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# "The community is grieving with us"

## Fire destroys much of Winkler's Quality Inn

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It has stood at the north end of Winkler's Main St. for decades, providing generations of visitors with a place to stay and serving as a gathering space for countless community celebrations over the years.

Now, a sizeable part of the building that was home to both the Quality Inn & Suites and Smitty's Restaurant & Lounge has been reduced to rubble after a fire ripped through it last Tuesday afternoon.

Hotel general manager Felicia Penner said it was just a normal day right up to the moment when things took a turn for the worst.

"Then all of a sudden you're smelling smoke and the alarms are going off. There's always a possibility it's a false alarm, but when you also smell the smoke you know it's real," she shared. "So everyone did what they needed to do immediately: we evacuated. Everyone met at the muster point."

Staff quickly cleared the building room by room as they waited for emergency services ("They were there so, so fast," Penner said, thanking firefighters for their efforts that day), so everyone got out safely, including a dog whose owner was at work when the fire began.

"You open the door and you yell in and you just heard 'ding, ding, ding, ding' and it's his little tail wagging up against his kennel," Penner recalled. "So I grabbed him and out we went."

"We had the dog at the muster point with us, and that's where, as [the owner] pulled up, he could see it was okay," she said, noting it was a joyful reunion amidst the heartbreaking

scene unfolding in front of the gathered guests and staff as they watched firefighters battle the blaze.

"Where the muster point was, you could see the smoke on the opposite side of the building and the fire crews working on that part," Penner recalled. "Being such a long building, as soon as it crept out of that first initial area and hit the pool area ... we had a beautiful cedar feature ceiling, and as soon as it hit that, it was game over."

The fire eventually reached the pool mechanical room and the chemicals stored there, creating noxious fumes and billowing black smoke that could be seen for miles.

### HEAVY SMOKE, FLAMES

Winkler Fire Chief Richard Paetzold said they were on the scene within minutes of receiving the call at 4:32 p.m.

"There was already heavy fire, heavy smoke showing when we arrived," he said. "We initially tried to do an interior attack to try and locate the seat of the fire, where it was coming from, and we couldn't locate it. So that's when we knew it was in the roof area."

Firefighters began focusing their efforts there, peeling back strips of the roof in an attempt to get things under control.

The Winkler firefighters were joined by those from Morden Fire & Rescue, who sent their ladder truck to help.

Fire crews were on the scene until well after midnight, stamping out small flare-ups that cropped up after the main fire was quelled.

Continued on page 4



WFD/ WPD PHOTOS  
Fire crews spent hours battling the fire that broke out in the roof area of the Quality Inn & Suites in Winkler last week. The middle part of the building was destroyed.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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# Business leaders gather in Winkler for Economic Summit '25

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce (MCC) set up shop in the Meridian Exhibition Centre last week for its 2025 Manitoba Economic Summit.

The event brought together nearly 200 business leaders from across Manitoba to Winkler for two days of networking and education.

It's the first time the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce has played host to this conference in over a decade, shared executive director Tanya Chateaufneuf.

"It's great to bring it back to our community," she said. "They mentioned that this is probably one of the biggest venues they've ever hosted it in, so we're glad we could accommodate them and all our guests in the community."

"It's a really good opportunity to network with a lot of people from all over the province," added Winkler chamber president Doug Eidse, who noted the various panel discussions and guest speakers also provided a lot of food for thought for attendees.

"There's definitely a lot of perspectives and information, and simply places here where you can find information. A lot of times you want to do something better or come up with solutions and you don't know where to look—there's a lot of people here that have that information ... shipping



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Rick Reid from Supply Chain Manitoba, City of Winkler manager Jody Penner, and Christopher Henry from the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce with Manitoba Chambers of Commerce president and CEO Chuck Davidson at a panel on strengthening local supply chains at the Manitoba Economic Summit '25 in Winkler last week.

logistics, trade and import/export experts, communications."

MCC president and CEO Chuck Davidson said it was a fruitful, engaging couple of days.

"We were thrilled with representation from the various levels of government, having the mayors of both Morden and Winkler spending the majority of the time there, and having someone like Minister [Glen] Samard [Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations] and Minister [Adrien] Sala [Minister of Finance] address the crowd."

The summit is "an opportunity to

talk about the importance of the chamber network and see strong chambers in action and discuss issues that are of importance to the broader business community," Davidson said. "It's an opportunity to hear from government officials, key business leaders, and the opportunity to network as well and to learn more about the communities that we're going into."

In addition to keynote addresses from Simard and Sala on the work the provincial government is doing to address economic concerns, other speakers and panels dug into topics that included trade opportunities for

Manitoba businesses, U.S. exceptionalism, strengthening local supply chains, and better lining up immigration strategies to meet labour market needs.

"A lot of the conference had a sense as to what's been happening south of the border and how we can pivot to 'Trump-proof' our economy here in Manitoba," observed Davidson. "Whether it was looking at additional trade opportunities, whether it was looking at procurement. The finance minister outlined a six-step process that the province is looking at in terms of how can we grow our economy ... and the steps that the government is looking to take. I think that was an important message to deliver to this group."

"For all the panels, really, our hope is that there's going to be takeaways—whether it's a business or a community leader or a chamber leader across the province, that they can take away to say there's a message that I can help to grow our own local business community."

The provincial organization is always looking at ways to take its events outside Winnipeg, and Winkler proved the perfect location, Davidson shared.

"We were thrilled with the event, the location, and we will definitely be back."

## > FIRE, FROM PG. 3

They were successful in stopping the fire from taking down the entire building—24 rooms on the east side survived—but the damage was still extensive in the central part of the facility that housed 31 rooms, part of the restaurant and lounge, and the pool.

"There were some areas we were able to keep fire and smoke and everything from, but there's significant damage to portions of the other parts of the building that are still standing," Paetzold said.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner's investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing.

## OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT

All in all, if there is such a thing as a good time for a hotel to have a fire, the timing of this one was probably

it, Penner said.

"It was the middle of the afternoon, so most people hadn't checked in at that point, and anybody who's in-house [registered as a guest] was still at work," she said. "Our housekeeping team had gone home already, so it was kind of minimal staff in the building, and the Smitty's supper rush hadn't started yet."

But the resulting destruction nonetheless has hit the facility's staff and the community as a whole hard.

Penner said lots of people have reached out to share memories of the space and lament its loss.

"So many people have worked there through the years. We had so many conferences, weddings ... it was home to so many people," she said. "It's not just the employees who have lost their work space—the community is also grieving with us."

Support has been pouring in from all over through the past week, and

Penner is grateful for it.

Numerous businesses stepped up that day to ensure hotel staff had a place to go, offering food and other services while the shock of everything was still fresh. Local restaurants also brought food out to the firefighters as they worked through the night.

In the days following the fire, even more people reached out to ensure the hotel's team were taken care of, offering up office space, massages, counselling, and more, along with countless messages of sympathy.

"There's been flowers, there's been donuts. So many hugs," Penner said. "Saying 'thank-you' doesn't feel like it's enough. We're so grateful to everyone."

It's too soon to say what the next steps for the site will be, including whether the parts still standing are salvageable. The hotel had thousands of room and event bookings

through this year and well into the next. They're reaching out to patrons to let them know what's happened.

"It's like an apocalypse going through those hallways," Penner said. "The power's off, so it's dark. It's wet. And then you open a room door and it's just pristine—the beds are made and it smells clean."

"We're going day by day right now," she continued, noting management's focus is on supporting their staff—between the hotel and the restaurant there were nearly 70 people employed there—including providing access to counselling and helping them find other employment.

"I'll do everything I can to help them all find new jobs. That's the best thing for the immediate future," Penner said. "And when the time comes, I would be honoured to have the crew back."



# CFDC unveils new “Sid” mosasaur replicas

By Lorne Stelmach

The reconstruction of one of the region’s best fossils and the creation of replicas of the mosasaur known as Sid was a labour of love for the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre (CFDC).

A brief ceremony last Thursday unveiled the two replicas—one that will stay at the CFDC and a second one for the Miami Museum.

“It’s a very complete specimen now,” said CFDC executive director Adolfo Cuetara. “I think that we did a very good job with this reconstruction. It’s fairly accurate, so we are happy.

“It takes time, and it takes funds as well to do this, but here is the result,” he added. “We want it to be the most accurate, so it takes a long time to research and to be able to complete the small parts that are missing or broken.”

“The level of detail is what amazes me,” said Joe Brown, president of the Miami Museum. “The teeth, the shape of the jaw. It’s very quite moving to see it.”

The CFDC’s most famous mosasaur named Bruce belongs to the species *Tylosaurus peminensis*, but when it was first described by paleontologist Elizabeth Nicholl in 1988, it was largely based on a better preserved and more complete specimen, which was named Sid in honour of Sid Cox, owner of the land it was discovered on.

The Miami Museum approached the CFDC about completing these replicas by using its 3D scanning and printing to reconstruct all the missing parts and for first time ever to have a scientifically accurate reconstruction of the skull.

“The original one was preserved only with 30 to 35 per cent of the skull, so it was a long process, a whole year ... and finally we were presenting the skull today,” said Cuetara.

“The specimen was, I would say, neglected when it was found. It was found by people who probably didn’t know the processes,” he noted. “There was a lot of plaster covering all the bones ... many bones were not recognizable.”

He originally started some work on its reconstruction in 2017 by starting to put together many missing parts.

Cuetara estimated it overall may have involved some 600 hours of complex and highly skilled work involving 3D scanning and printing, comparison with and use of other cranial elements from other *Tylosaurus* in the CFDC collection, sculpting of missing parts, collaboration with other scientific institutions, molding with silicone rubber, casting with liquid plastic in roto-casting machine, and even welding.

Now, he noted, the end result could even be available to be temporarily displayed in other institutions, like



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: CFDC technician Gerry Peters, executive director Adolfo Cuetara, and Miami Museum president Joe Brown last week unveiled two replica specimens of the mosasaur known as Sid.

the University of Manitoba.

The project was possible thanks to the collaboration of the Miami Museum and funding from the community museum project support program of Manitoba, and the Signature Museums Fund of Manitoba.

Cuetara noted the CFDC aims to keep adding to its displays and exhibits in this way.

“It’s fundamental ... trying to improve not only the quality of the displays but also the presence of some specimens that are not on display for lack of materials or lack of space.”

Brown said they appreciate all of the work that went into this project, as well as their partnership with the CFDC.

“We’ve been [working] together for over 10 years ... it’s a growing partnership,” he said. “It’s fantastic ... all of the work that was done by the people from Miami in preserving it and then starting to restore it, it’s really been progressed by the work of the CFDC ... seeing it completed is fantastic, and we’re really looking forward to having the copy of it in our own museum as well as the original bones.”

## More local measles exposure sites announced

By Voice staff

The province issued a warning last week that area residents could have been exposed to measles in both Winkler and Gretna in recent weeks.

Public health officials with Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care notified the public of a number of new measles exposure sites in the area, including:

- C. W. Wiebe Medical Centre in Winkler April 24 from 8:47 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., April 25 from 8:45 a.m. to 6:59 p.m., and April 29 from 8:45-11:15 a.m.
- Winners in Winkler April 27 from 7:30-9:45 p.m.
- Dynacare in Winkler April 24 from 8:47 a.m. to 6:45 p.m., April 25 from 8:45 a.m. to 6:59 p.m. and April 29 from 8:45-11:15 a.m.
- Gretna School April 22, 23 and 24 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Real Canadian Superstore in Win-

kler April 28 from 4-6 p.m.

People are urged to monitor themselves for possible symptoms for a few weeks, and public health is asking individuals who think they may have been exposed at the above locations but have not been directly notified to contact Health Links-Info Santé at 1-888-315-9257 toll-free in Manitoba.

Symptoms of measles generally appear seven to 21 days after exposure. Initial symptoms may include fever, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes, and small white spots may also develop on the inside of the mouth or throat. Several days after the initial symptoms, a red blotchy rash appears on the face and progresses down the body.

Measles can lead to complications including ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia (lung infection) and encephalitis (brain inflammation).

Continued on page 9

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# get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## Do not mourn Hudson's Bay Co.

**A**t 355 years young The Hudson's Bay Company is no more. The company cemented this by posting a farewell to its social media pages and I, for one, am fine with it.

In its heyday the company once owned more than 40 per cent of what we know of as Canada and largely profited off the land.



**By Peter Cantelon**

Of course, for a for-profit company to own and profit from so much land one would have to assume no one lived on the land and had territorial rights in the first place, right?

The response to such a naïve belief in the modern parlance would be a hearty LOL.

To be clear, the company never “owned” the land so much as it had a monopoly over trade and commerce given to it by English royal charter. The reality however was that they ran the territory as the de facto government. Like the East India Company, HBC essentially went well beyond its charter and became a colonizing force. You could call it a corporatocracy.

This is attested to by the fact that HBC relinquished control of its ter-

ritory to the government in 1868 through the Deed of Surrender allowing for western settlement. You do not have to relinquish control of a thing you have no control over in the first place.

How do you surrender a thing you do not own? Clearly the British government, and soon after the government of Canada, acknowledged HBC as the de facto owners or else the deed would never have been required.

In 1670 when Hudson's Bay was founded the Indigenous population of Canada was between 200,000 and 500,000 people depending on the research you look at. Compare that to the non-Indigenous population of 6,282 that StatsCan says were primarily French settlers.

Continued on page 7

# letters

## LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

I read Peter Cantelon's recent column, “The Lost Ones” [May 1, Pg. 6], with tears in my eyes. His words resonated deeply with me—not only because of the compassion he expressed for newcomers, but because of the truth he spoke about the quiet, invisible struggles so many immigrants face after arriving in Canada.

We see incredibly talented, educated, and experienced individuals who arrive in our communities with so much to offer. And yet, they are often unable to fully use their skills—not because they lack the will

or capacity, but because of language barriers, cultural confusion, and the sheer emotional exhaustion of starting over in a place where everything is unfamiliar. This process can take years, even decades, to navigate—and in the meantime, so much potential goes unseen and unused.

As someone who works closely with newcomers and vulnerable people, I witness these realities every day. I see engineers working in warehouses, doctors delivering food, teachers staying silent in meetings because they're afraid of making a mistake in English. These are smart, capable people, and they are not ungrateful—they are overwhelmed.

whelmed.

Peter's column reminds us that integration isn't just about providing services or checking boxes. It's about building real human connections, extending grace and patience, and creating spaces where people can express their full selves—doubts, fears, and hopes—without judgment.

Let's continue this conversation and, more importantly, take action to make our communities truly welcoming—not just in words, but in relationships and structures.

**Mariyam Tsygankova,**  
Morden

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# Midland MLA hosts coffee chat in Morris

By Siobhan Maas

Conservative MLA for Midland Lauren Stone spent an hour last Tuesday morning with local constituents in Morris.

"This is a chance to hear concerns from regional businesses and get to know you," she said to those gathered over coffee.

Morris Chamber of Commerce president Cheryl Demarcke voiced the town's uniqueness as a transport corridor and the effect this has on government representation from the region. Adequate and timely highway maintenance was brought up several times.

Several organizations expressed concerns over lack of mental health resources or any sort of social services for young families and seniors in the community, some of whom lack adequate access to modes of transportation.

"The Red River Valley Parent Child

Centre often has to refer families out of our community to Winkler or Boundary Trails for adequate care," shared Cheryl Crick, director at the centre. "There are no social services in this community because the health districts have consolidated."

A representative for newcomers in the community also stressed the lack of service access.

"It is hard to make Morris a home," they noted. "There is little affordable housing and many newcomers do not have a vehicle, so they move to Winnipeg."

Despite having a 100-space daycare open last year, the Morris Early Learning Centre struggles to find and train the staff necessary to support the spaces. Executive Director Kayleigh Schwark

expressed frustration of the ECE2 program recently not provided to Morris.

"We cannot get trained staff and are stuck in limbo. We have a waitlist

**"WE ARE EXCITED TO BUILD UP OUR PARTY AGAIN, TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE NDP, AND DRAW ATTENTION TO GAPS EXISTING IN THE SYSTEM."**



PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

From left: MP Lauren Stone with Destiny Klassen of Regional Connections, Lorne Hamblin with the Morris Cargill Curling Training Centre, and Bigway's Pat Schmitke at a coffee chat last week.

of 114 children, only three rooms of eight are currently open, and 40 day-care spaces are inaccessible."

Stone assured a solid strategy was ongoing in government to bring people into communities—to tell the story of what does exist, despite the lack of rural structure seen right now.

"We want women in the workforce," she said. "We need space, people, and to understand the cost of educating [any type of new] staff, including ECEs, health care aides and RNs."

Stone also commented on the recent election of Obby Khan as the Progressive Conservative Party of Manito-

ba's new leader.

"We are excited to build up our party again, to keep pressure on the NDP, and draw attention to gaps existing in the system," she said. "We need our party to come together. I'm upset and disappointed about the [federal] election. With a Liberal minority we could see another election soon."

Stone encouraged gatherers to bring forward specific cases from the community to her attention.

"The minister isn't going to know everything that is happening across the province, and I can draw attention to unique cases."

## > CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

At the time Hudson's Bay was founded the Indigenous population was anywhere from 35 to 75 times larger than the non-Indigenous population, and yet somehow they were not a factor in the development of the company.

Of course, they were a significant factor because the company would not have been nearly as successful as it was without the trade with Canada's Indigenous peoples.

Still, the establishment of a wide network of trading posts throughout Indigenous territory was a significant factor in introducing the devastation of smallpox and other diseases

that decimated Indigenous populations.

For me, personally, growing up, the company was simply called The Bay. It largely had no direct effect on my life in southern Ontario because we never shopped there. A practice that largely continued into my adult life. It was always too expensive for us ... we were Woolworth people.

No, I will not mourn the Bay when it is gone. I do not romanticize its history as part of Canadian history. I was thrilled when Winnipeg's historic downtown Bay location came under the ownership of Manitoba's Southern Chiefs' Organization.

While considered an act of economic reconciliation it could hardly be called a gift given the cost of redevelopment is pegged at north of \$310 million and HBC needed to unload the building because it was too costly for them

## Letter policy

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to keep.

What I do like is the name the Southern Chiefs gave to the project: Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgoohn or "it is visible."

What is visible? Certainly, one thing: that Indigenous peoples of Canada are still here while The Hudson's Bay Company is, for all intents and purposes, gone.

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**Manitoba** 



# getinformed

## Western SD has found its new superintendent

By Lorne Stelmach

Coming to a smaller school division like Western here in Morden will be something quite different for Stephen Jaddock.

The new superintendent and CEO, who assumes his duties Aug. 1, is



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Stephen Jaddock will take over as Western SD's new superintendent on Aug. 1.

quite looking forward to it.

"This will be a new experience for me in that I am used to having schools in many different communities," Jaddock said after his hiring was announced last week. "I am looking forward to being able to easily visit all schools and not having to travel up to an hour to reach them."

"We are a rather compact division," acknowledged board chairperson Darcy Wolfe. "We are unique in that way, that a superintendent can go to all the schools in one day they chose to do so ... it definitely will be a change for him."

"The superintendent does so many things though, so having that ability to be nimble and to be agile and to be in multiple schools on a single day is definitely an advantage."

Jaddock succeeds Stephen Ross, who is retiring after 19 years of dedicated service to WSD.

Jaddock brings over three decades of pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 expe-

rience in public education, including 16 years of classroom instruction and 24 years of school and district level leadership roles.

Jaddock was cited as having championed student voice, inclusive practices and community partnerships while overseeing strategic initiatives and fiscal management of multi-million dollar budgets.

Jaddock said he was excited to have the opportunity to serve the students, staff and families of WSD and to work with the board of trustees and division staff.

"Western School Division attracted my attention as it is situated in a vibrant, rural, growing community and has a strong ethic of making all students feel welcome. I value that greatly."

"I think my experience in a variety of educational roles throughout my career has given me a unique perspective of the various challenges and pressures that our front line staff and

educational leaders experience," Jaddock suggested. "I want to be able to relate to them in their various roles and let them know that they are all important for the success of our students."

"He has over 31 years of experience in multiple grade levels and quite a few years now as a school administrator, so that experience is definitely something we were looking for, and I think we're fortunate to get someone with that level of experience," said Wolfe.

He added that Jaddock will also have time to work alongside Ross for a bit before taking over the role.

"We are very thankful for the fact that he is able to stick around," said Wolfe. "There will be opportunity for the two of them to connect even before August 1 for Mr. Jaddock to be able to come in and meet the staff and attend some meetings."

## Senior centre hosting computer security series

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Senior Centre's Services for Seniors is working to give people the tools they need to protect themselves from becoming a victim of scammers.

They're hosting six weeks of information sessions on computer security starting May 21.

"I've been on the website called Cyber-Seniors and they have this video series aimed at seniors that's very good," shared resource coordinator Cathleen Bergen. "It's stuff that's very relevant and very important right now because we're always hearing about scams. It's always a concern."

Each week will feature one or several short senior-focused videos detailing common security risks and how you can protect yourself from being victimized.

There will be handouts of information to take home and a time for discussion at each event. You do not need to bring along a computer, tablet, or cell phone in order to participate, and there is no fee to attend.

The May 21 session will include

videos on hack-proofing your passwords, how to stop phishing scams, and identifying malware.

On May 28, the videos will outline several common scams, including the man-in-the-middle, tech support, relationship, and grandparent scams.

Instead of a video, the June 4 session will welcome officers from the Winkler Police Service presenting on common frauds seen in our area.

The videos resume June 11 with an overview on government imposter scams, June 18 on online shopping safety, and June 25 about online banking safety.

All sessions will run from 1-2 p.m. in the senior centre's space in the Buhler Active Living Centre (650 South Railway Ave.).

The police presentation does not require advance registration, but all the other sessions do. To reserve a seat, call 204-325-8964 or head online to [winklerseniorcentre.com/resource-events](http://winklerseniorcentre.com/resource-events) for each session one week in advance.

The senior centre also has a few oth-

er programs coming up in the weeks ahead, Bergen shared.

This week Friday, May 9, at 1:30 p.m., staff from Menzies ProCare will be on hand to speak about foot care for the elderly, leg health to manage swelling, and tools to manage stress. Register at the phone number or website above.

"They've opened a new clinic here in Winkler and so we thought it would be a good idea to have them out to talk about what they offer," Bergen said.

On Thursday, May 22 at 2 p.m., the BTHC Palliative Care Program is holding a grief session on journaling. This workshop is open to anyone experiencing loss. Registration is not required.

And on Thursday, May 29 at 2 p.m., the public is invited to the centre's annual general meeting where directors will report on the past year. All are welcome, though only members can cast a vote on any motions tabled.

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# GVSD reaching out to local homeschool families

## Weekly engagement hour at the library all this month

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley School Division is reaching out to local homeschool families in an informal way this spring.

Homeschool engagement facilitator Katherine Penner is setting up shop at the Winkler Centennial Library on Tuesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. until May 27.

The first few weeks at the library have been quiet ones for Penner, but she's hopeful more families will take the opportunity to come chat with her.

"I'll be there every week to establish this and then my hope is we'll continue in some capacity in the fall, even if it's maybe once a month," she said.

It's a chance for families to learn about the opportunities available to them in GVSD, even if they choose to educate their children at home.

"This is not about persuading homeschool families to come to public school or return to public school," stressed superintendent Dan Ward. "What it's about is the resources out there that both our office as well as the provincial homeschool office can point you in the right direction of."

That could include information about the requirements for a Manitoba high school diploma, details about registering your child with the provincial homeschool office, how to access curriculum and academic assessments, and classes in local schools that homeschool children can attend to supplement their other learning.

"A homeschool family can have their child attend part-time," Ward explained. "It's based on capacity ...

but in most cases we do have excess space in classes. So if a young person wanted to try out industrial arts or home ec. or physical education, they can do that and try things out in the school environment."

Many people aren't aware course-specific attendance in schools is even a possibility, noted Penner, nor of the other resources available to homeschool families, which is why GVSD is ramping up its outreach efforts.

"More and more people are saying, 'I didn't realize I could take certain classes,'" she said. "And there might be some other questions ... we want to have those conversations with people."

"We want to ensure families have all the information at their fingertips in terms of all the options going forward, K-12," added Ward.

Penner noted some homeschooled teenagers, for example, may have questions about what they need to successfully pursue post-secondary education.

"Maybe it's, 'I want to be a nurse—what courses do I need?' We can connect them with the right personnel at the high schools to discuss that."

## HUNDREDS OF LOCAL HOMESCHOOLERS

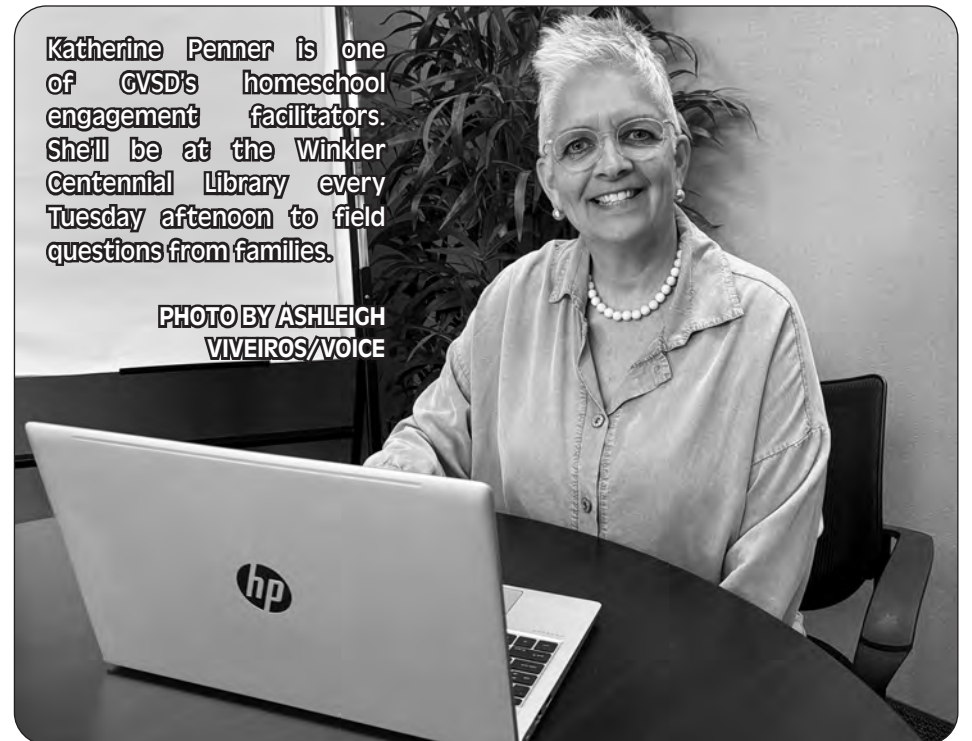
Garden Valley has quite a high rate of homeschooled children compared to elsewhere in the province—a report last fall put it at over 600 students, though there may be more who are not registered with the province.

Families opt to homeschool their children for a myriad of different reasons, Ward noted, ranging from religious beliefs to a desire for more day-to-day flexibility in their child's lives.

Whatever the reason, the school division and parents are united in one

Katherine Penner is one of GVSD's homeschool engagement facilitators. She'll be at the Winkler Centennial Library every Tuesday afternoon to field questions from families.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



thing: everyone wants to ensure kids are getting the best education possible.

"We're all in agreement: we want the best for our children," Ward said. "Homeschool families want the best for their children, absolutely, and we all want a workforce that is educated, that is literate, that is numerate, that can think critically. That's what we all want for our kids, and so if we can support each other in that ultimate goal, that's absolutely what we want to do."

Over the last few years the division has welcomed back hundreds of students who were homeschooled during the worst of the pandemic.

Staying connected with homeschool families helps ensure that if they do decide to come back into the public school system, it's a smooth transition for students.

"We're now in a timeframe where families may have been out for a few years and they're coming back," Ward said, noting that can be a daunting prospect for a child or teen.

"Part of our job is to help them with that," Penner added. "We're happy to coordinate or walk them through the high school, introduce families to the guidance counsellor ... connect them

to places or people that will help them with what they need."

The division has also hosted several successful evening outreach events this school year, and this stretch at the library is a complement to those gatherings.

"We're looking for ways to make it easier for families who might be looking for resources to have us right out there in the community," Ward said.

"We've had a number of families that have come out for our public sessions," he added. "And we've had a number of families that have come and done tours of GVC and NPC."

"This is a little bit different because when we're in the library it's likely going to be [families with] younger children. Our focus to date has been mainly, at least with the evening sessions, middle school and high school, which continues to be our focus areas. But we want to remind folks that anyone who has questions, K-12, can reach out."

If you can't make it to the library over the next few weeks, GVSD's homeschool engagement staff can also be reached through the division office. Or head to [gvsd.ca](http://gvsd.ca) under the "Students and Families" tab.

## > MEASLES, FROM PG. 5

If symptoms develop, individuals who may have been exposed are advised to isolate at home and contact their health care provider and advise them of the potential exposure to measles.

Anyone else in the household who is unimmunized should limit exposure to others until the symptomatic person has received advice from their health care provider. It is best

to call ahead so health care staff can take steps to reduce the exposure of other people to the virus.

Measles is a highly infectious communicable disease spread through droplets in the air formed when coughing or sneezing. An infected person can spread the virus from four days before the rash appears until four days after, and the disease tends to be more severe in infants and young children and can be life-threatening.

Immunization is the only means of protecting people from contracting measles. Contact an immunization provider such as a local public health office, physician or nurse practitioner.

In Manitoba, a two-dose measles vaccine program for measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMR or MMRV) is routinely provided for children who are at least one year of age and again when aged four to six. In the case of a measles exposure,

a second dose may be given earlier than four to six years of age.

Public health officials will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updated information as necessary.

For general information on measles, including immunization, visit the measles web page at [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html) or call Health Links-Info Santé at 1-888-315-9257 toll-free in Manitoba.



# Lois Club of Manitoba celebrates 25 years of gatherings

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Women of all ages and backgrounds gathered in Winnipeg last month to celebrate one thing they all have in common: their name.

The Lois Club of Manitoba held their 25th annual Lois Lunch April 26, and Morden's own Lois Dudgeon was in attendance, as she has been for every single club gathering stretching back to 1998.

That's when she and Lois Howard founded the club, inspired by similar moniker-themed groups elsewhere in Canada and the U.S.

"We sat down and came up with some names, because I knew a couple of Loises and she knew a few, so we started to call those people up," Dudgeon recalls. "We decided that if it was just the two of us that showed up, fine, we were going to have lunch together then. Thirty-six Loises showed up."

The annual gathering's numbers have fluctuated, reaching heights of 55 one year. This year's event drew 26 people, the eldest at 93 years old and the youngest at 16.

"[She's] been coming to the lunches since she was born, with her Grandma Lois, who has passed away," Dudgeon says of the teen, noting there are a host of grandmothers who come



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Twenty-six Loises met in Winnipeg April 26 for the annual Lois Lunch, organized by the Lois Club of Manitoba. The group included a few Morden-Winkler Loises.

with their granddaughters, and mother-daughter members as well.

It's not a requirement that Lois be your first name, she explains.

"It doesn't matter if Lois is your first name, your second name, your third name, or whatever—as long as Lois is in there somewhere, you are welcome."

This year's luncheon drew Loises from Morden, Winkler, Winnipeg, Stonewall, Gimli, Fraserwood, Oak

Bank, Birds Hill, Beausejour, and Portage la Prairie.

Dudgeon has a perfect attendance record at the annual luncheon, with a few other members having only missed a handful of times over the years.

It's always a fun afternoon of conversation and connection.

"We have a lot of fun with it, and some times we'll have guest speakers—we've got a couple of Lois au-

thors here in Manitoba who have come out, and we've done show and tells if some of our Loises have an interesting hobby or work someplace of interest," Dudgeon says. "We dream up something different every year."

More Loises are always welcome to join. The group meets in Winnipeg the last Saturday of April every year.

You can connect with them through their Facebook page ([facebook.com/themanitobaloises](https://facebook.com/themanitobaloises)).

## Re-elected Branden Leslie humbled by outpouring of support

By Lorne Stelmach

Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie is ready to get back to work in Parliament, although he had hoped to be



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Branden Leslie is eager to get back to work as Portage-Lisgar's MP in Ottawa.

joining his fellow Conservatives on the other side of the house.

Leslie was easily re-elected for a second term in office with 31,889 votes, 69.4 per cent of the ballots cast. In a distant second place was Liberal candidate Robert Kreis with 10,493 votes, 22.8 per cent.

Leslie's excitement though was tempered by the fact the Liberals were elected to a fourth term, although their 169 seats were three shy of what is needed for a majority government.

"I will give them an opportunity to see if they are going to chart a different course ... I'll happily support good policy ideas wherever they come from," Leslie said last week.

"I just want to say how thankful I am for the people of Portage-Lisgar for once again placing their trust in me to be their member of Parliament. I'm just so incredibly humbled by receiving such strong support ... nearly 70 per cent of the vote.

"Nationally, it's a disappointing result. We were certainly hoping to form government," he said. "At the same time, I think we can be very

proud of the fact that we had the best Conservative national turnout in terms of votes. We picked up a couple dozen more seats, making us an even stronger voice of opposition to this government.

"I'm optimistic ... and I would like to be optimistic in wishing Prime Minister [Mark] Carney all the best, and I hope he can follow through."

Leslie felt the Tories ran a good campaign, and he noted the best part of it for him was people sharing their stories and challenges.

"That's my favourite part about a campaign ... the chance to talk to so many people," he said, adding he now hoped the government would work hard to unite the country in a difficult time.

"They certainly tried to replicate some Conservative policies that we proposed, and I will urge the Liberal government to implement them in a way that is actually going to lead to improved economic results for this country," he suggested. "In the event that doesn't happen, I am going to be part of a stronger Conservative team

to be an even stronger voice in opposition.

"The Donald Trump effect was certainly real," Leslie observed. "It seems as though some folks became fearful of Donald Trump and his outrageous statements and unjustified tariffs and had folks thinking a little bit different across the country."

Leslie's focus now will be to keep close tabs on the Liberal government.

He noted, for example, how Carney had previously been a proponent of the idea of a carbon tax before dropping it.

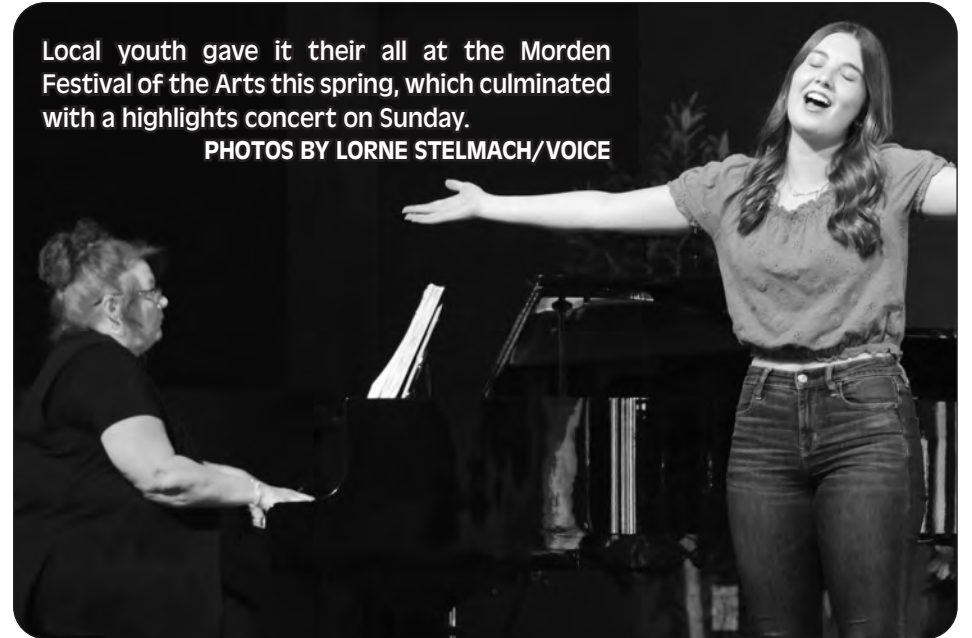
"I'm very skeptical [about] whether it comes back with a different name," he said. "We'll be standing on guard because I will oppose that every step of the way.

"Certainly the cost of living is the biggest issue I heard on the doorsteps. Folks are really struggling to get by," he continued.

"I think we need to focus on economic growth," said Leslie, citing the example of pushing for more invest-

Continued on page 12





Local youth gave it their all at the Morden Festival of the Arts this spring, which culminated with a highlights concert on Sunday.  
PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

## Festival of the Arts wraps up 50th season with awards, highlights

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Festival of the Arts celebrated the conclusion of its 50th year with the annual highlights concert this past Sunday afternoon at Westside Community Church.

It featured performances recommended by the adjudicators of each discipline throughout the festival season.

Awards were presented to many festival participants, with some recommended to represent the local festival at the provincial level.

The 2025 Loreena McKennitt Award was presented to Sam Kroeker as the festival participant judged to have reached a level of excellence in his musical studies and who plans to continue those studies and pursue a career in the performing arts.

Kroeker's music teachers described him as highly motivated, dedicated, and gifted, noting he's a student with amazing musicality and accuracy who has a positive, helpful, and considerate character.

Since he was a small child, Kroeker has demonstrated a love of music and a commitment to excellence.

He plays the piano and violin at the Grade 10 level and plays the trombone in the MCI Jazz Band.

He is also a member of the Post Road Orchestra, has busked at the Corn and Apple Festival, performed for local seniors, and has contributed to music leadership at his church. He also sings bass, has sung in many school choirs, and has been a member of the Central Manitoba Youth Choir the last two years.

Kroeker has participated in multiple disciplines each year in the Morden festival and routinely earned provincial recommendations and awards.

Other winners from this year's festival include:

- Strings: Tileah Maendel, Franklin Kroeker, Alexia Friesen, Emily Pelser, Antje Funk, Mary Mierau, Sam Kroeker, Paul Wiens, Arya Doell, Taylor Friesen, Tennessee Johnston.

- Piano: Alice Young, Bodhi Thiesen, Ainsley Noseworthy, Isabelle

Peters, Sofia Buchsmann, Lauren Peters, Mary Mierau, Addison Wiens, Brayden Wang, Elias Schulz.

- Sacred: Sofia Buchsmann, Paul Wiens, Lauren Peters, Isabelle Peters.

- Vocal: Isabelle Peters, Abby Loutchan, Blakely Harries, Katrina Banman, Hallie Loutchan, Ruqaiya Rubaiyat, Isabelle Peters.

- Speech: Raya Noseworthy, Ainsley Noseworthy, Gabriella Jerema, Lucina Rocha Routhier, Logan Brunn, Rebecca Kagan, Jessica Kagan, Alexia Friesen, Emily Froese, Shekinnah Penacerrada.

And earning recommendations to compete at the provincial level were:

- Piano: Isabelle Peters, Sofia Buchsmann, Blakely Harries, Mary Mierau, Aaron Schulz (alt), Brayden Wang, Jessica Kagan, Paul Wiens (alt), Elias Schulz, Erika Kauenhofen, Lauren Peters, Scarlett Borne (alt), Diana Buchsmann.

- Strings: Franklin Kroeker, Emily Pelser, Mary Mierau, Paul Wiens, Sam Kroeker, Theo Funk.

- Speech arts: Gabriella Jerema,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sam Kroeker received this year's Loreena McKennitt Award, presented by the festival's Rhonda Plett.

Brayden Wang, Rebecca Kagan, Jessica Kagan

- Vocal: Blakely Harries, Hallie Loutchan, Katrina Banman, Ruqaiya Rubaiyat, Abby Loutchan.

## TAWG hosting panel discussion at WAC May 20

By Lorne Stelmach

An upcoming panel discussion will explore what shapes Indigenous identity in our communities.

"Remember Who You Are ... Stories of Indigenous Identity" will be presented Tuesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at Winkler Arts and Culture.

Jointly presented by the Truth and Action Working Group (TAWG) and Genesis House and with the support of the Morden Area Foundation, the evening is simply offered as an opportunity to hear stories and to perhaps learn from them as well.

"I think our hope is just building understanding and awareness and making connections," suggested TAWG member Dianne Hildebrand. "Reconciliation really is about relationship, and it's about understanding each other better."

Hildebrand noted TAWG has hosted a number of events bringing in various speakers, and it led to further discussion about where they want to go with it.

"We recognize that these are our stories. They're not just other people's stories ... but those are the stories we don't always hear," she suggested.

"One of the things that came up for us was we've been doing a lot of reflecting on Murray Sinclair's legacy since his passing ... and we were thinking back to the things that he said about the residential school system.

"So what is happening as we are moving into these next generations in terms of people's identities and has it changed? How has that changed for people who we know in our own communities ... in terms of how they see themselves, how they see themselves within their communities," she continued.

"Some of the reflecting that we are going to do is really what shapes identity for any of us," she said. "And there will be an education piece around how much the government, the Indian Act, has controlled indigenous identity ... that's a factor that many of us don't live with, right?"

The four speakers will include Ashley Dyck, principal at Pine Ridge Elementary School, Charlotte Guenther, a co-owner of Charley B's, her mother Cathy Guenther, who has done work at Genesis House and contin-

Continued on page 13



# Salem BBQ is May 28

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Mark your calendar for May 28—Salem Home wants you to come for dinner.

The Salem Foundation along with the Ladies Auxiliary have announced the details of this year's Spring BBQ.

It takes place that Wednesday night from 5-7 p.m. in the tent on the south parking lot of the Winkler personal care home (165 15th St.).

On the menu are sausage burgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, beverages, and a monster cookie for dessert.

Admission is by donation, with funds raised going towards the Salem Park project, which will install a smooth, level walking path all around the care home's grounds, beautified with benches and flowers, to give residents and their loved ones a traffic-free place in which to go for walks and enjoy the outdoors.

It will be a welcome addition to Salem, shares Susan Hildebrand, foundation executive coordinator.

"It's definitely a need for the residents," she says. "It's going to be great because all seasons they're

needing somewhere, when they go out on a nice day, to be able to just go out with their loved ones and explore the grounds."

Work on the project is slated to begin this spring. The plan is to have it completed later this summer so residents and the community alike can enjoy the pathway before winter sets in.

The barbecue has become a major fundraiser for Salem Home, helping to support many projects that significantly improve residents' lives but are not funded through government sources.

"We've been so blessed with supporters that are for the residents, that are for the projects that we are undertaking for them," Hildebrand says. "It's been such a gift to have that community support."

The evening is also Salem's way of engaging with the community, Hildebrand adds, providing a night filled with food, fellowship, and music.

"We have always had such a wonderful turnout. It's a wonderful night."

Providing the soundtrack for the evening this year will be The Cracked Egg Shell starting right at 5 p.m. The



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Performing popular oldies at this year's Salem Spring BBQ is The Cracked Eggshell.

five-man band plays classic rock and oldies—familiar music you love to hear and sing along to.

Parking for the event will be available at Grace Mennonite Church, with a shuttle operating to transport people to Salem.

There will also be a few raffle prize packs up for grabs, though the details of what's in those baskets is still in the works.

"Bring a lawn chair and an appetite and come on down," Hildebrand says.

## > LESLIE, FROM PG. 10

ment in Manitoba as a whole but especially in rural Manitoba in such areas as water and wastewater projects.

"We tried to run a campaign based on hope ... restoring the promise of Canada," he continued. "I'm optimistic about the growth that we saw in our overall vote tally and in the

number of seats we picked up.

"We'll see how long this minority parliament lasts. I don't know if there's going to be a huge appetite to go to an election again in a couple of months," Leslie concluded. "I can see this being a challenging minority parliament for the Liberals."

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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Maple Leaf School in Morden hosted its own version of Folklorama last week, featuring pavilions from 11 different countries.

# Maple Leaf School celebrates diversity

By Lorne Stelmach

Maple Leaf Elementary School had a special day Friday with its first multicultural Folklorama event.

It especially served to highlight and celebrate how culturally diverse the school community has become in recent years.

"We had 11 countries represented with 11 pavilions that were set up throughout the school representing countries of where our students of Maple Leaf are from," noted principal Cynthia Dick.

"We actually have 23 countries in our school's student population," she added. "To think that our school population, with just 250 students, has 23 different countries ... that makes it very diverse. It makes it a lot of fun too."

The pavilions represented included the Philippines, India, Indigenous, Nigeria, Armenia, Germany, Kyrgyz-

stan, Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Scandinavia - Norway and Sweden.

Dick suggested the students would gain so much from it, and she noted they were all also urged to show off their cultural background in some way.

"We encouraged all the students to wear something that was special to their heritage ... so we had students wearing different ceremonial and cultural wear," she said.

"We also have staff members who are from different countries who were also wearing their own traditional

clothing, which was also really special. A lot of our staff were running stations.

"And we also partnered with Morden Collegiate, so we had a lot of high school volunteers here," she added. "I was at Afghanistan, and the high school kids from MCI are from Afghanistan, and they were teaching our students about their country."

"So it was a special day here for everyone."

## > TAWG, FROM PG. 11

ues to volunteer there, and Christine Thompson, a counsellor at Genesis House.

"I think one of the things as a group that we're wanting to explore is recognizing more of the connections that we all have with indigenous folks but with a limited understanding we may still have around how identity issues are shaped for them ... and also similarly," said Hildebrand. "We're looking at the distinctiveness as well as the connections."

For more information about TAWG, you can find them on Facebook.

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# getinformed

## Preserving a slice of natural prairie grassland

By Lorne Stelmach

A recent grassroots effort saw a group of volunteers rescue a valuable section of native prairie grassland and plants.

It started when they heard the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre planned a new fossil dig site on a recently gifted piece of land northwest of Thornhill.

It was land that had never been cultivated, so group member Doug Kelso felt there should be an effort to save some of this native prairie. It was mentioned at a meeting of the Morden and District Horticulture Society, where it sparked interest.

Kelso spoke to museum staff about when they would be excavating and City of Morden parks staff on where the plants could be placed, and a site along the trail at Lake Minnewasta near where trees had been planted last fall was selected and prepared. Then a group of volunteers gathered April 25 to dig up and replant about 400 plugs of the native grassland and plants.

"We did a lot of work to get 400 plugs over that weekend ... and there will be a lot of work to maintain what we have. It will take a lot of watering," said Leanna Wiebe, who was among the group of volunteers.

She was motivated to get involved as she had done a land survey a few years earlier for a research project and was familiar with identification. She is also working on a project to encourage landowners to preserve native land on their properties in a land trust.

"Over a decade, I've been trying to learn as much as I can about the value of the Manitoba escarpment in our region," said Wiebe, noting how it is part of the ancient shore of Lake Agassiz and is a significant land feature particularly known for being rich in fossils.

"It's important today even because of the ecological value of the intact forest and grassland habitats," she suggested. "It's one of the few remaining areas in the region that would still have so much intact forest and native grasslands."

Wiebe noted it is estimated that across the prairies the remaining amount of native prairie grassland has been reduced to just seven per cent.

"There's just these tiny little pockets of these grasslands that are left here and there, and the escarpment here happens to have some of it, so that in itself makes it very significant



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Earlier this spring, a group of volunteers transplanted native prairie grassland and plants from the CFDC's new dig site to Lake Minnewasta, ensuring their preservation.

and important."

A number of people got involved to help make this project happen, such as Heather Harms, who has an interest in creating pollinator-friendly plantings around town and having naturalized areas around the lake, so she and staff staked out an area and mowed in preparation.

A group of people then met up and went out to the site, including Kelso, Wiebe, Gord Hamm, Rick Rempel, Hank Unrau, Margie Hildebrand, Carol Toews, and Phil Froese.

Some of those in the group were good at identifying the native species in their post-winter appearance, making getting a good mix of flowering plants possible.

Wiebe said they are hopeful that the grassland and plants will take well and perhaps even grow and expand.



"We're hopeful that we could maybe add to it over the years and increase the area of natural habitat at the lake."

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## Sharing smiles—and cookies



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Last week was Smile Cookie week at the Morden and Winkler Tim Hortons, with proceeds from the sale of every cookie going towards the BTHC Foundation's plans to build a dedicated outdoor wellness space at the Boundary Trails Health Centre. Left, top: Members of the Winkler Fire Department were joined by Cookie Monster himself as they put smiles on some of the thousands of cookies that went out from that location. Left, bottom: Volunteers from BTHC were on hand in Morden to do the same. The campaign raised \$50,182—beating their goal by a couple hundred dollars. "This campaign's success is a reflection of the amazing support from our medical clinics, businesses and the community, one cookie at a time," said BTHC Foundation executive director Shannon Samatte Folkett.

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# Red dresses, real stories honour MMIWG in our communities

By Lori Penner

The red dresses hung silently in the trees, swaying in the breeze that drifted through Altona Centennial Park on Sunday, May 4. Suspended from the branches like haunting prayers, the dresses told the stories of women who are no longer here—stories that are too often forgotten or ignored.

The installation was part of the REDress Project, an art-based awareness initiative to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and spark much-needed conversation. Organized locally by Courtney Yeo-Thiessen and Denise Thiessen, the project made its stop in Altona as part of a four-community tour across the Pembina Valley, including Carman, Morden, and Winkler.

"We are Manitobans, and in Manitoba, we have the highest Indigenous population proportionally," said Yeo-Thiessen. "That brings a responsibility to those of us who live here to be aware of how this is affecting our neighbours."

The REDress Project, originally created by Métis visual artist Jaime Black, uses the powerful symbolism of empty red dresses to represent the thousands of Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been murdered in Canada. While the

RCMP reported around 1,200 cases between 1980 and 2012, Indigenous organizations estimate the number to be closer to 4,000—a number that continues to rise yet is still underrepresented in media coverage and national discourse.

Yeo-Thiessen believes the lack of consistent data and police action has allowed many cases to go unnoticed.

"It's like they almost normalize that this group of people are just going to go missing," she said. "We need to do better."

Among those who joined the Altona installation was Shahla Hoepfner, a local woman whose mother, Joanne Hoepfner, was murdered in 2008. One of the dresses belonged to her mom, and another smaller dress represented her baby sister; her mother was pregnant at the time of her death.

"My mom is one of these women," Hoepfner said quietly. "This is a way for her to be a part of something that keeps her story alive."

"This is a reminder that my mom mattered," she said. "They all mattered. And their stories still deserve to be told."

The dresses stood out brightly against the tall trees just beginning to bud with new life—a symbolic contrast between grief and hope. Some dresses carried names embroidered by the Pembina Hills Arts Council and community members. Others came from women's shelters like Genesis House or were donated by locals moved by the project's purpose.

"The dresses pop on the darkness of the trees," Yeo-Thiessen said. "But the trees are also bringing new life. There's an element of hope in this installation. We want to get to a place where this no longer happens at the rate it does."

Each community display also features a blanket exercise, an interactive session that educates participants on the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada—from pre-colonial self-governance to displacement and generational trauma caused by residential schools and the Sixties Scoop. While no one from Altona signed up for the exercise this time, the organizers are hopeful future events will spark greater participation.

"The visual impact of just being able to walk along the path and see the dresses—that gets people thinking," Yeo-Thiessen said. "That's where the conversations start. It's not just about grief and tragedy. It's about community, healing, and understanding."

The day was not without its



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Shahla Hoepfner with her mother's photo and red dress, as well as a dress representing her baby sister. The REDress project was in Altona and Carman last weekend, and is coming on a tour of other local communities in the weeks ahead.

challenges. One woman was seen taking dresses from the display, including a red wedding dress that had been donated with deep personal meaning.

"By the time we got to her, she'd thrown them in her car and taken off," Yeo-Thiessen said. "It's never happened before, and it's hard to know what to think. These dresses aren't just fabric—they represent lives and stories."

Despite the incident, the event was largely positive and well-attended. Families walked the trail together, pausing in silence or stopping to read the embroidered names. Some visitors brought new dresses to contribute to the project. Others stood quietly, absorbing the significance.

"There's a tendency to assume these things don't happen in our communities," said Yeo-Thiessen. "But they do. And we need to stop pretending they don't just because we don't hear about them."

She also emphasized the urgent need to push back against stereotypes and indifference.

"These women don't go missing because they're careless or irresponsible. Many are victims of systemic violence, generational trauma, or vulnerable situations they didn't choose. We have to look at the bigger picture."

The REDress Project continues its Pembina Valley tour in Morden on May 25 and Winkler on June 1. Each installation runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and anyone interested in participating in the blanket exercises is encouraged to contact the team at [pvraddress@gmail.com](mailto:pvraddress@gmail.com).



"THIS IS A REMINDER THAT MY MOM MATTERED. THEY ALL MATTERED. AND THEIR STORIES DESERVE TO BE TOLD."



# Barnswallow Quilters showcase their art

By Lorne Stelmach

The spring show of the Barnswallow Quilters this past weekend once again served as a showcase of the many talented people in the region who create an array of quilts and other fabric work that is both traditional and contemporary.

The annual event also always includes a featured quilter, and this year the spotlight was on the work of Morden's own Barb Westfall.

Westfall recalled taking her first quilting class in the 1980s, inspired by her mother, who was a quilter.

"I think it's the diversity. You can do some many different things with fabric and thread," she said on what's kept her at it. "You can make big bed quilts, and you can do art pieces like I do. So it's just the variety and the potential within it.

"Sometimes when I've heard people say, 'Oh, I hear you're a quilter.' I always say that's true, but I don't keep anybody warm," Westfall noted. "I don't make blankets. I just make small art pieces.

"A big-scale quilt scares me. Just the amount of fabric and the volume of everything feels overwhelming, so I just feel really comfortable working on a smaller scale."

With her work, Westfall just likes to try things out.

"When you're working on a small scale, you're not investing a lot of money, so you can be more adventurous maybe and risk taking and try stuff ... so I'll just get an idea and think maybe I'll give it a whirl and just try it out. It doesn't always work.

"A lot of time goes into my small pieces too, but it's all condensed down in size."

Westfall enjoys the creative process, and she believes that is a commonality for a lot of people in various ways.

"I think there's so many ways in life to be creative, and we all need to find our thing and pursue it," she said. "I think creating is mentally healthy, just to be creative is good for a person. I think we're all meant to be creative in some way ... for me, it happens to be fabric and thread.

The variety of work displayed at the show has grown to include all manner of fabric work by artisans from all across the region.

And there is the additional benefit of the proceeds from the event's rainbow auction supporting South Central Cancer Resource and Boundary Trails Health Centre women's health services.

"It's a great show," said Westfall. "The fact that our population here between Morden and Winkler and the area can produce a show of this size every single year is incredible ... I find that amazing.

"We're a very creative area, and it's inspiring for all of us."



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The spring show of the Barnswallow Quilters this past weekend at the Access Event Centre in Morden brought together a wide variety of work for display. Below: This year's featured quilter was Morden's Barb Westfall.



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# arts&culture

## Miami Arts celebrates its new home, looks to the future

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been a journey to get to this point, but the Miami Arts Association saw its dream come true with the opening of its first exhibit in the former local United Church last Friday.

For those who had helped spearhead the project, it was most certainly cause for celebration.

"We just started out two years ago, tentatively seeing if there was interest in the community for an arts association, and there was," said chairperson Heather Imrie.

"Last year, unfortunately, the United Church closed, and we were looking for a home, so it was just so fortunate that those two things coincided, and we are just so grateful for the ability that the United Church gave us to purchase this building, and we're just very pleased that it will remain as a public facility for many years," she said. "The community hasn't lost the building, and it's been given a new life."

"We didn't really have an arts scene in town, so this has really allowed all the artists in this area to come together and come together and celebrate what they all do," added vice-chair Wendy Pearson.

"Art is actually extremely important for your whole well-being," she suggested. "It's a necessity in your life, and everybody is an artist in their own way ... it's not just a chosen few."

"I think we really just need to come together and show people what's out there and that it's exciting."

The first show at the Miami Centre for the Arts featured a variety of work by local artists, and the response from the community has been encouraging.

"We put out a call for some artwork by past and present artists, and we just had a tremendous response," shared Pearson. "We almost had trouble getting them all displayed."

"We have already done a lot of programming as well. We have had some really successful programs and workshops, and we have had people come from other communities for this as well, even as far as Winnipeg."

"I think we're central, so it's kind of nice that we can draw from a big area," she added.

Imrie noted they are looking at doing a variety of artistic and cultural events at the centre in the months ahead.

"We really are big on trying to keep



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Miami Arts Association chair Heather Imrie (seated) and vice-chair Wendy Pearson are excited at what the future holds for the organization's new arts centre, located in the former Miami United Church building.

it accessible to everyone," said Pearson, who added they are grateful for a number of sponsorships as well as grants that have allowed them to offer something like the free junior art program.

"The fiber arts is really going to be a bit of our niche for the next little while. It's really pretty popular here," Pearson said, noting that would be the subject for a planned fall exhibit.

"We'll see how this goes, and I think we will learn a lot ... and there's lots of possibilities," added Imrie.

Both of them also emphasized the importance of being able to ensure

this beautiful historic building would remain a public facility that their community can continue to enjoy for many more years.

The exhibition on right now is in honour of the life of the Miami United Church, and they were featuring some mementos from the church along with the art.

"We're just so grateful that the United Church put their faith in us to take care of this beautiful building. There is no other building in town that would suit us better," concluded Imrie. "It was a perfect fit."



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Last Friday's celebration at the Miami Centre for the Arts included music, historical artifacts from the former church building, and, of course, a display of art from local artists—the facility's first such exhibition.





# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Wee Chicken & Waffles with Jezebel-Maple Syrup

tional)

Hot sauce for serving

To make the syrup: In a large microwave-safe glass measuring cup with pour spout (one holding at least 3 cups) or a bowl, add the maple syrup, pineapple preserves, apple jelly, horseradish, pepper, and salt; whisk to combine.

Microwave the mixture on high for 35 seconds. (You also can heat it in a small saucepan on low until the mixture is warm.) Stir and taste, adjusting the flavor if desired. Set the syrup aside.

Place the toasted waffles on a large serving platter. Top each waffle with a piece of chicken. Drizzle the chicken-waffle bites with about 1 teaspoon of the syrup. Garnish with the parsley, if desired, and serve with the remaining syrup and hot sauce.

Serves 10 to 12, Three or Four Waffles Each

Jezebel-Maple Syrup  
2 cups maple syrup  
1/4 cup pineapple preserves  
1/4 cup apple jelly  
1 1/2 tablespoons prepared horseradish  
3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
40 mini waffles from a 10.9-ounce package, lightly toasted  
40 pieces cooked fried popcorn chicken  
Finely chopped fresh Italian flat-leaf parsley or green onion for garnish (op-



## Mint Chocolate Mousse

Melt the chocolate with the dinner mints over a double boiler or in the microwave. Let cool slightly. Using an electric mixer, beat together the egg yolks and sugar in a large bowl until thick and mousselike, then beat in the melted chocolate-mint mixture.

Sprinkle the gelatin over 4 tablespoons water in a small, heatproof bowl and let soak and swell for 2 to 3 minutes. Put the bowl in a pan of simmering water and stir until the gelatin has dissolved. Beat into the chocolate-mint mixture.

Working quickly, beat the egg whites in a clean, dry bowl until stiff but not dry, then fold into the chocolate mixture with a metal spoon.

Divide the mousse between the pots. Scatter with the chopped mint sticks, then refrigerate until set. Alternatively, whip the 1 cup cream and use to decorate the mousses, along with the frosted mint leaves. Leave at cool room temperature for about 20 minutes before serving.

Serves 4

5 ounces dark chocolate (60 to 70 percent cocoa solids), chopped or broken up into smaller pieces  
4 to 6 chocolate covered dinner mints, chopped  
4 eggs, separated  
2 tablespoons sugar  
4 tablespoons heavy cream  
1 teaspoon powdered gelatin  
2 tablespoons chopped chocolate mint sticks, or frosted mint leaves and 1 cup heavy cream, to decorate  
4 pots or dessert cups, for serving

# Ask the money lady



Dear Money Lady Readers:

I want to ask – for those of you in your 50's or 60's.....what's your plan for retirement?

I hope you have thought about it. Today let's talk about how to not outlive your money.

We all know planning is important. They say: "the person who doesn't plan for the future, can't expect to have a future." And we all know this to be true. So why is it that today we have over 40% of retirees falling into the "retirement gap." The new term, retirement gap, means that retirees are finding that the money they planned to live on, in reality, now falls short every month. Being in the retirement gap is not a good thing and if you know your in it than you also know you will need to either get a part-time job, adjust your spending, or downsize your home and your lifestyle.

First up, you want to make a list of all your monthly expenses, including mortgages (or rent), utilities, heat, hydro, condo fees, estimate for groceries, car payments and gas for your vehicle, memberships, subscriptions, and basically everything that you spend money on each month. Are these expenses going to continue in retirement, and if so, for how long?

Of course, if you plan to travel in retirement, then I will want you to decide how much you plan to spend every year and have this divided by 12 months and added in to your monthly expense list. Now that you know how much you will need each month when you retire – do you have a plan to create a revenue stream to cover these expenses. This revenue will need to be funded by investment portfolios, RRSPs, TFSAs, pension income, rental income, CPP and OAS.

While you may think you have enough funds to retire, please remember that timing your withdrawal from any investment is truly the key to ensuring your money lasts. If we take a typical retirement time horizon of let's say, 25 years and you are withdrawing a monthly retirement

income from an equity portfolio, you will need to account for 3 to 5 downward swings in the market. Because you are essentially creating a revenue stream from your portfolio it is important to remember that the cyclical trends that help build your savings, now works in reverse. Over a 25 year time period, due to bear markets, a retiree will need to consider that they will lose anywhere from 20% to 46% from their overall capital savings if held in an equity portfolio. Remember this is like dollar cost averaging but in reverse – because you are now withdrawing funds on a monthly basis, not saving them.

Another thing to consider is the state of the economy at the time you wish to retire. If you retire during a bull market, you will be much better off than someone that retires in a bear market. You see, positive returns early in retirement outlast an identical portfolio that has to endure negative returns early in retirement. This is called the "sequence of returns risk" and please believe me, this is a true event. Economists have shown that when you compare portfolios with the same securities and values, and with the same average long-term rate of return, the timing of the withdrawals does make a difference.

The fact is, bear markets will happen throughout your retirement, and they will affect your savings plan. Since 1940, we have had 15 bear markets with the average length being 11.2 months in duration and an average loss of 31.8%. The best way to combat this phenomenon is to have your fixed monthly expenses covered by your guaranteed income (OAS, CPP, Pensions, LIRAs). If you can do that, then you could potentially withdraw less during bear markets and more when we have a bull market. Bull markets typically last for about 3-4 years and have an average return of 148.7% over their past bear market. Don't be put in a situation where you are forced to sell securities in a down trending market. Selling in a bear market creates capital loss because once the securities are cashed out, they can no longer participate in the eventual recovery.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,  
Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer, Syndicated National Radio Host, and now on BNN Bloomberg News and CTV News every day in every province. Send your money questions, (answered free) to [info@askthemoneylady.ca](mailto:info@askthemoneylady.ca)



# Treed black bear in Altona draws onlookers

By Lori Penner

An unusual visitor turned heads in Altona over the weekend when a black bear took up residence in a backyard tree, leading to an hours-long—and surprisingly peaceful—standoff with local authorities.

It all began around 8:15 a.m. Friday, May 2, when Dwayne Martens looked out his back door and noticed something unexpected: a black bear dozing high up in a tree in his backyard. Naturally, he called the police.

What followed was a calm but careful operation involving Altona Police, the fire department, and officials from Manitoba Conservation.

Their goal? Keep the bear—and the curious crowds it attracted—safe and undisturbed. Onlookers drove, walked or cycled past the site in a steady stream from morning until dusk.

“He had a good, comfortable spot up there,” said Altona Police Chief Dan Defer. “It was a novelty and attracted quite a crowd. Keeping people a safe distance away and managing the traffic was our main job.”

And the traffic was no small task. Word of the bear spread quickly, and



FACEBOOK.COM/TOWNOFALTONA

This Yogi stayed up a tree in Altona for hours last Friday. He ambled down on his own late that night once onlookers left, leaving town safely.

by mid-morning, onlookers from across Altona—and even neighbouring communities—began showing up at the area on 1st St. NW, hoping to catch a glimpse of the sleepy intruder.

Yellow tape blocked the alley behind the tree, and police were stationed on-site throughout the day, directing vehicles and working to ensure every-

one could get a peek without getting too close.

Despite the excitement, authorities chose patience over action, allowing the bear time to decide when to leave on its own terms.

“We don’t really know where he came from. He snuck into town in the middle of the night,” said Macken-

zie Keber of Manitoba Conservation, who remained on-site to monitor the situation. “It’s not very common for a bear to appear right in the middle of town like this.”

Keber explained that most bears wander into communities in search of food, but this one seemed more interested in a quiet nap.

“He climbed the tree for safety reasons,” she said. “They’re more afraid of us than we are of them.”

The bear was too high in the tree to safely immobilize, so officers remained on the scene to keep an eye on it, expecting the bear would eventually climb down on its own.

As darkness fell and the human crowd thinned, the plan worked. Early Saturday morning, the bear climbed down from the tree and quietly ambled out of town, no tranquilizers or interventions required. There were no further sightings.

Conservation officers stress it’s important that people reduce attractants, especially bird feeders, at this time of year, as bears begin to move around searching for food. They will go wherever they smell something tasty.

## Manitoba unveils first surgical robot at Health Sciences Centre

HSC Foundation and Province of Manitoba fund minimally invasive surgical equipment

By Annaliese Meier

Manitoba’s first surgical robot was officially unveiled Monday at Health Sciences Centre (HSC) Winnipeg, marking a major advancement for patient care in the province.

The Intuitive Surgical da Vinci Xi system, funded through the HSC Foundation’s Operation Excellence campaign in partnership with the provincial government, will support minimally invasive surgeries and improved patient outcomes.

“Innovative technology like this helps us stay on the cutting edge of excellent patient care and allows us to

focus our precious front-line staff resources where we need them most,” said Uzoma Asagwara, Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care. “This robot will help keep surgeons and nurses in our province and attract new ones, with a promise that in Manitoba you can expect best-in-class health care resources.”

Jonathon Lyon, president and CEO of the HSC Foundation, called the new technology a “major milestone for patient care.”

“With the robot, patients will experience less pain, less blood loss, and lower risks of complications,” Lyon said. “Patients are typically discharged in a day or two, which improves patient flow, eases pressure on the emergency department, and frees up in-patient beds.”

For 33-year-old thoracic patient An Ji Li, the robot helped turn a frightening diagnosis into a hopeful recovery. Li was diagnosed with lung cancer after coughing up blood in December and underwent robotic surgery at HSC in February.

“When you hear the word ‘cancer,’ everything stops,” Li said. “But knowing I had access to this technology gave me real hope. Because of the robotic surgery, I was able to recover faster and focus on getting better and moving forward.”

The da Vinci Xi is currently being used across multiple specialties at HSC, including thoracic surgery, gynecologic cancer surgery and urology.

The system features four robotic arms operated by surgeons using highly sensitive controls and offers high-definition, three-dimensional visualization. It allows for greater precision and access to areas that are difficult to reach with traditional instruments.

“The da Vinci Xi extends the capabilities of a surgeon’s hands and eyes,” said Dr. Edward Buchel, Surgery Site Director at HSC and Provincial Specialty Lead for Surgery with Shared Health. “The robot’s arms move more steadily than human hands, and the enhanced visualization technology helps us see even the smallest parts of

the anatomy with extreme clarity.”

The addition of the surgical robot is also aiding HSC’s physician recruitment efforts.

“Improving patient care through a dedicated thoracic endoscopy unit and acquiring new technology like the da Vinci robot is what drew me to Manitoba,” said Dr. Gilly Akhtar-Danesh, a thoracic surgeon at HSC. “Physicians want to work at centres with leading-edge equipment that foster excellence in patient care.”

Buchel added that the technology is a “game changer” for both patient outcomes and recruitment.

“We’re grateful for the investments made by the HSC Foundation, the donors to the Operation Excellence campaign, and the Province of Manitoba,” he said.

The HSC Foundation’s Operation Excellence campaign is a multi-year initiative aimed at elevating health care in Manitoba. More information is available at [OperationExcellence.ca](http://OperationExcellence.ca).

News or sports tip? E-mail [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca) or call 204-325-6888



# sports & recreation



## Flyers host spring camp



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Winkler Flyers junior hockey team held its 2025 Spring Development Camp last weekend, welcoming players born between 2008-2010 to showcase their skills as potential future Flyers. Practices and games were held throughout the weekend at the Icon Arena in the Meridian Exhibition Centre.

## Aces feeling on the outs after apparent removal from SEMHL

By Kieran Reimer

The Ste. Anne Aces captured their third consecutive South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League (SEMHL) title just a couple of months ago.

The Aces have lost only 11 regulation games over the past three regular seasons, making them one of the top teams in the SEMHL.

But now, as they enter another off-season as league champions, their future in the SEMHL is in question.

On May 4 at the Carman Golf Course, the SEMHL held a league meeting attended by Aces head coach and president Kevin Lansard, representing Ste. Anne.

According to the special meeting agenda, one of the items discussed was a set of proposed changes submitted by the Warren Mercs — another team in the SEMHL—on April 22 at the league's annual meeting.

The proposed changes included:

- The five newest teams (Île-des-Chênes, Red River, Ste. Anne, Springfield and potentially Steinbach, which is currently non-operational) leave the SEMHL and revive the dormant Carillon Senior Hockey League.
- Replace the Ste. Anne Aces with the Steinbach Huskies.
- Reduce the player eligibility radius for designating a player as "local."

Aces forward Brett Meilleur, who did not attend the meeting, spoke with Lansard afterward.

Based on their conversation, Meilleur said that at one point during the meeting, Lansard was asked to leave the room. When he returned, he was informed that a vote had taken place and that Ste. Anne had been removed from the league.

Despite the circumstances surrounding the meeting, the Aces released a statement Sunday stating that the league's six original member teams voted to remove them.

"It was a surprise to all of the guys," said Meilleur. "We have a group chat,

so he (Lansard) messaged us, and there was a flood of questions: What is the reasoning? What does this mean? Are we indefinitely out of the league? Is there a way we can fight back? It was out of left field for all of us."

Meilleur added the team had no indication it had broken any rules—and if they had, he believes they would have been informed. He said the team is not giving up yet.

"We're reaching out to the public to get some backing, because we feel this is very unfair and uncalled for," he said. "We're going to speak with Hockey Manitoba, and if we have to get lawyers involved to see if this was done legally—followed to a tee lawfully—then that's what we'll do."

Meilleur has been part of all three of Ste. Anne's recent championship teams.

"If we don't make it back into the league, I'm going to step away for a bit," he said. "I have a son on the way, so things are busy for me. I'd have to take a step back, unfortunately."

"I would like to continue playing hockey at the senior level because I love the league and the competitiveness. I just hope we can get back in,

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Do you have a suggestion  
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Continued on page 23



# Tough weekend for U13 Central Energy against Eastman, Interlake

By Annaliese Meier

It was a challenging weekend for U13 Central Energy as the squad dropped four games in U13 AAA softball action against the Eastman Wildcats and Interlake Phillies.

Central Energy opened the weekend with a 13-5 loss to Eastman on Saturday. After taking a 2-0 lead in the first inning, Energy surrendered five runs in the third and six in the fifth as the Wildcats' bats came alive. Kaitlyn B, Collins V and Lindsay F each drove in a run, while Beaudry E recorded the team's lone hit. Central drew 10 walks but couldn't keep pace with Eastman's 10-hit, seven-stolen-base effort.

In the second half of Saturday's doubleheader, pitching dominated early in a 2-1 loss to Eastman. Kaitlyn B struck out four over two innings for Central, and Collins V led the offence with a 2-for-3 performance. Eastman scored once in each of the first two innings and played error-free defence to hang on for the win.

On Sunday, Central Energy faced the Interlake Phillies, who handed them a pair of losses.

In the first game, Central was shut out 7-0. Emma S allowed just three hits but gave up six runs—only two of them earned—over two innings.



Pitcher Emma Shantz started on the mound against the Phillies.

The Phillies' Kardyn R was dominant in the circle, striking out 10 over four innings and throwing an immaculate inning in the first. Beaudry E, Madison K and Kaitlyn B each had a hit for Central in the loss.

Game 2 saw Central fall 12-5 despite a pair of hits from Lindsay F and two RBI from Kaitlyn B. Beaudry E got the start but was tagged for four runs in



PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Central Energy's catcher gets the out at home plate in Game 1 against the Interlake Phillies on Sunday. Interlake won both games.

the first inning. Interlake's Kardyn R again led the charge, driving in four runs on a 2-for-2 performance and striking out six over two innings. The Phillies racked up nine hits and eight

walks, and were flawless defensively for the second game in a row.

Central Energy will look to regroup before visiting Eastman again this coming Saturday.

## Central Energy softball clinic hits it out of the park

By Annaliese Meier

More than 45 young athletes sharpened their softball skills and had plenty of fun thanks to a recent Central Energy clinic led by coaches Ray Mutcheson and Jen Smith, along with

assistants Molly Cowan and Gabbi Hildebrand.

The clinic welcomed girls aged 7 to 18 and was structured in three groups based on age and skill level, allowing participants to receive tailored instruction. Mutcheson and his team

broke key softball techniques into manageable steps and used small-area games to reinforce learning while keeping sessions upbeat and engaging.

A standout feature was a pitching clinic led by Smith, who brought her college playing experience to the field. Her sessions focused on mechanics, accuracy and control, and included take-home drills so players could keep working on their skills.

"The way this clinic was run was phenomenal," said one parent. "My

daughter looked forward to every session and always came away with a smile and a real sense of accomplishment."

The coaches were praised for fostering a positive, encouraging environment that built both skills and confidence. The clinic also helped spark a deeper love for the game and promoted teamwork and perseverance.

For details on upcoming sessions or to contact the coaching team, reach Central Energy at 204-823-2437.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Young athletes took part in a Central Energy softball clinic, where coaches Ray Mutcheson, Jen Smith, Molly Cowan and Gabbi Hildebrand delivered skill-building drills, small-area games and personalized instruction for girls aged 7 to 18.





# Orioles, Bisons prepping for season's start

## MJBL teams hit the field with season openers next week

By Lorne Stelmach

There's always high hopes at the start of a new season for the region's two Manitoba Junior Baseball League teams.

The Pembina Valley Orioles and Altona Bisons are both looking to improve on their results from last season.

"Coaches are always optimistic at the start of the year, but I think there's good reason for it this year," said Dan Giesbrecht, head coach of the Orioles. "I know the league is going to be very competitive, and there's going to be no easy games, but I think we're going to be a competitive team."

Last season saw the Orioles finish fifth with a record of 12-15 for 24 points, while the Bisons ended up in last place at 3-23.

The post season then came to an early end for both as the Orioles lost their first-round series in three games to the St. James As while the Bisons were swept in two by the Carillon Sultans.

Bisons coach Evan Anstett was not available for comment at press time, but Giesbrecht suggested there was

good reason for optimism around the Orioles this year.

"We've got a good core of players returning who have good skill levels, so they're going to be strong. They're going to anchor the team," he said. "We have a group of young players with lots of skill as well, but they'll certainly have to make an adjust from triple A U-18 play to junior ... but I'm confident they can do it."

"I'm looking forward to this year. I think overall it's probably as skilled a team as we've had in the last three years."

Giesbrecht said there was a simple bottom line in terms of what he was looking for in their players.

"You always look for athletes. You can teach them some of the skills that are needed to transition from one level to another," he said.

"Obviously, pitching depth is key, and I think last year it hurt us because we didn't have the depth ... so we would like to increase the depth for sure, and I think we've got a few guys who can help us out there ... we've finally got two left-handers. We haven't had a left hander on our team for

the last two years.

"You can't win a 1-0 ball game too often though, so you need the offensive strength too," he added. "And I think last year we really improved our infield defense ... I think the defense will be pretty solid."

The Orioles kick off their season Wednesday, May 14 with a visit to the Elmwood Giants then have their first home game in Winkler May 18 against Altona.

The Bisons are scheduled to host Elmwood May 11 and then Interlake May 14.

## > SEMHL, FROM PG. 21

that this can be resolved fairly, and we can move forward.

"I think it's pretty well known that Ste. Anne has brought a very competitive nature to the league. It's not like we walked through everyone this year—we went to Game 7 overtime with Springfield, which was an electric experience. Now you're taking that away. If that ceases to exist, it doesn't just affect the community of Ste. Anne, it affects the league as well."

Meilleur said the potential removal of the team impacts more than just the players.

"I lived through it with my team-

mates," he said. "A lot of them have become close friends. They're fathers of two or three kids, and their kids are at the games. Their wives and families come too. We've got kids lining up to fist bump us before every game—it's what they live for on the weekends."

"They don't know anything that comes close to that feeling. Senior A hockey with the Aces has been such a special experience. You don't always get on a team that can win like we have, so that's been very exciting — and obviously beneficial for the families and kids involved."

"That's the biggest gut punch. Taking that away affects a whole community. It's not just 24 grown

men—it's their families. It trickles down. We all got to be part of the experience of winning together, and it just feels like something got stolen from us—not in the past, but maybe moving forward."

The SEMHL operated with 10 teams during the 2024-25 season, the Carman Beavers, Île-des-Chênes North Stars, Morden Bombers, Notre Dame Hawks, Portage Islanders, Red River Wild, Springfield Winterhawks, Ste. Anne Aces, Warren Mercs, and Winkler Royals. The Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League—which overlaps geographically with the SEMHL—included teams from both Ste. Anne and Steinbach last season.



## West Park art show raises \$2,500

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

École West Park School's fundraising art show at The Community Exchange May 1 brought in over \$2,500 for school projects, including a GaGa Ball pit that was installed and ready for the kids to enjoy the very next day. Organized by the school's parent advisory council, the evening featured 50 pieces of student art up for auction, music from 15 different performers, and help from over 40 students who volunteered to serve appetizers (Amelia, far left photo), sell raffle tickets, and clean up. The evening also saw students teaching others how to block print, stitch (Prudence, Braylee, and Jillian, centre photo) and weave a West Park Wildcat.



# Classifieds The Winkler Morden Voice

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## ANTIQUE SALE

Don't miss the big annual Spring Junk Wag-on Antiques & Collectibles Sale. Everything from old toys, vintage clothing, comics, records, jewelry, rustic, retro, glassware, old advertising, old signs, upcycled and so much more. Saturday, May 10, 2025. Doors open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 980 Winkawa Rd. in Winnipeg. \$5 per person.

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## Online McSherry Auctions

**Estate & Moving**  
May 14th @ 7:00PM

**Estate & Moving**  
May 21st @ 7:00PM

McSherryAuction.com  
204-467-1858  
or 204-886-7027  
mcsherrytld@gmail.com

## HEALTH

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

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## CAREERS

### Musée St-Joseph Museum Inc. Job Title: Museum Administrator

**Job Description:** Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Museum Administrator is responsible for the general operations of the museum including administering archives, collections, tours, activities and programming including the Montcalm Heritage Festival.

**About the Museum:** The Musée Saint Joseph Museum is a cultural and tourist destination in the Red River Valley of Manitoba. Located an hour's drive south from Winnipeg in the town of Saint Joseph, it is open year-round with a mission to preserve, exhibit and tell stories of the livelihood of people of the Red River Valley, the Francophone and Franco-Métis communities of Manitoba.

#### About the Role:

- Plan, organize and direct the activities, programs and archives of the museum.
- Recruitment, training and management of seasonal staff and volunteers.
- Manage the collections including cataloguing, acquisitions & deaccessioning.
- Coordinate the Montcalm Heritage Festival including programming, sponsorships and marketing.
- Complete all other assignments and tasks as directed by the Board of directors.

#### Qualifications:

- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision, within group settings and with the public.
- Good sense of responsibility with strong organizational skills.
- A keen interest in Manitoba's history.
- Computer skills including Microsoft Office.
- Bilingual (French - English) an asset, oral and written.

**Other:** Wage to be negotiated based on skills and experience.

**Starting date:** June 1, 2025 Full Time position.

**Submit your resumé by:**  
**May 20, 2025**

**Email to: Robert Parent**  
**President of Musée St-Joseph Museum Inc.**  
**St-Joseph, MB PH 204-324-4209**

## EMPLOYMENT



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

## PERMANENT GRADE 7/8 TEACHER (0.5 FTE) FOR ÉCOLE PARKSIDE SCHOOL IN ALTONA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2025-004 and By-law No. 2347-25, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2347-25, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

**1219 Mountain Ave, legally described as Pt. Lot 1, Plan 721 MLTO.**

as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

**FROM:** "R1" RESIDENTIAL LOWER DENSITY  
**TO:** "R2" RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2347-25 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

**Date of Hearing:** May 27, 2025  
**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Winkler Council Chambers,  
185 Main Street,  
Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 22nd day of April 2025.  
Designated Officer, City of Winkler



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

## CAREERS



### MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

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

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible. Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

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

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

Starting Wages:

- Mechanic \$32.70/hour
- Red Seal Millwright: \$38.08/hour

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

**Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

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at **365 DALLAS AVE., EMERSON, MB R0A 0L0**  
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to serve liquor from: **MONDAY TO SUNDAY 9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 A.M.**  
**1:00 P.M. TO 2:00 A.M. REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Citizen and community input is an important part of the application process.  
Please contact the Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba at 204-927-5300, if you have questions about this application.  
Please contact your municipality if you have questions about zoning bylaws and requirements.  
If you want to make a formal objection to this application, please send us your objection in writing by 4:30 p.m.

#### 14 DAYS FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT

You can email, mail or fax your objection. Please include your contact information.

Email: [objection@LGCAmb.ca](mailto:objection@LGCAmb.ca)

Mail: LGCA Objections  
1055 Milt Stegall Drive,  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3G 0Z6

Fax: (204) 927-5385

- We respond to all formal objections and will work to resolve objections before issuing a licence.
- A copy of the objection, including the name of the person who submits the objection, will be provided to the licence applicant.
- Each person who submits an objection will be advised in writing of the outcome to the licence application.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### CITY OF WINKLER PESTICIDE USE PROGRAM

## PUBLIC NOTICE May 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025

Public notice is hereby given that the City of Winkler and/or its designated agents may conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2025, if necessary, depending on infestations.

1. To control noxious weeds on road allowances and rights-of-way within the City of Winkler. The herbicides that may be used if required include: **Round-Up, PAR III, Fiesta.**
2. To control rodents at the Winkler Municipal Airport, Cemetery, and any location within City limits where the designated Officer deems necessary using rodenticide: **Ratak and/or Rozul RTU.**
3. To control mosquito larvae in stagnant water within the corporate limits and a 3-kilometer buffer area using **Aquabac 200G and Vectobac 200G**, on both private and public property. To control adult mosquitoes using **Delta Gard.**
4. To control horticultural insect pests using **Malathion, Pyrate 480 EC, Trounce and Pounce.**

The duration of each program will vary within this period depending on weather conditions and pest population levels.

All pesticides used and procedures applied will be in accordance with the approved label recommendations. The public may send written submissions or objections to the program within 15 days of the publication of this notice to the department below:

Environmental Approvals Branch  
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change  
Box 35 - 14 Fultz Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB, R3Y 0L6

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## AUCTION

### ONLINE FARM & CONSIGNMENT SALES

**Farm Auction Sale for Dennis Geisler, Ashern, MB**  
**Sale Starts online: Monday June 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Closes: soft close starting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 18th, 2025**

Included in the sale: M.F. Super 90 Tractor, power steering, 540 pto, 8745 hrs showing; Hutchmaster 8ft offset breaking disc; Cockshutt 12 tandem disc; Vicon 9 wheel rake; N.H. 1475 Haybine, 16ft hydro swing, 1000 pto; N.H. 660 Baler w/auto wrap, 540 pto; #37 J.D. 9ft Mower, field ready; Antiques, cattle equipment, tools, misc.  
Viewing: by appointment only Wednesday & Thursday, May 28 & 29th. 10:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.  
**Contact Dennis for viewing arrangements at (204) 302-0474.**  
From Ashern - 1.6 km South on Hwy #6 to PR #325. Follow #325 West for 7.7 km, turn left on Geisler Road for 1.3 km South. Farm is on West side of road - #144032.

### Consignment Auction

**In the Lake Francis & surrounding area**  
**Sale Starts online: Monday May 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Closes: soft close starting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 28th, 2025**

Included in the sale: Int. 1256 Turbo Tractor; Ford 7600 Tractor & loader; Boat, motor & trailer; Front end loaders; Manure & grapple forks, Kubota snowblower; Tires; Scaffolding; Gooseneck trailer; Hay trailer; Tires (farm and vehicle); Seed discers; Fertilizer spreaders; Mowers; Square bale picker;  
Viewing by appointment only Monday, May 12 & Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
**Contact John Lampert for viewing arrangements at (204) 841-4136 (cell) or house (204) 383-5711.**  
**Site location (1): 86155 Road 16W - (Corner of Roads 16W and 87N)**  
**Site location (2): 79090 Road 4W - (2 1/2 miles north of Warren on Road 4W)**  
**Lorne (Buddy) Bergner, Auctioneer John Lampert, Auctioneer**  
**Bergner Auction Service, Ashern, MB**  
Email: [bergaut@mymts.net](mailto:bergaut@mymts.net) [www.apro.bid](http://www.apro.bid)  
[www.globalauctionguide.com](http://www.globalauctionguide.com) (for sale viewing only)  
To register: go to: [www.apro.bid](http://www.apro.bid)

## BOARD REPRESENTATIVE OPPORTUNITY



### Opportunity to Serve as Police Board Representative for Morden Police Board



The Morden Police Board is currently seeking to fill one (1) position for Police Board Representative.

#### Eligibility for Membership:

1. At least 18 years of age,
2. A Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident, and
3. Resides in, is employed in or has a business interest in the municipality or another area in which the police service provides policing services.

#### How to apply:

Please provide a short letter describing your interest and qualifications in serving on the police board and why you feel you would be a good representative on the board. All applications need to be originals with a signature so please do not send them by email. Submit your letter in person or by mail to the **Morden Civic Centre: 100 - 195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1V3. To the attention of the City Manager Nicole Reidle.**

**Applications are due by May 22, 2025.**

#### How often will meetings be held?

The Police Board meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public.

#### Is there any remuneration for being on the board?

The Council may provide for reasonable remuneration to members of the police board who are not members of the Council.



# Classifieds Announcements

The *Winkler Morden*  
**Voice**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2025-002 and By-law No. 2339-25, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2339-25, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

**All of Plan (Deposit No. 385-2024) MLTO  
in the SW 9-3-4W**

as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

**FROM:** "DR" DEVELOPMENT RESERVE

**TO:** "R1" RESIDENTIAL LOWER DENSITY ZONE  
"R3" RESIDENTIAL HIGHER DENSITY ZONE  
"PR" PARKS & RECREATION  
"PI" PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

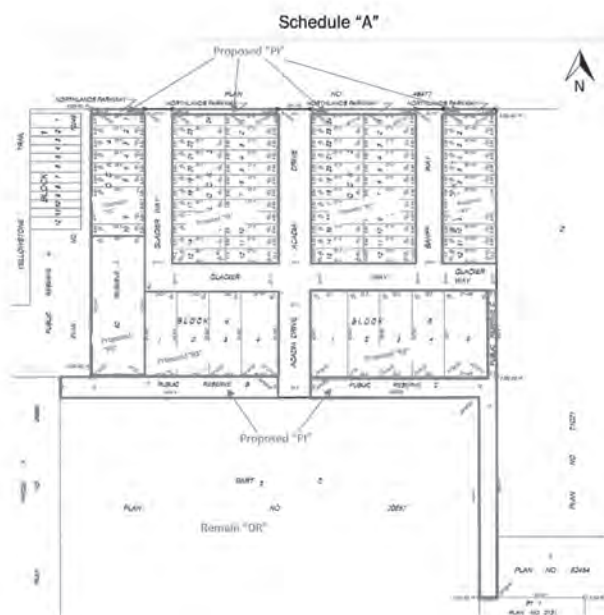
A copy of the above By-Law No. 2339-25 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

**Date of Hearing:** May 27, 2025

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

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

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 24th day of April 2025.  
Designated Officer, City of Winkler



185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4

204-325-9524 | permits@cityofwinkler.ca WWW.WINKLER.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 6-25  
Being an AMENDMENT to the R.M. OF STANLEY  
ZONING BY-LAW 8-18, AS AMENDED.

**HEARING:** R.M. of Stanley Council Chambers

**LOCATION:** 1-23111 PTH 14, SW 7-3-4W

**DATE & TIME:** May 22, 2025 at 9:05 a.m.

**GENERAL INTENT:** To re-zone a parcel of land in  
the RM of Stanley

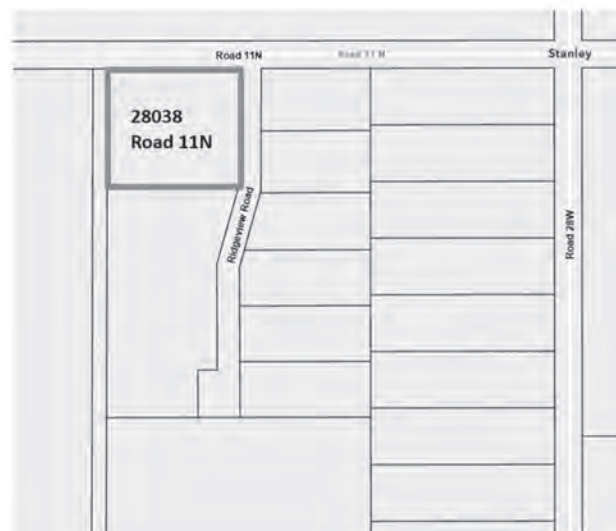
From: "AL" Agricultural Limited

To: "RR" Rural Residential

Lot 1, Plan 50895

Within the NE 29-2-5W

**AREA:**



FOR INFORMATION  
CONTACT:

Melissa Groening,  
Planning and Development Officer  
Rural Municipality of Stanley  
1-23111 PTH 14,  
Stanley, MB R6P 0B1  
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.

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PKF Lawyers is seeking a full-time Legal Assistant to join our Carman team.

Legal Assistant experience highly preferred, with salary commensurate to experience.

**Requirements:** good technical skills; a great work ethic; organized; quick learner; detail oriented and ability to multi task.

**Position:** Real Estate and Family Law assistant.

For more information or to submit your resume with 3 references and keyboard speed to Lori Wiebe lwiebe@pkflawyers.com

This position is at the Carman location and is open until filled. However, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

## EMPLOYMENT

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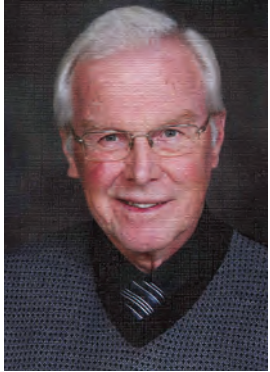
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## OBITUARY



In loving memory of Albert Janzen  
August 7th, 1935 - April 28th, 2025

Albert Janzen, age 89 of Morden, formerly of Miami, passed away peacefully at home on April 28th, 2025.

He is survived by his children, Joann (Andrew), Wayne (Mona), and Terry, one grandchild, Leah (Kaylen), and two great-grandchildren, Alex and Riley.

Funeral service was held on Tuesday, May 6th at 2:00 p.m. at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden. Burial took place prior to the service at the Lakeside Cemetery.

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



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## OBITUARY



John Dormer  
April 6, 1936 - April 20-2025

It is with sad hearts and loving memories that we announce the passing of John Dormer, aged 89, of Morden, Manitoba, on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025. John was born on April 6, 1936 in Winnipeg to Henry and Anna Dormer. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Mary Jo, in 2017.

John leaves behind all those family and friends who bless his memory, and is survived by his five loving children, Rod (Jan), Brian, (Cathy), Brenda (Bert), Murray, Pam (Steve); his cherished grandchildren, Danna (Shogo), Ben (Ashley), Jenna (Brendan), Jillian (Karl), Jesse, Tobi, and Jamie; his great-grandchildren, Kaito, Owen, Yoshiki, Judah, Violet and Conor; his stepmother Magdi Dormer; his brothers Henry and Ernie (Darlene); dearest friend Mary Anne Kraschel of Morden; and nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents, wife Mary Jo, two sisters and their husbands, Anne and Neil Schmidt and Margaret and Jake Kroeker, and sister-in-law Susie Dormer.

John's life will be celebrated on Saturday, May 10th at Christ Lutheran Church, 155 Gilmour Street in Morden at 11 a.m. Immediately following the service, a private interment with family only will take place. All are welcome to continue celebrating Dad and Grampa's life at a reception at 12:30 p.m. at Wiebe Funeral Home.

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



## OBITUARY



Rian Cooper  
Born 3 June 1946 - Died 25 April 2025

Left to grieve are: Dianne McCullough, Dustin Moses Cooper, Andrea Moses Cooper, Patty Cooper and Tina Biello.

No funeral will occur per wishes.

See Doyle Funeral Home page for detailed tribute. [www.doylesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.doylesfuneralhome.ca)

Doyle's Funeral Home  
in care of arrangements  
[www.doylesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.doylesfuneralhome.ca)

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Altona Health Care Auxiliary

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- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Refried Beans
- ✓ All the fixings
- ✓ Brownies & Ice Cream
- ✓ Tea
- ✓ Coffee
- ✓ Gluten Free Options Available

**By Donation**

When  
May 7<sup>th</sup> 4:30 - 6:30pm

Where  
Altona Pioneer Centre

## FUNDRAISER

Rhineland C.A.R.E. Inc.

### Pulled Pork

DINE IN & TAKE OUT

### FUNDRAISER

May 12th 2025  
4:30 - 6:30 pm

The Altona Senior Centre  
39 1ST NW ALTONA  
204.324.1582

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