANT(E) EN IMMERSION FRANÇAISE (1.0 ETP)

a l'école Parkside School à Altona, MB

POUR DE PLUS AMPLES RENSEIGNEMENTS VISITEZ : WWW.BLSD.CA



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Portage la Prairie District Office
B18-25 Tupper Street N



EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PEMBINA VALLEY WATERSHED DISTRICT

SEASONAL JOB OPPORTUNITY

TERM: May - August 2021 (40 hours per week)

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

REQUIREMENTS:

- Physically fit and able to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Be between 16-29 years of age
- Have a valid drivers license and access to a vehicle (mileage to be reimbursed)
- Be able to start work in early May
- Be self-motivated and have the ability to work independently
- Experience with operation of quad, various mowers, trimmers and GIS an asset
- Good oral communication skills are necessary
- Must meet the requirements as specified under the federal "Canada Summer Jobs" and "Hometown Green Team" Programs.

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

Application Deadline: Monday, May 10th, 2021
PVWD would like to thank all applicants, however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

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

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CAREERS



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

TERM SENIOR YEARS SCIENCE TEACHER (0.75 FTE)

FOR W.C. MILLER COLLEGIATE
IN ALTONA, MB

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CAREERS



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

TERM GRADE 7/8 CLASSROOM TEACHER (0.4 FTE)

FOR ÉCOLE PARKSIDE SCHOOL
IN ALTONA, MB

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CAREERS



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

TERM FRENCH IMMERSION TEACHER (1.0 FTE)

FOR ÉCOLE PARKSIDE SCHOOL
IN ALTONA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

PUBLIC NOTICE



**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF THOMPSON
PUBLIC NOTICE
2021 FINANCIAL PLAN**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of the Municipal Act that Council for the Rural Municipality of Thompson intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2021 at a public hearing located at:

**Miami Civic Centre
530 Norton Avenue
Miami, MB**

Thursday May 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Council will hear any person who wishes to make representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan. Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available for upon request, via e-mail or telephone.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions all persons wishing to attend must contact our office in advance.

**Dallas Braun, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
RM of Thompson**

info@rmofthompson.com
204-435-2114

Classifieds

The Winkler Morden
VoiceBook Your Classified Ad Today - Call 325-6888 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca**SENIOR RENTALS****Oak West Estates**

in Morden has **1 bdrm with den suites available**. Everything is on one level, indoor heated parking is available, common rooms for socializing and gatherings (when safe), lunches are available 5 days per week. Suites are spacious with open concept, walk-in pantry, utility room is ready for you to bring your own washer and dryer, fridge, stove and dishwasher are provided. All suites have an outside entrance and are connected inside through common hallways. All suites have a patio and a small flower bed. Rent includes maintenance, snow removal, yard care, and all utilities. **Call or e mail Cindy at 204-362-7151 or cindyek@mts.net.**

SENIOR RENTALS**Garden Park Estates in Winkler has suites available.**

Everything is on one level, indoor heated parking is available, common rooms for socializing and gatherings (when safe), lunches are available 5 days per week, hairdresser salon is in the building. Suites are spacious with open concept, walk-in pantry, utility room is ready for you to bring your own washer and dryer, fridge, stove and dishwasher are provided. All suites have an outside entrance and are connected inside through common hallways. All suites have a patio and a small flower bed. Rent includes maintenance, snow removal, yard care, and all utilities. **Call or email Cindy at 204-362-7151 or cindyek@mts.net.**

SENIOR CONDO**CONDO FOR RENT**

860 sq ft downtown Morden, primarily seniors block. 1 bed, 1 bath, spacious layout. Security entrance, heated parking, 6 appliances. \$850/mo plus condo fees.

Michelle
204-312-0664

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- GRADUATIONS

CALL: 204-325-6888

The Winkler Morden
Voice

take a break

> GAMES

SUDOKU

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

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!

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!

Level: Intermediate

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer



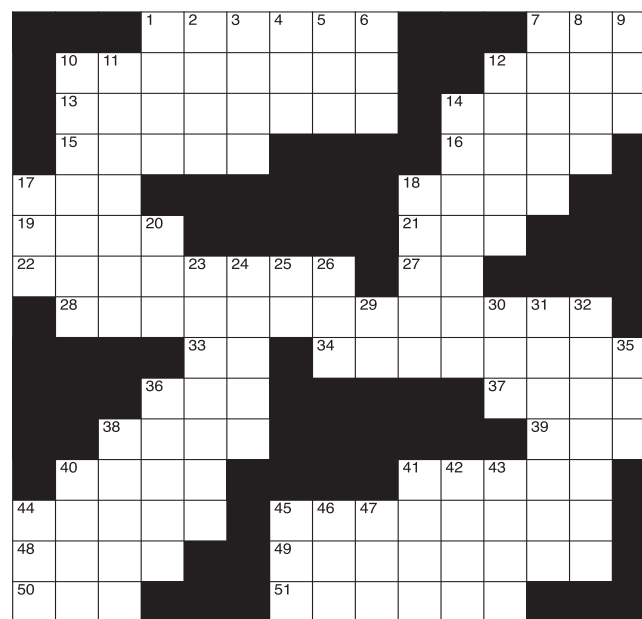
CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Switches
- Legal financial term (abbr.)
- Sweeties
- Competition
- Measures electrical resistance
- Psychotherapy researcher
- Causes injury to
- Open
- Polish peninsula
- Hebrew calendar month
- Whale ship captain
- Children's accessory
- Unknown point
- Exists
- Extremely confident
- Expression of disgust
- The government has many
- Small constellation
- Northern Indian city
- The best pitchers
- Naturally occurring solid
- Apple computers
- Portuguese city
- Ancient Greek war dance
- More reliable
- Sailboat
- Newspapers
- Frequently flooded area
- They dig for coal

CLUES DOWN

- Partial
- "Mad Men" leading man
- The ___ of March
- Healthy
- Where golfers begin
- Soviet Socialist Republic



- Of the cheek
- Injury reminder
- Statesman Franklin
- For an unknown reason
- Brain parts
- Islamic calendar month
- Avenue where ad men work
- Possesses
- Accept
- Stake
- Former British PM May
- US battleships circa 1939
- Greek alphabet letter
- When you hope to get there
- Top lawyer
- Fiddler crabs
- Intolerant
- Persons that cause extreme fear
- Car mechanics group
- Capital of Ghana
- Famed ballplayer Hank
- Emphasizes insignificance
- Light-colored
- Distinctive smell
- Muckraking journalist Jacob
- Sunscreen rating
- Short-term memory
- Japanese delicacy
- One point north of due east

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Classifieds

The Winkler Morden Voice

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or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

COMMERCIAL SPACE

3600 SQ. FT. OF COMMERCIAL SPACE IN MORDEN

across from the new McDonald's location. Lots of front windows, washrooms and 2 entrances, back lane access with back door for loading. Call Brian at 204-362-0745 to see and for more info.

HOUSE FOR SALE

HOME FOR SALE In Roland, MB.



Brand new in fall of 2020, 1368 sq. ft. two story home, attached single garage, partially finished basement, ICF Foundation, fully fenced back yard, Two master suites upstairs, each with walk in closets and full double sink ensuites, 1/2 bath on main floor, partially landscaped yard. **Offered at \$264,900.00.**

Offers close Mon. May 10, 7 PM.

Please contact 204-406-8966 for showings.

CAREERS



NOW HIRING

Boyne Lodge in Carman is now accepting applications for the following positions:

Food Services Manager
Cook Level 1
Cook Level 2
Cook Level 3

It is important that you indicate which position(s) you are applying for and expected wage range in your cover letter.

Resumes with references will be accepted by email only to: tyler@townofcarman.com by May 6, 2021

Only successful applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

CAREERS



Office Manager

Winkler Campus

Applicants are to clearly demonstrate how they satisfy the selection criteria in their written submissions and must identify the competition number they are applying for in the subject line of the email.

This competition may be used to establish a 12 month eligibility list of qualified candidates for future vacancies.

DUTIES

The Office Manager plays a key role in ensuring the efficient functioning of the administrative operation of the RRC Winkler Campus and will report to the Regional Campus Manager.

The Office Manager will supervise the activities of administrative staff, managing the schedule and workloads, and providing guidance in enrolment services functions such as student information systems, program admission requirements, student registration, tuition payment and invoicing processes. The Office Manager will assist with financial administration tasks (payroll, Invoices, etc.), reporting and monitoring of operating expenses, manage purchases and contribute to the Academic, Research and Strategic plan for the College and Winkler Campus. The office manager will assist in the creation of the instruction schedules for the full-time programs, the administration of the employment agreements for instructors, and the scheduling of Continuing Education courses. The Office Manager will be responsible for the facility security (keys, codes), safety and emergency incident reports, management of office assets maintenance and repair (furniture, minor repairs, etc.) and assist staff with technology troubleshooting.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Post-secondary diploma in Business, Administration, or Management. An equivalent combination of relevant education, training and experience will be considered.
- Experience in general office management and administrative operations
- Supervisory experience in a diverse work environment
- Extensive Customer Service experience
- Experience with the Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Experience working independently, including taking initiative and making on the spot decisions
- Experience working as part of a team, including collaboration and providing supports
- Ability to multi-task, work under pressure and meet deadlines in an organized manner
- Effective analytical and problem-solving skills
- Effective conflict resolution skills
- Effective oral communication skills, including giving presentations
- Effective written communication skills, including reports and correspondence
- Excellent leadership skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of FIPPA and PHIA
- Values Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Commitment to lifelong learning

ASSETS

- Experience with the student enrolment service function at the post-secondary level
- Experience supervising in a unionized environment

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

- Applicants must be legally entitled to work in Canada
- This position may be required to work evenings and/or weekends
- Incumbent must provide a current and satisfactory Criminal Records Check
- This position may be required to travel

Red River College is committed to providing accessible employment, and ensuring that our recruitment, assessment and selection process is barrier free. If a candidate requires accommodation during the hiring process, Human Resources Services will work with the individual to meet their needs. We thank all applicants for their interest, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. For more information and other employment opportunities, visit rrc.ca/hr

COMPETITION NUMBER

2021-052

CLOSING DATE

May 5, 2021

SALARY

\$52,465 - \$71,851 per annum

POSITION LOCATION

Winkler Campus
(120km outside of Winnipeg, MB)

POSITION TYPE

Full-Time Position Available

APPLY BY EMAIL TO

humanresources@rrc.ca

Red River College is a leader in applied learning and innovation. Our talented team of employees is passionate about education, innovation and student success. We offer competitive salaries, extensive benefits and the opportunity for personal and professional growth in a rewarding career.

At Red River College we are committed to fostering an inclusive environment, where all employees and students feel valued, respected and supported. The College seeks to increase diversity among its community members and welcomes applications from women, Indigenous persons, racialized persons, persons with disabilities, persons of all sexual and gender identities and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.



2055 Notre Dame Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3H 0J9

rrc.ca

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

CAREERS

Join our Pet Expert team!

Our new Winkler location is in need of:

- TEAM LEADER
- PET GROOMER

YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR RESUME TO JOBS@BESTWEST.CA


FOR COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION, SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT WWW.BESTWEST.CA/CONTENT/OTHER/CAREERS/

Best West Pet Foods is a pet specialty retailer of pet foods and pet supplies with stores located in Manitoba and Northern Ontario established in 1981.

BEST WEST PET FOODS
Your friendly neighbourhood Pet Experts



CAREERS



Walinga Inc. in Carman, Manitoba is looking for flexible, enthusiastic, reliable, team players to fill the following positions:

CNC Machinist

- Red Seal Certification is required
- Minimum 1 year experience preferred

CNC Machine Operators

- Some experience operating CNC or Manual machines is considered an asset.
- Ability to read and understand drawings.
- Willing to train the right candidate.

Service - Trailer Technician

- Experience with semi trailer repairs is considered an asset.
- Steel and/or aluminum welding experience preferred but not mandatory.
- Ability to read and understand drawings.
- Willing to train the right candidate.

General Labourer

- Assist in day to day activities.
- Welding experience is an asset but not mandatory.
- Must be able to lift 50lbs and work outdoors when required.
- Be able to do repetitive tasks as required.

Walinga offers modern machinery, competitive wages, full health benefits, company pension, and a great work environment. Apprenticeship programs are available for the pursuit of Red Seal Certification in the trades listed above.


If you are looking for a rewarding career in any of these areas or would like to share a resume please contact Ray Beukema at 204-745-2951 (ext 440) or email him at ray.beukema@walinga.com

We thank all applicants for their interest, but only those considered for an interview will be contacted.

Classifieds Announcements

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

PUBLIC NOTICE



UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY BY-LAW 15-21
Being an AMENDMENT to the R.M. OF STANLEY ZONING BY-LAW 8-18, AS AMENDED.

HEARING LOCATION: R.M. of Stanley Council Chambers
1-23111 PTH14, SW 7-3-4W

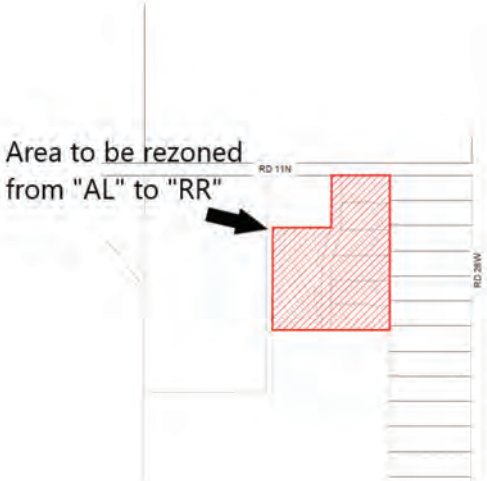
DATE & TIME: May 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

GENERAL INTENT: TO RE-ZONE PARCELS OF LAND IN THE RM OF STANLEY TO ALLOW FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

FROM: "AL" AGRICULTURAL LIMITED

TO: "RR" RURAL RESIDENTIAL

AREA: PART OF LOT 2, PLAN 50895 WITHIN NE 29-2-5W



Area to be rezoned from "AL" to "RR"

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

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

****Please note: If you wish to provide comments regarding the application we ask that you consider submitting your comments in writing to our office by email or mail (drop off box also located at the office). Due to limited seating, if you wish to be present at the hearing we will require you to contact our office a minimum of 2 business days prior to the scheduled hearing so that we can ensure we can meet the physical distancing requirements. Anyone attending the office will be required to wear a face mask. If you wish to participate in the hearing electronically, please contact mgroening@rmofstanley.ca or call 204-325-4101. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the many text/messages/calls, cards, flowers and food sent to our family after the passing of our mom, grandma, great-grandma, Doreen Treichel. Thanks to the doctors and nurses at Boundary Trails Hospital.

A special thank you to the staff at the Manitou Personal Care Home. Although Mom's stay there was short, you made her feel welcome and well cared for.

-Ken and Lorie, Brian and Chris, Barry and Ellen, and families

ANNIVERSARY



Hard-top Pete and Margaret
50 years together
Our wonderful family around us
We're so "Blessed"
April 30, 1971

IN MEMORIAM



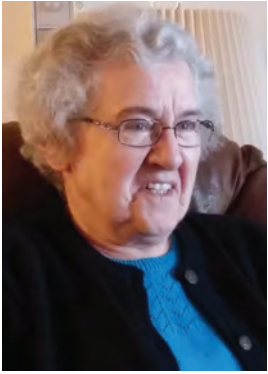
In Loving Memory
of Lyle Meeks
who left us on April 30, 2018
Partings come and hearts are broken,
Loved ones go with words unspoken.
Deep in our hearts there are memories kept,
For a husband and father we will never forget.
-We miss you,
Leona Meeks and family

Remember Your Loved Ones with an Announcement in the

The Winkler Morden Voice

Call 204-325-6888 or ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

OBITUARY



Lena Neufeld (nee Penner) 1927 - 2021

Lena Neufeld was born on July 13, 1927, enroute from Russia to Canada, the fourth child in the Henry and Lena Penner family that would eventually welcome 12 children – six boys and six girls. Her family's first home was in southeastern Saskatchewan, near Weyburn. She grew up during the Depression. That gave her a lifelong unwillingness to ever waste anything. It also made her very grateful for her very hard-working parents. "We never knew that we were poor," she said. "We were well fed, well clothed and well cared for." In Mom's mind, one of the greatest privileges of her life was her education – her opportunity to complete high school at Rosthern Junior College in Rosthern, Saskatchewan, and then to attend Manitoba Normal School in Winnipeg to get her teacher's

training. She loved her five years of teaching, her first years teaching all eight or nine grades in a one-room school, finally teaching grade two and three in Brandon.

When she met Dad and they were married – almost on her birthday – July 12, 1952, she gave up teaching and took on the role of a farmer's wife and, quite soon, as a mother of two children, a girl and a boy. "What more could you ask for?" she would say. Two was the perfect number for her. She worked very hard alongside Dad. She helped in the barn and in the field until we as children were able to help. Even then she often lent a hand when needed. She had a large garden, pickling and preserving, cooking and baking to provide for her family. And she invested in us, her children. She would help us with our spelling, and reading homework, even helping with French, which she did not speak. We corrected her pronunciation and then spelled the word in French.

Mom had very good health until the last few years, spending much of her last three months in the hospital. She passed away peacefully in her sleep into her forever home in heaven with her heavenly Father the morning of Monday, April 19, 2021.

Left to remember her are her daughter, Lorna Jacobson (Tim); her son, Gerald Neufeld (Bev); grandchildren, Heather (Elias) with Caleb, Sophia, and Lucas, Bethany (Jason) with Grant, Nathan (Allison) with Liam and Isla, Juanita (Lukas) with Anthony, Aimee, and Annabelle, Jonathan (Kelly) with Elise and Annora, Kevin (Kristina) with Sienna and Everly, and Timothy (Alyson). She also leaves to remember her one older sister, three brothers, and several sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

Special thanks to Dr. Klassen and the nursing staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Donations may be made in Lena's memory to SIM Canada 10 Huntingdale Blvd. Scarborough, ON M1W 2S5.

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



Classifieds The Winkler Morden Voice Announcements

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OBITUARY

John (Jack) Zacharias



John (Jack) Zacharias, born and raised in the Winkler area, passed away on March 18, 2021 in the Riverview Health Centre in Winnipeg. Left to mourn, are his beloved wife Gloria, sons Jeff and Scott and their families.

After having experienced a difficult life in younger years, due to a father having tuberculosis and a mother passing away at an early age, he decided to choose a career in the RCMP. This profession took him to postings all over Manitoba and Ottawa with career advancements leading to his becoming the RCMP Liaison Officer for Canada in Bern, Switzerland and Bonn, Germany. His service overseas led him to arrange security for many Prime Ministers and dignitaries. At the time of his retirement at age of 53, he had achieved the rank of Inspector, an exceptional accomplishment.

John spent many years volunteering at the Morden Corn & Apple Festival, cooking corn and enjoying visits with friends and relatives.

He and Gloria enjoyed returning to southern Manitoba to buy farmer sausage and Kroeker potatoes and then have lunch with his sisters.

For many years he loved to help with harvest time on his brothers-in-law and nephews' farms near Morden and Plum Coulee.

His surviving sisters are thankful and proud to have had a much-loved brother who had great career achievements and concerns for their well-being.

He is survived by sisters Anne Giesbrecht (Jake), Jessie Dyck (Hugh deceased), Esther Rothenburger (Norman) and their families in Morden and Winkler area.

John was predeceased by his brother Dr. Abe Zacharias in December of 2020. These two brothers came from very humble beginnings in Winkler, in spite of which both achieved optimum success in their careers. These were two Winkler native sons of whom their former community should be very proud. Well done, you have earned your rest in peace.

CAREER



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are currently looking for a
motivated individual to fill a
CROP PRODUCTION ADVISOR
position at our Carman location

Duties Include:

- Responsible for meeting and exceeding annual sales goals and profit margin objectives as set by branch management
- Implement on-farm based sales strategy to promote Nutrien Ag Solutions' products and services
- Maintain and analyze a database/record of customer profiles (product usage and service requirements) in order to identify, categorize, and prioritize customer base
- Develop and maintain effective business relations with current and potential future customers, based upon an approach that targeting customer with whom the company can profitable to do business
- Provide timely service as well as agronomic information and advice to current and potential customers
- Arrange for access to specialists where necessary to bring mutual benefit to the customer and the organization
- Arrange for customer learning opportunities that provide incremental value
- Keep informed of competitor activities within the market area and recommends marketing program and service revisions
- Review customer accounts to ensure that payments are within the approved credit policy and performs collection functions as required
- Monitor competitive activity and trends
- Keep records and prepare reports on sales activities
- Interpret soil, tissue and water analysis
- Initiate trials that will support marketing efforts
- Research and respond to technical inquiries

Skills required:

- Strong time management, planning and multi-tasking skills
- Excellent communication and people skills, both written and oral
- Strong computer skills including all Microsoft applications (Word, Excel, and Outlook)
- Ability to work independently or as a part of an effective team
- Conducts themselves in a professional manner, and ability to keep confidential information
- Agronomy background or farm background would be an asset
- Previous sales experience

Interested applicants should send their resume in confidence directly to:

Nutrien Ag Solutions Carman
Attention: Graham McIntosh, Branch Manager
PH: 204-745-3939
Email: Graham.McIntosh@nutrien.com

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