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On the catwalk for SCCR

South Central Cancer Resource celebrated the return of its fundraising fashion show last week. For the full story, see Pg. 11.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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Summer closure of 8th St. draws the ire of Morden business owners

By Lorne Stelmach

A City of Morden decision to close off a half-block section of the downtown on a trial basis this summer drew some mixed reaction this week.

It is touted by proponents as a way to create a community space for programs and events and to draw people downtown, but some merchants and property owners in the area question the benefits as well as how the decision was reached.

"It's an idea to bring a community space to downtown Morden," Mayor Brandon Burley said of the decision made at a special meeting of council last Friday to close off Eighth Street between Stephen St. and the back lane to the south temporarily into September. "We're trying to get people to appreciate the downtown core and to want to be down there."

But the idea isn't sitting well with some.

"Of all the streets, the street that needs to have a traffic light ... there's obviously a light there for a reason," said Shawna Howard, who together with husband Scott own and operate the Eighth Street marketplace building.

"We're not opposed to the idea. The

idea could be something amazing for the community, but the location has to make sense. You can't cut off a main route or main artery of the town and think that's going to help ... it's going to impede things."

"There should have been some consultation. There was none that I know of," said Marilyn Skubovius, who owns Stephen Street Wear. "This seems to come out of the blue with no discussion, and I think it will have an impact."

Closing off that particular block of Eighth St. is an idea that has been discussed a number of times over the years, as it is seen as a focal point of the downtown and is already used for the weekly farmers market and Suncatch Sounds concerts from May to September.

Burley stressed it is being done on a limited trial basis to see if it works. He said they see possibilities for a range of programs and events through the summer to help draw people to the area, and businesses such as food trucks could utilize the space as well.

"It has the opportunity for it to be less intrusive in evenings than other community spaces might be," suggested Burley.

"We'll see how it goes and what



kind of uptake there is," he continued. "It's pretty low risk, as it is just for one summer, and we'll see what the payoff is and then making a determination for subsequent years."

Burley acknowledged some people are questioning the idea, or at least the location for it.

"Those are concerns that we have been made aware of ... and those concerns can largely be alleviated, and I think there is some misunderstanding about the permanency of this," he said.

"There has been some engagement with different members of the chamber, and I know discussions have been had with their executive over this," the mayor added. "When it comes to business concerns, we are consulting

with the chamber."

The lack of direct consultation with specific storefronts most affected by the decision is a source of frustration for business owners like Skubovius.

"There was no notice given to businesses or people in the area, and I didn't even know what they are actually doing," she said. "What are they trying to accomplish?"

"Did they do a traffic count? There's a lot of people who stop at the post office for parcels and things," she said. "I could see people getting frustrated, and for what benefit?"

"There is through traffic that is going to be impacted," she continued. "As it is, our parking is limited. They should do an inventory of the parking."

"It seems to me there's been no consultation and planning. This isn't something businesses have been asking for that I know of."

"It seemed like a bit of a back door deal, and we had heard nothing about it," echoed Howard. "Being a major taxpayer, we felt like our concerns should matter ... it was quite surprising to us."

"Downtown is already pretty busy, and it's already a bit of an effort to have parking for patrons," she added. "You've got patrons and business owners and their workforce—where are they going to go, and where are they going to park?"

"And the traffic flow is huge; where is it going to funnel?" she continued. "They'll be funneled down the back alley, and is that feasible? It's a back alley."

"We can try it for ourselves and see what the net benefit may be," said Burley in response to concerns. "We will see what the return is on it over the summer."

"If there is no appetite from the community for it, or if we just can't make use of it ... those are things we will be able to see and then weigh it for next year."

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Branden Leslie wins Conservative nomination for Portage-Lisgar

By Lorne Stelmach

A former campaign manager for Candice Bergen is now seeking to take her place as the Member of Parliament for the Portage-Lisgar constituency.

Branden Leslie earned the federal Conservative party nomination for the riding last weekend after two days of speeches and voting in Portage la Prairie Friday and Winkler Saturday.

Leslie came out on top over former Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen, former Winnipeg MP Lawrence Toet, and Winkler's Don Cruickshank.

Leslie said on Monday that he is very grateful for the vote of confidence.

"It feels fantastic to have gained the confidence of Conservative Party members across the riding, and it's a very humbling feeling and a sense of responsibility that's been placed on my shoulders."

Leslie felt he earned the support for his stance on such key issues as the carbon tax and gun control measures and the various impacts on the rural way of life. He also felt a lot of hard

work and conversations with a lot of people about their many frustrations with the current federal government paid off for him as party members headed to the polls.

"I would say focusing on what I know are the priorities of folks across the riding" is what resonated with voters, Leslie said.

"I've got a pretty deep understanding of both elections and governance and politics itself and of course advocacy, and I think collectively that's going to be important to make sure that we can actually try to advance interests."

Active in the Conservative party for over a decade including his stint with Bergen for the 2019 election, Leslie feels his years of experience fighting for Conservative values and ideas—including having advised several MPs and cabinet ministers—makes him well-suited to represent Portage-Lisgar.

Leslie was raised on a farm south of Portage la Prairie. He attended Portage Collegiate Institute and went on to Brandon University and Carleton University to receive a degree in po-

litical science.

Before announcing his campaign, he was the manager of policy and government relations at the Grain Growers of Canada.

Leslie observed that there are high hopes for the potential for the Conservative party to form government in the next federal election.

"Everybody I talk to across this province and across this riding in particular ... is eagerly awaiting a change in government, and I think the time is right for a change."

The next federal election will take place on or before the fall of 2025.

Bergen, who had represented the riding since 2008, announced her retirement from politics in February.

As a result, a by-election for Portage-Lisgar must be held by Oct. 17, though it could take place earlier.

The Portage-Lisgar seat has been held by the Conservatives ever since the riding was created in 1997, but Leslie says that doesn't mean he won't have to work to keep it that way.

"We need to make sure we take nothing for granted ... and work hard for every single vote across the riding,"



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Branden Leslie will represent the Conservative Party of Canada in the Portage-Lisgar by-election this year.

he said. "It's time for renewal on both the provincial and the federal level ... there's going to be a lot of fresh faces, and I look at it as a real opportunity for us to sit down together early, discuss the priorities."

Winkler chamber puts call out for business award nominations

By Ashleigh Viveiros

If there's a local business who has wowed you with their customer service, community involvement, or growth, now's the chance to single them out.

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce has put a call out for nominations for the 2023 P.W. Enns Business Awards. The deadline is May 31.

"We're already off to a good start. We have nominations for businesses that have never been nominated before, so we're really excited about that," shares chamber executive director Tanya Chateaufeuf.

Many nominations come from the business community itself, but Chateaufeuf stresses the process is open to everyone.

"We also want to hear from the community," she says. "Who do you think is deserving of recognition?"

There are five P.W. Enns awards up for grabs: the Business Excellence Award, the Community Builder Award, the Business Builder Award, the Customer Service Award, and the Not for Profit Service Award (this last one is earmarked for a registered local charity, while the others are all for businesses).

Full details of each award are available online at winklerchamber.com/awards-gala. Nominations can also be made online.

Even if a business has won an award in the past, it might qualify for a different award this

time around, Chateaufeuf notes.

"There are some that have definitely won multiple awards," she says. "They might first be nominated for the Community Builder Award and then over the years they build up to the Business Excellence Award ... it's great to see that evolution in a business."

Honouring the commitment and success of local entrepreneurs is what the awards are all about.

"Our business owners are out there working relentlessly and trying hard to fill a need," Chateaufeuf says. "What they do is not just for them, it's for everyone who lives here. So we want to take a second to say thanks for all the ways you contribute to our community. Thanks for the business that you brought

to our community, your investment in our community."

The awards will be handed out at a gala event planned for Nov. 16. A guest speaker announcement is expected in the months ahead. Last year's gala featured former Barenaked Ladies frontman Steven Page.

FUTURE OF MYJC IN DOUBT

While the awards honour the current generation of business leaders, the future of another chamber initiative that aims to foster the next generation is in doubt.

For decades, with funding from the provincial government, the chamber has overseen the Winkler Manitoba Youth Job Centre from its offices in City Hall.

The MYJC helps connect youth with employment over

Continued on page 4

"WHO DO YOU THINK IS DESERVING OF RECOGNITION?"

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Salem hosting fundraising BBQ Wed., May 24

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Salem Foundation and the Salem Ladies Auxiliary are teaming up once again to host a giant barbecue celebration at the Winkler personal care home later this month.

Last year's bash—the first gathering the care home had been able to host in a few years—was a huge hit, raising over \$40,000 in support of major renovations in the home's aging Cottonwood unit.

"Last year it was surprisingly successful," says Salem Home CEO Karin Oliveira. "I think people were so tired of not being able to be together, and this was the first event we could do in person."

"It was a gorgeous day, so people really came out with their lawn chairs to enjoy the night. We guess we had over 600 people attending."

All the proceeds from this year's by-donation supper on Wednesday, May 24 will go to purchase stylish new furniture for all the resident rooms, some of which have had the same night stands, dressers, and chairs for decades. The price tag per room is about \$5,500.

"This is special furniture. It's not something you can just go to any store and purchase," Oliveira says of the high cost of these pieces, explaining they're made to be more resilient and easier to clean—two things quite important in a personal care home setting.

They also have wholly interchangeable parts, making it easier

"EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS ..."



FACEBOOK.COM/THEJANZENBOYS

The Janzen Boys will perform at Salem Home's May 24 by-donation barbecue, which is raising funds to purchase new furniture (right) for its resident rooms.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

to swap out damaged pieces without having to replace the entire thing.

Salem has been fundraising for this furniture for a few years now and they're hoping to complete the project, outfitting every one of their 146 resident rooms with these pieces, in the months ahead.

They've already put in an order for the remaining furniture they need ahead of an announced price increase coming this summer, and now they

need the community's help to recoup those costs.

"Every little bit helps to pay off that investment," Oliveira says. "Any amount, really, but if we could raise around \$70,000 that would be great."

Salem Foundation interim board chair Henry Enns is feeling pretty confident the Pembina Valley will come out to support the care home at this event.

Continued on page 5

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On the hunt for a MYJC youth engagement leader

From Pg. 3

the summer months, provides education on job search skills, and organizes first-work experience programs (the Odd Job Squad) for younger students to dip their foot in the working world.

But so far this year the chamber has been unable to find a university student to fill the position of youth engagement leader to head up the 2023 MYJC.

"I'm just so terribly sad that we're not going to be able to run it because it's all about engaging youth in our community. It's about having fun with youth and giving them valuable work experience," Chateauneuf says,

noting generations of Winklerites have made use of the centre's services over the years.

The position usually runs from early May to mid-August. The chamber is going to keep the job open until June in the hopes someone can be found to launch the centre, even if it's a few weeks later than usual.

Applicants will be given all the training they need to be successful in the job, Chateauneuf notes. The position calls for someone interested in working with youth and making connections with employers in the community.

For more information on the job or to apply, contact Chateauneuf via email at director@winklerchamber.com.

The **Voice**

Get in touch with us at 204-325-6888

Accessibility renos underway in Salem Home front office

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Visitors to Salem Home last week were greeted by a temporary front desk and a whole lot of construction noise going on behind a barricade surrounding the old office area.

Work has begun on installing a new wheelchair accessible front counter, explains CEO Karin Oliveira.

"Eighty per cent of our residents are in a wheelchair and we have a number of residents that do business at the front office," she says, explaining residents often stop by the desk to mail letters or take out money to purchase gifts for their grandchildren or what-not.

The old desktop towered over the eye level of a wheelchair-bound resident, making it difficult for them to comfortably sign paperwork or even just communicate with staff.

"With the counter being so high, it was hard even for the receptionist sitting on the other side to sometimes see the residents who are on the other side," Oliveira says.

The new counter will have a small higher area for walking visitors and a

much longer lower section for wheelchair users.

The project also calls for some rearranging of the office space itself, creating a dedicated room for miscellaneous equipment and supplies.

"It will look a little bit cleaner for when people come in," Oliveira says.

The renos are being funded by the Salem Foundation and are expected to wrap up in six to eight weeks.

Meanwhile, renovations elsewhere in the building are also moving ahead nicely.

Phase two of the resident room upgrades are well underway, Oliveira shares.

In this phase, 10 more rooms on the Cottonwood unit and 10 on Maple North have been gutted so they can be rebuilt to more modern, energy-efficient standards.

"The walls are being rebuilt, so the asbestos is gone," Oliveira says, noting right now they're waiting on the installation of new air handling units. "All the electrical part is newly done, the plumbing is done."

Those renovations are expected to wrap up by year's end.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Salem's old front office desk (above) wasn't very accessible to people in wheelchairs. The new one will look similar to the desk at right, with a lower counter.



Winterfest hosting multicultural dance

By Lorne Stelmach

Spring is cause for celebration, even if you are Morden's Multicultural Winterfest.



The organizers had the idea to host a multicultural dance this month after reflecting on the success of February's Winterfest.

The festival returned this year with a new and expanded format where the annual celebration of the community's cultural diversity was spread out over a half dozen different pavilion locations around Morden rather than the usual one location.

"We had made some changes to the Winterfest event format this year which separated people a little bit," said Shelly Voth, immigration co-ordinator for the City of Morden and a representative of the Winterfest organizing committee. "We were kind of missing some of that all together fun, and [the dance] was an idea we had to do a little something on the side and

VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden's Multicultural Dance May 19 will feature a host of cultural dance leaders teaching everyone all the right steps.

> SALEM BBQ, FROM PG. 4

"We live in a community where we do get that support," he says. "We all get older, and we all want to prepare a place where people can be comfortable in the later part of their lives, where they can still enjoy life and feel they're being taken care of properly. And that's because of the community support."

(Enns further notes the foundation board is always looking for new members—contact Salem for details.)

On the menu for the BBQ will be burgers, hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, and Monster Smartie cookies for dessert.

Providing the musical entertainment for the night will be The

Janzen Boys, who take the stage starting at 5:15 p.m.

The group is a "rootsy, harmony-singing family trio" from Winnipeg made up of John Janzen and his teenage sons Simon and Mick.

There will also be raffle tickets available for a host of prizes, including an outdoor fire pit, homemade quilts, and a Milwaukee Tool set, among others.

Supper will be served on Wednesday, May 24 from 5-7 p.m. at Salem Home's south parking lot (165 15th Street).

Take-out orders are also available by pre-ordering by May 23 at 204-325-4316 or salemfoundation@salemhome.ca.

a little bit later that would bring back that idea of all cultures being together.

"It is a family-friendly event," said Voth, who noted the evening will feature dance leaders and music from around the world.

"There will be music playing the whole time, and a few places for people to sit ... but it will be mostly get up and dance the whole time," she said. "We've had a lot of fun with the dance aspect of the past Winterfests, and I think it will be fun to have people try out different dances and just have a good time together.

"We've got about five or six different people or groups lined up already who will lead a dance or play music

or teach a dance. It will be about 15 or 20 minutes of one type of cultural dance and then we switch to the next."

The dance takes place Friday, May 19 from 7-9 p.m. at the Access Event Centre. It is free to attend, but organizers are asking people to register or pick up tickets so they know how many to expect.

You can find the Morden Multicultural Dance at eventbrite.com or stop in at 133 7th Street to pick up tickets.

"We think it will be something that can just really unite people and bring people together," said Voth.

The Voice

get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

The terrible tale of Lawrence Gowland



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Recently I have been doing some historical research (for fun) on Morden and stumbled across the original court documents of doomed murderer Lawrence (or Laurence, depending on the record) Gowland from his unsuccessful appeal of his conviction.

For those who do not know, Laurence Gowland was the first and only prisoner sentenced to death by hanging and executed in Morden at the courthouse for the murder of 25-year-old Georgina Brown. He was one of 710 people in Canada who have been sentenced to death between 1763 and the abolishment of capital punishment in 1976.

According to court and genealogical documents, Gowland was almost 20 years old when he committed his crime in May of 1907.

He was born in North Allerton, Yorkshire, England in 1887 and came to Canada on the ship Southwark in 1904 at the age of 18 along with 310 other so-called Barnardo Boys. They disembarked in Quebec on route to Toronto.

Barnardo Boys were a project of Irish evangelical Christian Thomas Barnardo who would send “destitute boys”

to Canada to improve their odds at a good life given the labour shortage in Canada at the time. Gowland was listed as an inmate of the District Leeds Union (Industrial School) at the age of 12 in Yorkshire, a Dickensian workhouse where the inmates would spend nine hours a day making shoes.

According to *The Torontoist* magazine: “Once in Canada, the Barnardo children were first sent to distribution centres, until a suitable placement could be found for them. These placements were generally labour-based: a Barnardo child might expect to work on a family farm as an agricultural labourer, or as some other form of domestic servant.”

Gowland was a hired farmhand working for John (Jack) Brown about 5 kilometres from Killarney near Turtle Mountain. After lunch on May 22, Brown left Gowland and his sister Georgina alone. Before he left, Brown’s sister mentioned she would be going to visit their neighbour Mrs. Eggerton but would be back by supper.

According to a May 23, 1907 article in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, Gowland “was considered by those who knew him to be rather intelligent but pos-

essed of a violent temper.”

After a little over an hour Brown returned and first noticed something amiss when he discovered the horses were still stabled, something Gowland was supposed to have seen to. Brown entered his home to discover what can only be described as a horrific and gruesome crime scene where his sister had been savagely murdered and Gowland incapacitated by an attempted suicide. Beyond this the details are too brutal to relate here.

Gowland documented the circumstances in a written confession: “Last Wednesday I was ploughing for oats. About twelve o’clock I came in to dinner and went out and sat on the veranda and John went out to feed the pigs. Georgina called me an English brat. Jack was just going to town. When Jack was away about ten minutes past one, I had my boots and stockings off. I took my razor with me. Georgina was standing at the south window on the floor. I went in and took hold of her and started wrestling with her. She got me down and took the razor from me. I got the razor back and ...”

It was noted in the court documents that on the Sunday prior to the mur-

Continued on page 7



By Peter Cantelon

Letter policy

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

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

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

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Community fdns. launch Pay It Forward May

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Foundation (WCF) and the Morden Area Foundation (MAF) are teaming up once again for a month-long campaign in kindness.

The two agencies kicked off Pay It Forward May 2023 this week by having board members visit various local businesses armed with boxes of gift donuts and a simple message: pass the kindness on.

"We know there's so much kindness that happens year-round in this community, but this is a month for us to really focus on it and encourage others to maybe step up and go a little out of their comfort zone to do something for someone else without expecting anything in return," says Myra Peters, WCF executive director. "We can all see the impact when people are working together, paying it forward in our community and making a difference."

"THE STORIES WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD ARE INSPIRING AND HEARTWARMING."

It doesn't have to be some grand gesture.

"It could be some kind of yard work or sharing some baking or even just a visit. It's about connecting with somebody that maybe you wouldn't otherwise have connected with," Peters says. "What we're hoping is for people to step out and do something for someone that isn't expecting it and just really change their day. You never know what impact that could have on a person."

It can be hard to gauge how many acts of kindness are done during Pay It Forward May—many people are loathe to

toot their own horns—but Peters says they hear stories every year of people paying for the person behind them in line at the drive-thru or checkout or anonymously cleaning up a neighbour's yard. Businesses get in on the action as well, hosting community events or service work projects.

"The stories we have seen and heard



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Area Foundation board members headed out Monday to deliver Pay It Forward May donuts. The Winkler Community Foundation did the same Tuesday.

are inspiring and heartwarming," Peters says, urging people to share those stories with them on social media or by contacting the two foundations directly.

"I know it's not in people's nature to share when they've done a good deed, but we would love if they would share with us so we can share and inspire others," stresses MAF coordinator Lynda Lambert.

"It's always good when you hear of other good things that are going on.

"Even if it's not you—you heard about it, you witnessed it ... we don't have to mention any names, just highlight the act of kindness."

You can check out the WCF and MAF social media accounts for more stories of how the two communities are paying it forward all through the month.

Morden Fire hosts annual book sale this weekend

By Lorne Stelmach

This weekend offers a great opportunity to stock up on your summer reading while also supporting a good cause.

Morden Fire and Rescue is holding its annual book sale Friday and Saturday at the Access Event Centre.

"We usually take in around \$3,500 to maybe \$5,000," estimated Chief Andy Thiessen. "We have usually split that with a project we have been working on and then give the other half to the Children's Hospital, but this year all funds will go the Children's Hospital to the burn unit. "We've come across some incidences where

children have gotten some pretty bad burns accidentally ... this is a good opportunity for us to help them a little bit."

The fire department started the sale about a decade ago after connecting with the organizers of a similar giant fundraising book sale in Winnipeg.

"They were looking for a place for their leftover books, so we became the next stop ... a couple years here and there we were actually able to donate those leftover books again one more time," said Thiessen.

"The last couple of years now we have done it in conjunction with the library here ... and they're actually helping us out again this year

as well," he noted. "They're going to be displaying books and setting this up for us a couple days ahead of time, and they're even going to work Friday during the day and they will take over in the evening and all day Saturday."

The sale goes Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A bag full of books is \$10.

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

der Brown had discovered that Gowland had been spying on his sister through a hole he had carved in the wall between their rooms.

Having been sentenced to death Gowland was kept in a cell at the courthouse in Morden. A scaffold had been constructed and was reported to be 85 feet from the cell. Once Gowland's journey was made to the scaffold at approx. 7:47 a.m., a brief sermon was delivered by a Rev. Wiley followed by the Lord's Prayer. When Wiley pronounced the words "thy kingdom come" the

executioner pulled a lever and Gowland, with noose around his neck, dropped through a trap door on Friday the 13th, December 1907.

According to sources it took Gowland more than six minutes to die.

The story of Lawrence Gowland and Georgina Brown is the stuff of nightmare and more than enough to inspire ghost stories.

As far as anyone knows his remains are still buried on the courthouse property somewhere in an unmarked grave.

Notice of Environment Act Proposal

Manitoba Environment and Climate invites public comment on the following proposal:

DECOR CABINETS LTD. - CABINET MANUFACTURING FACILITY - FILE: 6167.00

Decor Cabinets Ltd. filed an Environment Act Proposal to continue operating a cabinet manufacturing facility at 200 Route 100 in the City of Morden. The facility manufactures cabinets completed with wood veneer, or PVC banding. Mitigation measures are in place to manage and control air emissions.

Anyone likely to be affected by the above operation and who wishes to comment on the proposal should contact Eshetu Beshada, Senior Environmental Engineer, in writing or by email at Eshetu.Beshada@gov.mb.ca not later than June 5, 2023. Further information is available from the Public Registry: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries

Information submitted in response to this proposal is public and will be available to the proponent and placed on the public registry per Section 17 of The Environment Act.

**Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environment and Climate**

Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard

Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6

Toll Free: 1-800-282-8069

Fax: 204-945-5229

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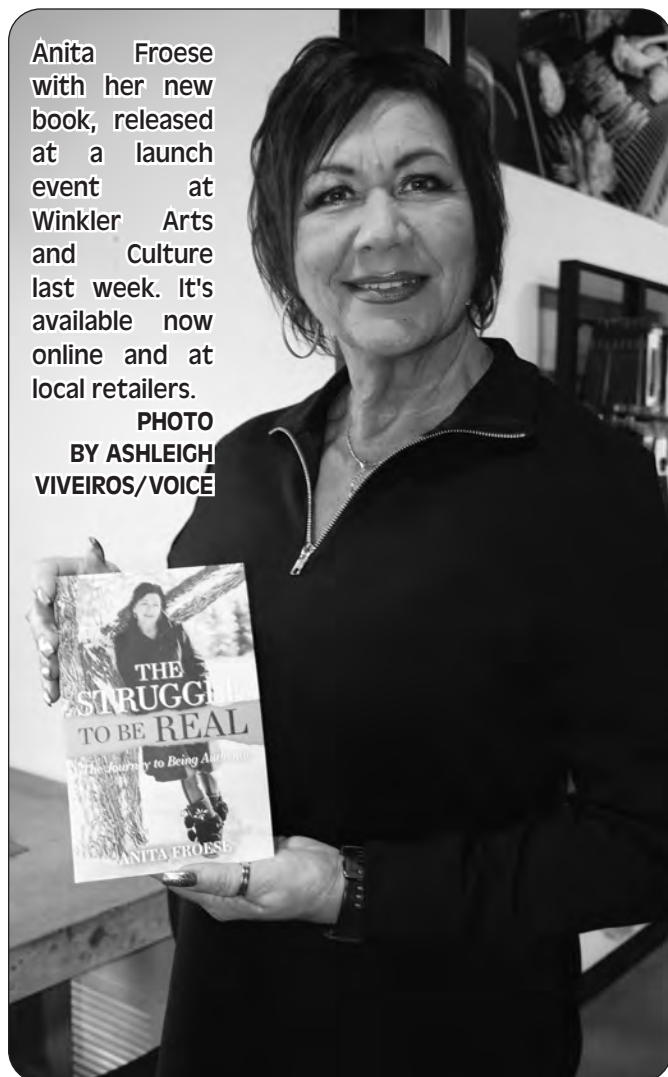


arts & culture

Winkler author, life coach releases first book

Anita Froese with her new book, released at a launch event at Winkler Arts and Culture last week. It's available now online and at local retailers.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



Anita Froese's 'The Struggle to be Real' guides readers to their authentic selves

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Anita Froese's vision board is one task lighter after the launch of her first book, *The Struggle to Be Real*, at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre last week.

The health and life coach has poured a lifetime of lessons learned from personal experiences into the book, which seeks to arm readers with tools to access their authentic selves.

"It's been a dream of mine for about 10 years now," Froese shares. "I started writing a year ago and for me, really, it was therapy."

"I'm a life coach and I'm always telling my clients to journal, because it's free therapy. So that's what this started out as. And then it got to the point where I thought, okay, I think there's a book here."

Aimed primarily at female readers, *The Struggle to Be Real* looks at the pressure society places on women to be perfect, and the debilitating effect that can have.

Using her personal anecdotes coupled with life coach observations, Froese addresses themes that include worthiness, motive, imposter syndrome, staying focused on life goals, and the imaginary world of social media, among others.

"I just want women to know that they are beautiful just the way they were created," she says. "The whole shame culture, you don't need to live

there, you don't need to be in fear of it.

"I just want people to be encouraged that they're not alone, that they should be able to find their circle of trusted friends they can talk to, and not to live in shame and guilt."

There are also chapters dealing with challenges that can arise in a marriage and discussing the "seasons of change" every woman goes through in her life.

If there's one thing Froese hopes readers will take away from this book, it's advice to "find some healing and find peace" in their lives.

Since the book came out a few weeks ago, Froese had already received a lot of positive feedback that has her feeling pretty encouraged it's having the impact she hoped it would.

One early reader shared, "I've had people in my life that have already benefited from your transparency."

Hearing things like that get Froese choked up and makes all the hard writing work over the past year worth it. It also has her pondering whether a second book is in her future.

"I feel like maybe there's another one in there," she says.

The Struggle to Be Real: The Journey to Being Authentic is on the shelves at Winkler's Shopper's Drug Mart, the Trust God Now book store, and at the Outpost Grill. You can also purchase it from Froese's website, thefortifiedlifestyle.com.



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Joey Landreth to headline Back 40

By Lorne Stelmach

The Back 40 Festival hopes an acclaimed and award-winning act will help draw a crowd to this year's event.

Joey Landreth and his band the Bros. Landreth were announced at the recent 70s Show fundraiser as the headliner for the music festival taking place Sunday, June 4 in Morden Park.

The aim was to get a bigger name to help boost the attendance this year, explained chairperson Scott Bell.

"Coming out of last year, it was the first festival in a long time that lost money, so we wanted to kind of re-evaluate how we were approaching the festival," he said.

"One thing we decided on was, because of the amazing music scene that's happening in the area right now,

we figured we could fill the day with all the amazing singer-songwriters and bands we have within our local area here," said Bell. "We also wanted to bring in a recognizable headliner that would draw people and cap the day off in a really special way."

Like his music, there's a wide diversity to Landreth's career. He blurs the boundaries between genre and discipline, writing his own songs one minute and contributing to other musicians' projects the next.

From his ongoing efforts with The Bros. Landreth—the Juno-winning band he launched with his brother David in 2013—to his production work for acclaimed songwriters like Leith Ross, he has spent the past decade creating a soundtrack for the current era.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Joey Landreth and the Bros. Landreth will headline the June 4 Back 40 folk festival.

Continued on page 9

"Do What You Are" speakers inspire Morden students

By Lorne Stelmach

Her own search to discover her identity helped inspire Maja Piekarska to do something that might help others with the same quest.

The Morden Collegiate student and youth member of Morden city council has initiated what she's dubbed *Do What You Are* events featuring local speakers who share about themselves and their careers.

Her hope is that it may in some small way help youth answer the question of who they are and who they want to be.

"That thought has lingered in my mind," Piekarska said, recalling starting Grade 9 wondering how one finds and pursues their calling post-graduation. *Do What You Are* seeks to provide kids with a bit of guidance and advice.

One session earlier this spring featured Robyn Wiebe of Golden West Broadcasting, and last week had City of Morden marketing and communications co-ordinator Daniel Rocha Lopez addressing students.

"I think it's a great idea. Anything that gets our youth talking about what they're thinking about the future, it's always good ... I think it's a great initiative," he said after his presentation.

The heart of Rocha's message centred around the fear you may feel

when you are young and so uncertain about things.

"I was afraid to not meet the standards ... I think that's something the younger generations need to learn to deal with and not be scared of things," he said. "Always be willing to try something different and always learn things."

"We loved seeing so many young people come together. Seeing students interested in discovering their career paths was amazing," said Piekarska.

"I really hope that what they get from this is that it's okay to fail, and it's okay to not be good at something, and it's okay to try and try again," she added. "[Speakers] talk about how the path isn't always straight; it's bumpy, it's rough, and there isn't one clear cut way to get to the finish line.

"I really want them to learn it's okay to take a break, to step back and re-think your route and go at it again."

She has been encouraged by the interest shown by other students.

"Students came up to me and they were eager, and they were asking me when's it happening, where's it happening ... I love the support that *Do What You Are* is receiving. It's always so much fun too," said Piekarska. "I'm definitely even learning so much about myself through this event ... and hearing from these people and hearing their stories is really inspiring."

heights they're reaching is really exciting."

Lulu and the Tomcat will be the hosts and emcees for the festival, and a variety of local acts will round out the lineup. That includes Lakes and Pines, Warren Friesen and L'il Plugger, Derek Helps and the Heart Cramps, Mason Weselowski, Tala-degga Greg, Mason Strange, Joey McNair, Joe Wilson, Steve Keys and Jenessa Kehler as well as members of M'Ladies.

A special set that the festival has wanted to do for sometime will also be featured that day.

"We're going to do a tribute to The Last Waltz. We had planned that for a couple of occasions that had to be postponed or cancelled, so we decided we would open the festival with that this year ... that will involve a variety of local musicians playing together," said Bell. "We're excited, and now landing Joey Landreth was the icing on the cake."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden city council youth member Maja Piekarska with Do What You Are guest speaker Daniel Rocha last week, addressing Morden Collegiate students.

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> BACK 40, FROM PG. 8

And his appearance comes at a time when the Landreth name has earned a lot of attention, including winning a Juno for best contemporary roots album in Canada and having their song "Made Up Mind" earn a Grammy for Bonnie Raitt. In addition, it was recently announced they will be playing at Eric Clapton's Crossroads Festival in September in Los Angeles and have equal billing with people like Clapton, Sheryl Crow and John Mayer.

"In terms of name recognition ... Joey Landreth, for me, was someone I would hire every year. I think he's amazing ... and amazingly, we reached out and he was available and willing to come out and do our festival," said Bell.

"We've had him before, and he performed brilliantly, and he's just the nicest person to work with in this capacity," he added. "We've kind of had a front seat to their development as a band, and now seeing the new



SUPPLIED PHOTOS
W.C. Miller Collegiate Gr. 12 student Riley Banman (above) brought home a silver medal in carpentry from the Skills Manitoba competition last month. A trio of Winkler students placed third in their respective events, including Nathan Dueck (left) in automotive technology.

Local students medal at Skills Manitoba

By Lorne Stelmach

Local students showed off their skills at the 2023 Skills Manitoba competition in Winnipeg last month.

A handful of students from the Red River Technical Vocational Area (RRTVA) were part of over 475 high school, post-secondary, and apprentice students who competed in 42 skilled trades and technology contests in six industry sectors.

Among them was Riley Banman, who is a carpentry student at W.C. Miller Collegiate in Altona. He came home with a silver medal in carpentry.

"It was kind of nerve-wracking. It was nerve-wracking up until I started going, and then from then on I started feeling more confident," Banman said of the experience.

"He certainly enjoys the work and competing and even stepping out of his comfort zone to try something difficult," said teacher Andy Reimer, who spoke highly of the Grade 12 student, noting he spent a lot of time preparing for the competition.

"He had to do a lot of that on his own time ... on Fridays, I think, he would take time off from work to be able to practise up and get his skills to another level," said Reimer. "He definitely puts in the extra time and effort."

Winners at the provincial competition are eligible to be part of Team Manitoba at the Skills Canada nation-

al competition in Winnipeg May 24-27.

Other local students who have that opportunity alongside Banman include Garden Valley Collegiate's David Sterkel, who studies electrical technology at Northlands Parkway Collegiate and won bronze in electrical installation; GVC's Nathan Dueck, who earned a bronze in the automotive technology category; and GVC's Alyssa Wall, who studies esthetics at NPC and who was able to advance directly to the national competition after the provincial event for her category didn't happen.

For Banman, it almost seemed predestined that he would be pursuing carpentry, given his father Henry operates H & S Roofing.

"I've been working there for a couple of years already during the summer and in my spare time as well," he said. "We do lots of work on northern reserves as well."

Part of the appeal of the job is knowing you have had a part in something that can be so important and long lasting, Banman observed.

"If you're building a house, that house is going to be there for quite a long time ... so knowing that is kind of cool," he said. "And I've gone to help build a church, so that church is an important part of the community."

Continued on page 11

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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

South Central Cancer Resource last week celebrated the return of its popular spring fashion show, which hasn't been held since pre-pandemic in 2019. The 2023 edition raised over \$50,000 before expenses for the agency, which offers support for people battling cancer.

SCCR fashion show returns

By Lorne Stelmach

A major fundraiser for South Central Cancer Resource returned in a big way last week.

The fashion show gala last Thursday in Morden raised both funds and awareness, featuring volunteer models who have been touched by cancer in some way as well as a speaker who offered a glimpse of her battle with the disease.

"It's too early to determine the net proceeds, but the initial estimate is that we took in just over \$50,000 before expenses," said fashion show chairperson Dianne Mestdagh. "I would call the event a huge success. The fashions were beautiful, and the models did an outstanding job and received a standing ovation from the sold-out crowd."

Mackenzie Gaultier of Roseisle shared about her journey with brain cancer since her diagnosis in the fall of 2021.

"I didn't have any signs or symptoms ... one minute I was healthy, 28, enjoying life and my family. The next minute our whole lives were turned upside down, and I was diagnosed with brain cancer," she said.

Gaultier recalled the day when her life changed forever.

A few days after a busy weekend of doing photography for two weddings, she suddenly woke up, screamed, fell on the floor and went into a grand mal seizure.

It was determined she had an egg-size tumour in her left frontal lobe. An MRI showed she would need brain surgery as soon as possible.

"This was a lot to think about, a lot to process ... brain surgery, the risks involved, too many for me to tell you," said Gaultier, noting as well that she would be awake for the surgery because it was dealing with the part of the brain that controls language. That meant they wanted her to be talking during the surgery to help determine

how much of the tumour they could take without harming her brain function.

"I love to talk, so I was an A-plus patient," she joked. "I'm grateful to say the surgery went amazingly well. I feel I had the best care while at Health Sciences Centre ... they were the true miracle workers."

She was able to be sent home only two days after the surgery, returning 12 days later for an appointment with her neurosurgeon. It was then that she received a diagnosis of stage three brain cancer.

"My surgeon told me I would never know the cause of this cancer ... he also told me I will never be considered cancer free," Gaultier said. "This tumour will grow back. It could be years and years from now or it could be sooner than I would like, but the hope is that I can live many years of my life."

What followed was radiation and chemotherapy treatments that came with seven pages covering side effects.

"I have to say that being a cancer patient, I feel like a VIP of the medical world. The care and communication has been amazing," said Gaultier, who cited the example of having a reaction during second round of chemo but being able to immediately speak to an on-call oncologist.

Gaultier offered a positive message to others who find themselves facing cancer.

"Often cancer is a terminal illness, sometimes it isn't, and everyone's story is different," she said, speaking then as well of the reactions from people when they learn about her diagnosis. "A few times I've had to console someone I barely knew about my life and my cancer. They were the ones crying on my shoulder."

"I often am reminding people in my life that I'm still Mackenzie, cancer or no cancer. I'm still me ... more often than not, I say we all have



problems.

"Having cancer of course has been life changing ... it shows us that life is short, much too short, and it humbles us to not take life for granted."

She concluded by saying how much her family is "forever grateful for the support we received during this challenging time ... I know personally how much SCCR helps cancer patients and their families in this area."

Mestdagh noted they were so grateful to be able to hold this event again for the first time since 2019.

It is especially meaningful to have cancer survivors, those still receiving treatment, and supportive family members serving as models who showcased clothing and accessories from local retailers Fashions by Co-op, Knockabouts, Livienne Bridal, Copper and Sparrow, and Focal Point Vision Care.

"I'm so grateful to the community for their overwhelming support for the event. Tickets sold out very quickly. After 24 hours of going on sale we had only seven tickets left," Mestdagh said. "Area businesses were very generous with donations, both cash and prizes."

"I'm extremely thankful to the planning committee, models and volunteers who dedicated so much time and effort to make the evening a success."

> SKILLS MANITOBA, FROM PG. 10

"I definitely see myself working alongside my dad and potentially taking over, but I can also maybe see myself eventually starting something on my own."

Reimer said the success of local students in something like Skills Manitoba reflects well on the RRTVA programs running throughout the region.

"We're very proud of the program, and rightfully so ... we have some fantastic teachers and lots of community support."

arts & culture



Blooming Still Life takes over WA+C

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Arts and Culture was awash in colour



and floral scents last weekend as Bloom Floral Creative hosted its *Music Box Blooming Still Life* exhibition.

The big night was on Friday where ticket-holders were treated to champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and live classical music and dance as they checked out the unique floral displays that dotted the main gallery space.

Those displays were also left up for the general public to enjoy on Saturday and for a few days this week too, for as long as the flowers held out.

The event served to celebrate the Winkler floral shop's fourth anniversary and to provide, for the second year in a row, a local option for a fine art experience, says Madison Schiller, who headed up the show alongside fellow Bloom owner Kristina Peters.

"We thought it would be a cool way to bring something bigger and bring something more artistic to Winkler," she says, explaining they drew inspiration from the Winnipeg Art Gallery's annual Art in Bloom floral show. They wanted to give local art-lovers the chance to experience something similar closer to home.

"We wanted to bring something here that was elevated and beautiful," Schiller says.

The inaugural show in 2022 sold out. The 2023 edition, moving to take place at the art gallery and with a higher price per ticket, only had a few tickets still available when the doors opened.

"We have more flowers this year, full catering," says Schiller, noting they were really aiming to make it an option for a romantic date night or classy night out with the girls.

The floral displays all offered a take on how a child looks at the world.

"It started with one over arching idea of a very wonder filled, childlike perspective," Schiller explains of the music box theme. "And I kind of grew it from there."

"Each piece is individually planned. Every single flower is written down on the recipe to make something like this happen. So it's definitely been a labour of love."

It was a chance, Schiller went on, to "celebrate spring and celebrate how much we love flowers. We love to share that with people and so I think this is a wonderful opportunity."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Bloom Floral Creative hosted its Blooming Still Life show at Winkler Arts and Culture Friday night, featuring floral art displays, live classical music, and ballet dancers.

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

Many Hands reflects on a year of changes, growth

By Lorne Stelmach

Directors reflected last week on what has been an eventful time for the Many Hands Resource Centre.

The community organization not only emerged post-pandemic but has taken on a range of challenges including operating the food bank and now also overseeing the farmers market and community garden in Morden.

"I think part of the challenge too is making sure that we're taking on what we can handle and that we are not overextending ourselves. We don't want to just build a bunch of programs and then not be able to support those programs," board chair Daniel Klauke said following the annual meeting last Tuesday night.

"We have a lot happening, and it's pretty challenging, but we're very confident because we have lots of people who are willing to help," noted executive director Mariyam Tsygankova. "They are really passionate about it and they are very community-minded. We have a great team, so that's why we are so bold and confident."

The meeting touched on their range of programs—from the drop-in nights to the community meal and community kitchen—but the food bank obviously is a top priority.

In his written report, Klauke noted the pressures that came with that program, especially in the past year.

"The increased need in our community for those accessing the food bank



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Many Hands Resource Centre gathered at 500 Stephen St. last week to discuss the challenges and achievements of the past year. Above: Board chair Daniel Klauke addresses the crowd. Below: Executive director Mariyam Tsygankova.

was one of the biggest challenges our organization faced this year ... by late spring, the demand for the food bank had doubled.

"These are the types of trends that are hard to predict when planning a budget. As we looked at the increased usage and then at our bank account, we became concerned about whether we would be able to keep up with demand.

"The Many Hands board had tough conversations about how we would manage distribution if funding started to run out. Thankfully we never had to find out. Through donations from our local government and grants from the federal and provincial governments, we are able to continue offering the same quality service with minimal interruption. We also saw the caring hearts of our community step up."

Otherwise, Klauke said getting their programming up and running again was a key accomplishment for the year, as was building upon their strong relationships

with partners in the community.

They also hired an executive director—something Klauke cited as a major step forward for the organization.

"Mariyam has already brought several new ideas to the organization and has great vision for how the organization can move forward ... her passion for helping the community makes her a great fit for the Many Hands organization."

Klauke also highlighted moving into the 500 Stephen Community Centre as another key step.

"It has been a blessing to the organization to finally have a place to call home. This space has been an incredible resource for the food bank as we serve those in our community who are facing food insecurity."

All of this has happened with the organization sitting in a strong financial position, as revenues increased to over \$157,000 while expenses were just under \$100,000, leaving Many Hands with a surplus of over \$57,000.

"We've accomplished a lot this past year. We've gotten our programs back up and running, which was a big accomplishment for our organization," Klauke said.

"Starting the drop-in again, getting the community kitchen back up and running. These are the programs that were basically the bread and butter of Many Hands when it first started ... somewhere along the way, those programs fell off, so it was nice to get those back up and running again, kind of getting back to our roots.

"We're going to focus on the programs that we have now and then we're going to kind of introduce other programs as we see how they fit into the organization and that we have the resources to run those programs effectively."

In the end, he stressed it is all about the volunteers.

"There's a reason it's called Many Hands," Klauke observed. "It lets us know that the community is behind our organization and the work that we're doing, and it just tells us that we have a community that cares about each other, and they want to support those people who are maybe struggling.

"It's great to be part of this community and have that support from everyone."



"WE HAVE A LOT HAPPENING, AND IT'S PRETTY CHALLENGING, BUT WE'RE VERY CONFIDENT BECAUSE WE HAVE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO HELP."



Morden Festival of the Arts wraps up with highlights concert, awards

By Lorne Stelmach

The recipient of this year's Loreena McKennitt Award of the Morden Festival of the Arts has received a range of honours and praise in recent years.

Thomas Kroeker's cello teacher spoke highly of the Grade 12 student in a written presentation at the conclusion of the festival's 2023 highlights concert Sunday at Westside Community Church.

"Thomas plays close attention to detail and instruction. His meticulous practice and dedication have allowed his love for the cello to shine in his performances," wrote Natalie Goodlett.

The Loreena McKennitt Award was created to honour the world famous musician who herself competed in the Morden festival as a youth. It is presented to a student participating in the festival who is judged to have reached a level of excellence in their musical studies.

Kroeker has had many experiences which have contributed to his love of music, and he sings, plays the piano, double bass and the cello. It was his idea to study the cello after an inspiring orchestra concert, excelling in it at an early age.

Kroeker is an active participant in master classes and other music learning and enjoyment opportunities such as Adventures in Music (playing alongside the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra) and the Cadenza Summer Music Camp. He has played in all the Douglas Kuhl School of Music ensem-

bles including most recently as principal cello of Post Road Strings in the 2022-23 season.

He joined the Winnipeg Youth Symphony for one year and has enjoyed ad hoc groups as well as being the cellist for the long-standing BowBros (a trio with his two brothers on their violins), playing for fun at farmers' markets, festivals, seniors homes, and more.

A choral ensemble highlight has been singing with the Central Manitoba Youth Choir the past three years with the added bonus of adding cello accompaniment to one piece this past year.

Kroeker has participated in the Morden festival at every opportunity including piano, strings and choral sessions, and he has been recommended from the festival every year to the provincial level of competition in both strings and piano classes.

In strings classes, he has won runner-up in junior and first in intermediate in competitive classes with students from across the province, and he won the senior instrumental category in the MRMTA scholarship competition in 2021.

Kroeker plans to study at Canadian Mennonite University this fall taking a variety of courses with the eventual goal of a career in computer science, and he looks forward to music-making at CMU with the choirs and orchestra.

The Morden Festival of the Arts had 340 entries this season, and the organizing committee was pleased

PHOTOS BY
LORNE STELMACH/
VOICE

The Morden Festival of the Arts concluded with a highlights concert Sunday. The show featured performances from across the competition categories. Above: Thomas Kroeker received this year's Loreena McKennitt Award. Above, left: Franklin Kroeker and Tennessee Johnston perform a duet. Right: English Speech Arts performers Ella Hiebert and Luisa Salomao.



with that number considering it was the first year back to a normal festival since 2019. They are confident it will continue to grow and get back to their pre-COVID average of over 500 entries.

The Morden Festival of the Arts also presented 44 awards to 2023 participants:

- Strings: Lauren Peters, Franklin Kroeker, Westin Howatt, Jaden Schulz, Liam Scharf, Jason Krantz, Mary Mierau, Jayda Friesen, Anika Wiens, Denise Howatt, Paul Wiens, Sam Kroeker, Joel Alles, Samuel Tin Yu Li, Aiden Losch, Thomas Kroeker.
- Strings duet, trio or quartet: Franklin Kroeker and Tennessee Johnston.
- Sacred strings beginner to Grade 4: Lauren Peters, Chloe Friesen.
- Piano: Raymie Li, Lauren Peters, Emma Young, Azalea Derksen, Brody

Peters, Reuben Alles, Jessica Kagan, Sam Kroeker, Marcel Alles, Samuel Tin Yu Li.

- Piano - duet, trio, or quartet: Clair and Hallie Loutchan.
- Sacred piano beginner to Grade 4: Isabelle Peters, Emma Young.
- Vocal: Blakely Harries.
- Speech arts: Brayden Wang, Casey Keen, Lily Bates, Lucy Rocha Routhier, Tarik Harra, Levi Lulashnyk, Sinead Convery, Jessica Kagan, Bijan Salimi
- Speech arts - duet, trio, quartet: Grade 4-6 - Sydney De Santis, Maya Brett, Sophia Martens; Grade 7-9 - Luisa Salomao, Ella Hiebert.

A host of local performers also received adjudicator recommendations to compete at the Provincial Music and Arts Festival in Winnipeg later this month.

Check out the Winkler Morden Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca

K Block makes its case for denied development

By Lorne Stelmach

The Manitoba Municipal Board heard an appeal last week on a proposed rezoning for a new condo development near the busiest intersection in Morden.

The proposal was previously rejected by Morden city council, but K Block Developments appealed the decision to the provincial oversight body, and both the proponents and opponents made their case to the board at a hearing last Wednesday.

"There's a lot of issues happening right at that corner that we would like to see done first before we get too much more traffic," said city councillor and deputy mayor Gord Maddock. "My thought is if we can hold it back a little bit ... we've got a lot of things ahead of us that we've got to get done first ... and we've got to make it fair to all of the developers in our community."

"Working closely with the planning department when we came up with the design, we thought that we had tried to involve the City of Morden to come up with a plan," said Frank Klassen in making the case for K Block Developments.

The proposal was to rezone the properties at 20 Victoria Street and 227 First Street from residential two-family to residential multi-family to allow for the development of trio of three-storey, 16-unit buildings similar to those seen in Winkler at the corner of 15th Street and Highway 14. The proposal arose from K Block noting there is a strong interest for a similar complex in Morden.

Opponents however had noted the Winkler development does not have single-family residences directly adjacent to it. They also cited a number of other concerns including the loss of privacy and the potential impact on their property values while also suggesting there are better locations in the city for this kind of development.

The impact on what is already heavy traffic in the area of First Street and Victoria Street/Highway 3 was a key concern cited by not only area residents who spoke in opposition to the plan but by council as well, and that concern was stressed again at the last week's hearing.

Klassen cited the need for affordable housing and more housing options overall and pointed to a city report

making reference to considering zoning to help expedite developments.

"I think there is a need of affordable housing in Morden," he stressed, suggesting this development "will fit well within this context and provide much-needed housing in the area ... I think that this area would be very suitable for condominiums or rental property."

Klassen also noted some of the issues raised by opponents can be mitigated.

"Some public concerns seemed either irrelevant or could be addressed through the development agreements," he said, citing the example of trees that will remain in place to help address privacy.

Rather than having a negative impact on property values, Klassen said that "typically, new construction increases the value of neighbouring properties."

He also suggested the increase in traffic would be minimal.

"Considering the already high traffic volumes ... [it] will only be increased by a very small percentage."

Some discussion then revolved around a development proposal

analysis and the possibility of approval for 20 units, which would mean just one building, at least for the time being.

But K Block maintained 20 would not work for them. They were uncertain as to what else might be acceptable in terms of the number of units, as they see this as a larger, longer-term investment.

One municipal board member also questioned what guarantees there were that this development would truly be considered an affordable housing option.

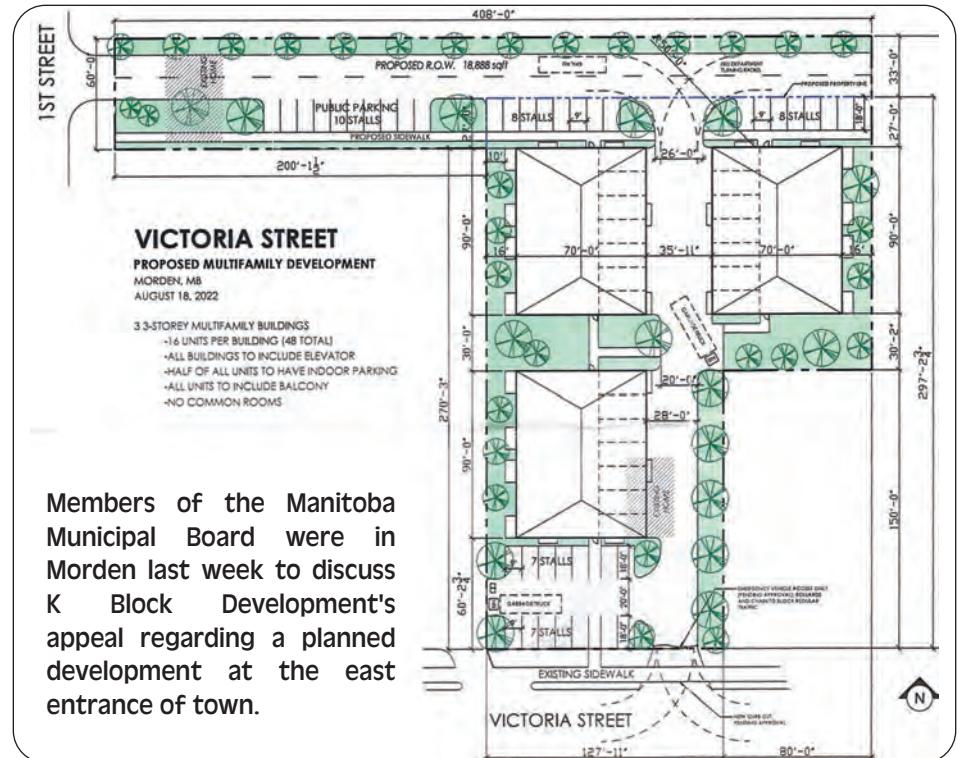
"My major concern is the traffic," said Maddock as part of the City of Morden presentation. "We've had a lot of accidents at the corner and to increase the traffic to this development with only one way in and one way out is very concerning."

He also cited the limited wastewater capacity right now, with current estimates that it would be limited to about 300 more dwelling units—an amount which was suggested could be filled within a four-year period.

A board member wondered however if it would be good to have a number of units that could be concentrated in one spot.

Maddock suggested there are other locations better suited to a development like this, such as perhaps on the west end of town.

The board received a number of written presentations in



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Continued on page 17

Taking the scenic route home from school

By Lori Penner

A local student decided to take the scenic route on his way home from

school this spring.

Shaun Bauman attends Grade 8 at Horndean Christian School. He lives about 3.5 miles from the school and

would normally be picked up along with his brother when the day was done.

But Bauman last month chose to

make use of the kayak that was stored at his friend's house near the school instead. After all, opportunities like this don't happen every day, and it was hard to resist the water that was still flowing in the ditches along the road.

He just got the kayak last year and has been making as much use of it as possible, taking it down creeks and rivers, and on Lake Minnewasta.

"I taught myself how to use it, and it's pretty easy," he says. "I really enjoy it."

One thing Bauman wasn't counting on were the obstacles along the way.

"The water was a few feet deep, but a kayak can float in 10 inches easily. It took about three hours for me to get home. I had to carry it for about a mile, and I had to portage over driveways and approaches. Plus, some of the ditches were still blocked with snow.

"It was hard work, and I got wet at times," says Bauman. "I had my backpack strapped to the top. But it was fun, and I would do it again."



PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL/VOICE

Horndean Christian School Gr. 8 student Shaun Bauman took an alternate form of transportation home from school one day last month, making the most of the ditches being full of spring melt water.



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RBC Fdn. donates \$10K to ongoing education at Boundary Trails hospital

By Voice staff

A donation from the RBC Foundation is going to support ongoing nursing education at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

In honour of the upcoming National Nursing Week, the foundation has gifted BTHC with \$10,000 to help cover certification fees and allow the hospital to provide honorariums for speakers on topics like palliative care, medical management of elderly patients, and acute medical emergencies.

Other continuing education opportunities will include casting techniques, wound education, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, and Pediatric Advance Life Saving.

"During the last few years, our nursing education days have been greatly missed and this grant gives us the opportunity to jumpstart our programs again," said Joel Nelson, BTHC director of health services. "Nurses here are craving the opportunity to get back in a learning environment in order to work towards



SUPPLIED PHOTO

BTHC Emergency Room nurses Rebecca Dueck (left) and Amy Friesen are among the local staff who will benefit from the RBC Foundation's \$10,000 gift to the hospital in support of ongoing education initiatives.

providing excellent care for our clients."

National Nursing Week is held May 8-14 in honour of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale. It's designed to increase the awareness of the many contributions nurses make to the well-being of Canadians.

"RBC recognizes the impact that nurses have in our healthcare system is unparalleled. Dedicated, committed, and always answering the call no matter the sacrifice, they are our caregivers

Mennonite Historical Soc. hosts AGM at Neuberghthal

By Lori Penner

The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society (MMHS) annual general meeting Saturday drew a large crowd to the historic Commons Barn in Neuberghthal.

Since it was founded in 1958, MMHS has continued to foster an understanding of and respect for the history and beliefs of the Mennonite people in the past and present, and to challenge them to give new expression to this heritage in the future.

The MMHS works with communities to promote historical research and publications, search out and preserve historical sites and Mennonite cemeteries. They also organize lectures and provide resources for school and organizations and encourage the expression of the Mennonite experience in various areas, such as literature, drama, history, fine arts, music, geography, sociology, and religion.

They also work in cooperation with various Mennonite archives and museums to collect, preserve, and exhibit articles and documents of historical value.

Members and standing committees come from across the province.

MMHS president Conrad Stoesz reflected on 2022 and how things have become busier as they resume many of their activities post-pandemic.

This included the unveiling of a plaque near Niverville which marks the buildings that Jakob Schantz built to house the Mennonite pioneers for the first few weeks as they prepared to build new communities east of the Red River.

Their society magazine, *Heritage Posting*, under the guidance of Glen Klassen, continues to thrive, and this was the first time in several years that MMHA representatives were able to attend national meetings in Saskatchewan.

Stoesz noted a number of important anniversaries are coming up.

"This past year marked the 100th anniversary of the move of 7,000 Mennonites to Mexico because of heavy-handed assimilation policies of the provincial government in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. MMHS members were active in helping Mennonite Heritage Village, MHSC, and the Plett Foundation bring to fruition a traveling exhibits to mark the anniversary."

That exhibit is on display at the MHC Gallery in Winnipeg and will spend the next two years traveling through Ontario and Western Canada.

Stoesz also noted that next year is the 150th anniversary of Mennonites in Manitoba, 2025 is the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist Movement, and 2026 the 100th anniversary of Mennonites in Paraguay.

The MMHS is encouraging communities to consider marking Manitoba Mennonite 150th in some way.

"Commemorating anniversaries and important events within a community is crucial in preserving and understanding the shared history and values that shape its identity," he said. "It provides an opportunity for community members to come together, reflect on the past, and consider a legacy they wish to leave for future generations. It also helps to keep the



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

During the MMHS annual general meeting in Neuberghthal on April 29, president Conrad Stoesz provided an overview of events and projects the society was involved in during 2022 and also shared his research into local history.

memory of key moments and individuals alive, which can be a source of inspiration and pride."

Stoesz told the audience that despite challenges such as lack of volunteers, increased costs, and reduced income, the work that the MMHS does is essential to the communities they serve.

"Let's remember that we're not just collecting dusty books, torn documents, or broken furniture, but we are helping our communities to define their identity—our identity."

Stoesz also acted as keynote speaker at the AGM, transporting guests back 130 years as he revisited the split of the West Reserve Bergthal in Manitoba and the formation of the Bergthaler and Sommerfelder churches in the 1890s.

The meeting also included a viewing of the film *Conform: The Mennonite Migration to Mexico*. The documentary explores the challenges Mennonites

faced in Canada and their journey to Mexico after the First World War. Director Andrew Wall was on hand to field questions from the audience.

"The idea for the film started in 2019. It took about a year to put together, do all the interviews and the re-enactments," he shared. "It's a complicated sort of nuanced story, based on the research that's been done, and from the archives. We just try to tell the story of how it was."

"This is a story that needs to be told and shouldn't be forgotten. It was a complicated story, and I think both sides didn't really know what they were getting into. There was a portion of the communities who moved away because of the school issue, but the other half remained and adjusted and moved on. Their viewpoints were all valid and their perspective was worth remembering and looking at."

"Traffic and safety of pedestrians are major concerns"

From Pg. 15

opposition to the rezoning, with four speakers in attendance to also speak against it.

One wondered how only 50 parking spots for 48 units would be sufficient, as some residents may have two vehicles and accommodation also needs to be made for visitors.

"Traffic and safety of pedestrians are major concerns," noted Robert Janzen, who also cited the number of accidents that happen in that area already.

He recalled doing his own traffic count on First Street last fall, and he estimated conservatively that could mean 3,000 or more vehicles in a day.

"I would consider First Street a major thoroughfare," he said, then referencing the suggestion the development might only add two per cent more traffic. "That's two per cent of 3,000 vehicles on an already overburdened First Street."

"And the need for affordable housing is not what's in question here today. It's the location," he reiterated, suggesting it simply "would be detrimental to the area. Many area resi-

dents are opposed ... the addition of multi-family housing will cause traffic and safety problems."

Two other speakers echoed the concerns about high traffic volume as well as pedestrian traffic in the area. One also noted they bought their

property for its larger size and privacy, but this development would put 12 balconies overlooking them just six feet from their property.

The board will make its decision on the appeal within 60 days.

> BTHC DONATION, FROM PG. 16

and comforters during our deepest times of need," said Kim Ulmer, RBC regional president.

"We aim to give back to nurses through a donation supporting their

continuing education and professional development, to refresh their skills and open more opportunities for their career options and advancement."

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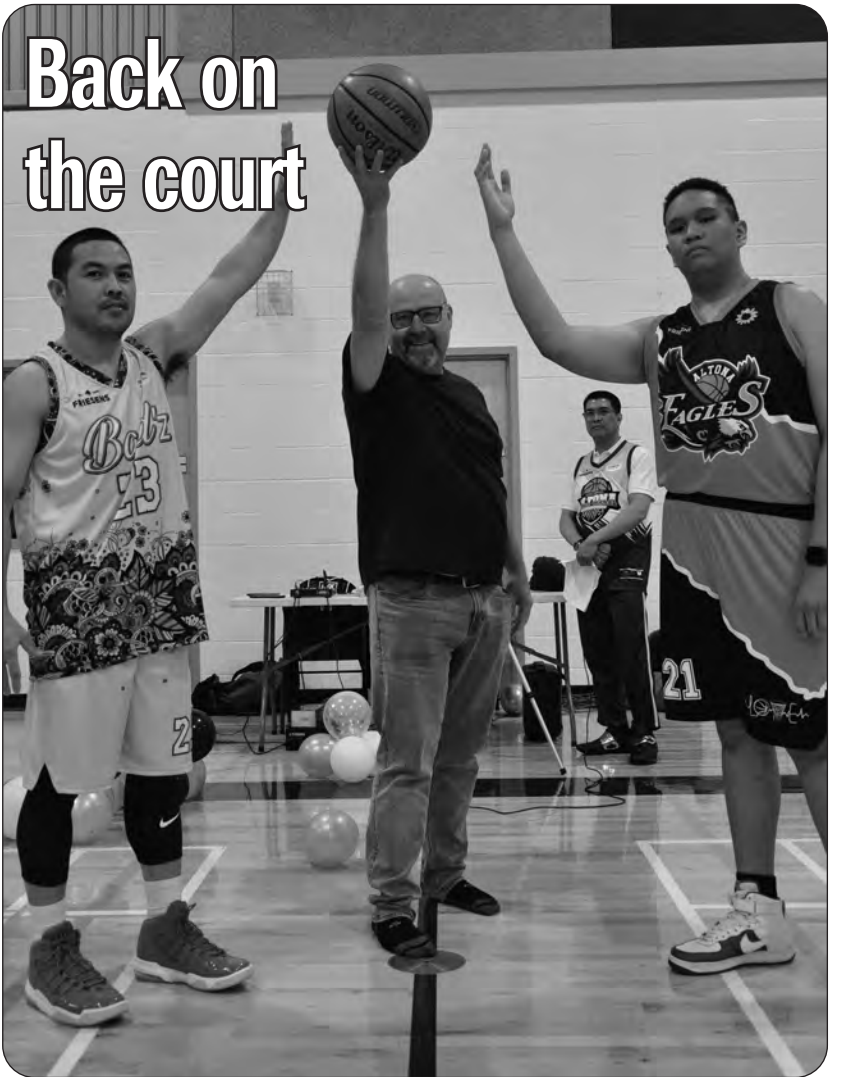


PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENEL/VOICE

The Altona Basketball League kicked off another season of competition Saturday. Above: League organizers with Mayor Harv Schroeder and Chad Friesen, CEO of main sponsor Friesens



Corp. Right: Schroeder takes part in a ceremonial toss at centre court alongside Henry Deposoy (left) and Sean Cyrus Miguel. Left: Friesen does the same with Gab Garcia (left) and Bong Rantael. The league has six teams who will square off every Saturday afternoon at the W.C. Miller Collegiate gymnasium from 4-9 p.m. until July 1. Spectators are welcome.



Back on the court

Aliya Kehler earns college softball honours

By Lori Penner

Altona's Aliya Kehler was recently named the 2023 Division III Louisville Slugger Player of the Week for her work on the field on behalf of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota.

The honour reflects a fantastic week for the freshman catcher, hitting .840 (10-for-12) with seven runs, a double, two home runs, nine runs batted in and a stolen base over the Vikings' four games—all wins. She logged three multi-hit games, two multi-RBI games, and two games with two extra-base hits.

Winners of this weekly award are selected by the NFCA Division III Top 25 Committee, which has a representative for each of the 10 NCAA regions.

Kehler is helping lead the top offense in the UMAC league so far this season. The Vikings lead the conference in batting average (.383), doubles (55), triples (12), home runs (15), and slugging percentage (.527). At press time, Bethany Lutheran was currently 11-0 in the league.

"It's been absolutely amazing," Kehler says. "I'm one of the first Canadian students to receive this award so it's really incredible to honour my country like this and to show them that a small town Cana-

dian girl can do this, too."

She says overall the season has been going really well.

"We were on a 15-game winning streak so our conference games have been going great. We are a very strong team. We're always able to battle it out."

The Minnesota league plays against other state teams, as well as Wisconsin.

"We've done a lot of travelling this season. We went to a tournament in Arizona over spring break, where we did okay. The school has really given me the opportunity to branch out to different places."

Coach Dan Nessler, Kehler says, is amazing.

"He really drives us to do our best. He's tough on us, but I've always preferred a coach that pushes me to do my best. He's also super supportive."

She's also quick to laud her teammates.

"They've been so welcoming and are honestly some of my best friends and will be for the rest of my life."

The team has come a long way, and Kehler predicts they'll be heading to the regionals.

"When we started the off-season in January, we had a lot of losses under our belt and started in a rough patch. We had a big wakeup call coming into



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Altona's Aliya Kehler was named the 2023 Division III Louisville Slugger Player of the Week last month.

conference, and we really had to come together as a team to battle it back.

Continued on page 19

Roland's Potter Is Winnipeg Jets broadcast liaison

By Ty Dilello

Although you don't necessarily see her when taking in a Winnipeg Jets game on TSN, Roland's Tessa Potter is a major part of the broadcast crew behind-the-scenes every night.

Potter was raised in Roland and lived there until she was 18 when she moved to attend school in Winnipeg.

"My parents resided in Roland until a time approximately seven years ago when my dad moved to Morden after my mother's passing," said Potter. "So I have fond memories of pumpkin fairs and my wedding and other times visiting the community I grew up in."

Potter always wanted to work in media but did not aspire to become a reporter or work in front of the camera. So she thought if she enrolled in two-year Electronic Engineer Technology at Red River College Polytechnic, then she might have the skills needed for radio and television.

"As a 4-H student, I had learned to work with my hands and always enjoyed using tools in my parent's workshop at their antique store Woodwalkers in Roland. I loved music and cameras and thought the technology to record, edit and transmit audio and video was like magic."

Potter first got her foot in the door with the Winnipeg Jets when she was part of an install team that helped build their new video in-house pro-

duction facility in 2015. After completing the project, she was asked to be part of the Jets team as a part-time technician supporting the Game Day production team for Manitoba Moose and Winnipeg Jets games.

Today, Potter's role as Broadcast Liaison for True North and the Jets consists of working and checking in with the technical producers of the Home and Away broadcasters who are televising the game.

In addition to working with the Winnipeg Jets, Potter has been able to travel the world with her job working with broadcast teams at various international live events.

"I've had the privilege of spending time in Paris, Moscow, and Tokyo, and last year spent four months away working the Olympics in Beijing, the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, and then two months in Qatar for the World Cup of Soccer. My hope is there is work this summer in Australia for the Women's World Cup of Soccer and then back to Paris in 2024 for the Summer Olympics."

Potter has become a trailblazer for women in the broadcasting industry, which is predominantly a male-dominated one. She also recently became the first female president of a broadcast association in Canada when she took on the role with the Western Association of Broadcast Engineers (WABE). She hopes to use her platform with WABE to advocate for the



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Although you don't necessarily see Roland's Tessa Potter when taking in a Winnipeg Jets game on TSN, she is a major part of the broadcast crew behind-the-scenes every night. This is Potter working in Qatar for the 2022 World Cup.

industry, specifically for women and diversity in the sector.

"I was very fortunate to have enlightened managers and supportive team members who saw me as a hard-working technician first and who have the desire to work with

people who have not traditionally been in those environments. I'm now starting to see more women working as technicians in my industry, which is a great sign for things to come," said Potter.

"Their constant support brought me where I am today"

From Pg. 18

"I spent a lot of extra hours on the diamond, working hard. Softball is a huge mental game. There have been lots of challenges and I've had my fair share of strike outs too, but mentally I've been able to keep it in check and just keep battling it up."

It's a discipline, she says, that trickles down into everything she does.

"I chose this school because one of my friends goes here and encouraged me to check it out. It's a small campus and I really love the vibe," Kehler says. "As soon as I came here, I knew it was the school for me. School comes first, but when there's an opportunity to play softball as well, I just can't pass it up."

Kehler is currently majoring in psychology and is pursuing a career in

therapy.

She grew up in Altona and started off playing softball at W.C. Miller Collegiate and for the Altona Angels. She went to play for Central Energy when she was 15.

"Central Energy allowed me to play at a higher level, which helped me pursue college ball," Kehler says.

She also credits high school coaches, like Dana Falk and Jenn Dyck.

"They really challenged me. They always pushed me and continue to encourage me to do my best to this day."

But the biggest kudos goes to her parents, she says, for always being there for her.

"I am so grateful for all the support they've given me over the years. Their constant support brought me where I am today."

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

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Tender information can be obtained by emailing Vickie.Addison@accesscu.ca.

Tenders, accompanied by a minimum of two references, must be received on or before June 2, 2023, before 4:30 pm.

TENDERS MAY BE DELIVERED, MAILED OR EMAILED TO:

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OBITUARY



Dale Schultz (1945 – 2023)

Dale Schulz of Morden, MB passed away peacefully at the Boundary Trails Hospital at the age of 77 years on April 18, 2023 with family at his side.

Dennis Dale Fredrick Schultz was born November 10, 1945 in the 1-6 District to Fredrick and Cecilia (nee Knut).

Dale is survived by three sisters, Grace (Jake) Dyck of Morden, Sharon (Bob) McClure of Brandon, Janice (Rick) Ferguson of Edmonton; 10 nieces and nephews.

Dale was predeceased by his wife Shirley (nee Dickey) in 2006 and his sister Beverly in 1954.

Cremation has taken place, interment will be held at Hillside Cemetery with a private family service.

Donations may be made in Dale's memory to Boundary Trails CancerCare.

OBITUARY



UNGER, Mary (nee Toews)

September 11, 1939 – April 14, 2023

Mary Unger passed away on Friday, April 14, 2023, at the age of 83 years.

Mary was born in Manitoba on September 11, 1939. Her parents were Jacob R and Helen Toews. Mary was the third of their 10 children and is survived by her husband Ron; five sisters, Helen, Cathy, Elly, Frieda, and Bertha.

Mary received her Psychiatric Nursing Degree in Brandon, MB, in 1963.

Throughout her life, Mary was dedicated to helping her family and others whenever the need arose. Sadly, her health deteriorated, and she spent her last two years at Bethany Calgary. Thank you staff for looking after her.

A Memorial will be held for Mary at Evan J. Strong Funeral Services South, (5502- 2 St. S.W) on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., with a reception to follow.

Photos, memories, and condolences may be shared with Mary's family through www.evanjstrong.com

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Mental health



Warning signs of mental health issues

A 2017 study from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimated that 792 million people across the globe lived with a mental health disorder. If that figure is startling, it's likely even greater as a result of the pandemic.

Data from the Kaiser Family Foundation indicated that about four in 10 adults in the United States reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder during the pandemic. That marked a significant uptick since the summer of 2019, when one in 10 adults reported such symptoms.

The pandemic undoubtedly posed significant challenges that affected the mental health of people across the globe. But those challenges won't necessarily go away if and when life returns to pre-pandemic normalcy. Nor is there any guarantee that new challenges that pose a threat to individuals' mental health won't arise in the years to come. That reality underscores the importance of learning to recognize signs of mental illness in both adults and children.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness notes that each mental illness has its own symptoms, so anyone concerned about their own mental health or the health of a loved one can speak with a mental health professional for more information. In the meantime, the NAMI notes that these are some common signs of mental illness in adults and adolescents.

- Excessive worrying or fear
- Feeling excessively sad or low
- Feelings of confusion or difficulty concentrating and learning
- Extreme mood changes, including uncontrollable "highs" or feelings of euphoria
- Prolonged or significant feelings of irritability or anger
- Avoiding friends and social activities
- Difficulty understanding or relating to other people
- Changes in sleeping habits or feelings of fatigue and low energy

- Changes in eating habits, such as increased hunger or lack of appetite
- Changes in sex drive
- Difficulty perceiving reality (delusions or hallucinations, in which a person experiences and senses things that don't exist in objective reality)
- Inability to perceive changes in one's own feelings, behavior or personality. Some individuals experience a lack of insight known as anosognosia, which NAMI describes as unawareness of one's own mental health condition.
- Overconsumption of substances such as alcohol or drugs
- Multiple physical ailments without obvious causes, such as headaches, stomach aches and vague and ongoing aches and pains
- Suicidal thoughts
- Difficulties handling daily life, including an inability to carry out activities or handle problems and stress that arises each day
- An intense fear of weight gain or concern with appearance

Pre-adolescent children also can experience mental illness, which can manifest itself through these symptoms:

- Changes in academic performance
- Excessive worry or anxiety. Some children may fight with parents to avoid going to bed or school.
- Hyperactive behavior
- Frequent nightmares
- Frequent disobedience or aggression
- Frequent temper tantrums

Individuals who are experiencing any of these symptoms or those who recognize them in loved ones, including children, are urged to contact a health care professional, including their general physicians, who may be able to recommend a mental health specialist. More information is available at www.nami.org.



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