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The **Winkler Morden**
Voice

VOLUME 7 EDITION 20

THURSDAY,
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Book hunt

Book lovers loaded up their bags at the South Central Regional Library's annual book sale last weekend. Held at the community hall in Morden, the May 12-14 event raised over \$19,100 for new books and other materials for the SCRL's branches in Winkler, Morden, Altona, and Miami. Leftover books were donated to the Winkler Imagination Library program, which holds its own fundraising book sale in fall.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Winkler clinic opens new surgical office

By Ashleigh Viveiros

When Winkler's C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre opened its doors 15 years ago this month, no one could have imagined how fast it would grow. The clinic started with 12,375 sq. ft. in the eastern end of the ALG Professional Centre in downtown Winkler, providing a home for 12 physicians. Today, with the grand opening celebration last week of

its new 4,000 square foot surgical services unit, the medical centre encompasses over 24,000 sq. ft. spread throughout the building and will by year's end have 32 family physicians, nine specialists, 11 other primary caregivers, and 72 support staff providing medical care. "At the time we thought when we were moving into our initial space ... we would probably have enough space to

Continued on page 4

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



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Edith Lovatt is Morden's 'Outstanding Volunteer'

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden's Outstanding Community Volunteer of the Year has been involved in many projects since making Morden her home in 1986.

Though Edith Lovatt has done many worthwhile things during her 30 years in the community, the volunteer work she is doing now with Syrian refugee families ranks among the most rewarding for the retired nurse.

"Each thing has its moments ... but I'm doing a lot with them right now, and it's so heartwarming," said Lovatt, who will be honoured by the Morden Area Foundation at a reception June 5.

"We have a wonderful, good life here. If we could just help them feel safe and welcome here ... that's what we're needing to do."

Upon being announced as this year's top volunteer, Lovatt said it is nice to be recognized for your efforts, though you don't get involved for that reason.

"I was overwhelmed and honoured. It's all a bit much to take in actually. It's hard when all the congratulations come your way, but it's nice that you get noticed," said Lovatt.

"I do it because I get more out of doing this than what I do for the people I do things for," she said.

"I just like people, and I like being busy," Lovatt added, noting she got the volunteer spirit from her parents, who will be in attendance when she receives her award just days after their 62nd anniversary.

"I have met some of the most interesting and wonderful people by getting out there and doing things," she said. "And I've had wonderful opportunities given back to me, especially through the Girl Guide program—I was able to have some trips that I wouldn't otherwise have taken."

Edith Lovatt will be honoured as Morden's Outstanding Community Volunteer of the Year at a reception hosted by the Morden Area Foundation on June 5.

PHOTO
BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



As mentioned, Lovatt is currently a team member on a local refugee support group comprised of representatives from several area churches.

She has been part of efforts to raise money to help support the newcomers and find housing, furniture, winter clothes, and organize medical care for two related families of Kurdish refugees fleeing war and persecution in Syria. Her role also includes acting as a medical contact person.

"She has been very busy arranging for and transporting the family members to medical, dental and vision care appointments. She has also helped to arrange for translation resources whenever possible," Marlene Holewka and Sue Nelson noted in their nomination of Lovatt.

"She is friendly, kind, efficient and practical and just seems to know what is needed to help people feel welcome and comfortable. Edith has provided one of the consistent faces the family knows they can count on. She has spent a lot of time with them."

Lovatt's many other volunteer involvements include the City of Morden's community immigration initiative, Regional Connections, Morden Winterfest, the Many Hands Resource Centre (she was a founding member and remains on the board), the Manitoba Winter Games, and organizing the community meal and the community garden programs.

She has also taken on leadership roles in her church, with Morden Minor Ball, the local 4H program, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, and the Boundary Trails Nordic Club.

"Edith is a caregiver," her nominators concluded, and "will often encourage others to get involved or re-involved in things that they are passionate about."

"Edith leads by modeling enthusiasm and engagement in her community and in her world ... leads by digging in and doing the grunt work."

"[She is] an inspiring role model for volunteerism. She is a consistent, committed, compassionate, contributor to our community."

Emerson MLA named Tory caucus whip

By Lorne Stelmach

It will be Emerson MLA Cliff Graydon's job to direct and oversee the Conservative caucus in the Legislature.

The new caucus whip joked this past week that his appointment must have arisen from his farming background.

"It's clearly taken into consideration that I'm a cattleman and that I'm used to herding," said Graydon. "You can herd them, you don't lead them ... and people are no different. You lead them on the path that will be the most beneficial to all Manitobans as well as to the Legislature."

The role of caucus whip is an honour, Graydon said, and one that involves a wide range of organizational tasks that will be vital as the new government gets started on its ambitious

agenda.

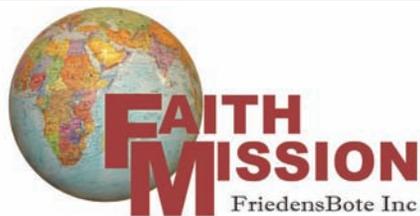
"I also have the ability to appoint people to committees," he noted. "I also am responsible for making sure they don't break the rules ... that they follow the rules of the Legislature."

And, for example, if there is a Treasury Board meeting, he will need to know who is going to be away or if someone will be missing a cabinet meeting.

"I also am responsible for lining up the speakers for any bills," said Graydon. "I will work closely with the caucus chair ... work closely with the House leader ... setting up bills that are going to be discussed in the house."

Graydon assumes the role now that the members of the Progressive Conservative caucus were officially sworn in May 11.

The first session of the 41st Legislature began sitting on Monday.



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Eduard Ewert - Although Eduard retired from the mission in 2014, he is still actively involved. He has been with the mission since it began in the 1970's. Eduard has also been instrumental in Faith Mission overseas operations.



Paul Kronhardt - is now the Vice Chairman of the Board of Missionswerk FriedensBote. Although he is responsible for many tasks within the organization, he prefers the title of coordinator instead of director. Paul came to the mission with 23 years of leadership experience as a lead pastor in Düren, West Germany.



Jacob Willer - is now treasurer of the 5 member Board of Missionswerk FriedensBote. Jacob is also a pastor in his community church and was recently elected as a Bible Teacher in the Halver Church, about 20 kilometers from the FB office in Meinerzhagen, Germany.

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2 (KJV)



Bike-a-thon raises \$19K for Movement Centre

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Forty-two riders came out for the sixth annual Stationary Bike Race held in support of the Movement Centre of Manitoba last Saturday.

The bikers, who took half hour shifts during the six hour bike-a-thon held at Winkler's Emerado Centennial School, had collected \$19,785 as of press time, with a few more donations still expect to trickle in throughout this week, said organizer Marie Wiebe.

"I want to send out a big, big thank-you and God's blessings to everyone for all the donations and all the work that was put in by all the volunteers and our bikers," she said. "It was just wonderful to see everybody help out in the way they do. It just makes my day."

The event started as a small fundraiser in the Wiebe family's garage, but has grown in leaps and bounds in recent years. "There were some new people again this year that hadn't heard about it

before," Wiebe said, adding that it's great to be able to get the word out about the work of the Movement Centre, a Winnipeg treatment facility for children and adults with physical disabilities.

Wiebe's 19-year-old daughter Kathy lives with cerebral palsy and has been going in for conductive education sessions at the centre for years.

The weekly sessions have greatly improved her quality of life, Kathy said.

"The best is that I can get out of my chair and can move, because if I couldn't move it would make it harder for my [family] and for everybody else because then I would have to be at home a lot more

than I am," she said. Seeing so many people come out to bike put a big smile on Kathy's face.

"It's amazing to see how much this whole town of Winkler, Manitoba cares about me," she said, adding that she's especially proud of her younger brother Jacob, who spent a great deal of his spare time in recent weeks collecting pledges for the cause.

"IT'S AMAZING TO SEE HOW MUCH THIS WHOLE TOWN CARES."



Above: Tobias Voth, Eva Voth, Charley Church, and Jacob Wiebe hard at work during their shift on the bikes during the Stationary Bike Race last weekend, organized by Marie Wiebe and her daughter Kathy (right) in support of the Movement Centre of Manitoba.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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From Pg. 1

meet the needs for the next 10 to 15 years," said clinic administrator Jim Neufeld. "So we were a little off on that. In this case being wrong has probably been a good thing."

The opening of the surgical space is the latest in a long list of renovations and expansions the clinic has undertaken over the last decade. It finally gives the six surgeons separate exam rooms and offices of their own for surgical consults and follow-up.

"We're still really happy to keep everybody together in the same facility, which is really important to us, because there's lots of benefits from primary care providers having access to surgeons for hallway consults and all those kinds of things," Neufeld said, pointing out the surgical space is connected to the main clinic via a rear hallway. "So we're still connected and we're still one place, but we have a separate public entrance, which

makes our operation a little easier."

Having its own waiting room and entrance allows the surgical unit to be open on days when the main clinic site is closed for professional development training, Neufeld noted.

STILL GROWING

With the community it services continuing to grow in leaps and bounds, Neufeld doesn't expect the clinic's own growth is going to slow down any time soon.

"The community and the area continues to grow, so we feel it's somewhere between wanting or needing to add one or two primary care physicians every year just to meet the growth," he said.

The facility currently provides primary care services to 28,000 patients for 120,000 visits a year. The clinic also has 25,000 urgent care visits, 23,000 visits with patients not affiliated with the clinic, and 11,000 surgical appointments annually.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre administrator Jim Neufeld in the Winkler clinic's new surgical services space in the ALG Professional Centre. The 4,000 sq. ft. space includes its own waiting room, allowing surgeons to book appointments when the main clinic is closed.

One area the Winkler and District Health Care Board that oversees the clinic is focusing on is bringing more specialty services to the area so people don't have to drive to larger urban centres for treatment.

"The population is getting significant to the point where we are able to support other speciality services that aren't here now," Neufeld said. "Really, our mandate is trying to do what we can to provide as much health care for the population as close to home as possible."

To that end, this summer the clinic will welcome its second obstetrician gynecologist and its first internal

medical specialist to the team.

As it continues to add more and more new doctors, the biggest challenge facing the centre moving forward is figuring out where there is left to expand to, says health care board president Marvin Plett.

"The real challenge we're facing now is expansion because we have been so successful with recruiting. So where do we go next?" he said, noting the board will begin a strategic planning process to outline the clinic's options for the years ahead.

"SO WHERE DO WE GO NEXT?"

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Senior centre ready and raring to move

Free community meals on tap for June grand opening celebrations

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After over two long years of construction, the Winkler Senior Centre is poised to move into its brand new home in the Buhler Active Living Centre, and you better believe they're going to celebrate.

The senior centre, which has operated out of space at 262 Main St. since

the fall of 2013, expects to move into their new digs on the first floor of the new senior's housing high-rise on 6th St. within the next few weeks.

The day has been a long time coming, says executive director John Klassen, and they're very excited to get all their programs back under one roof.

"We have had to downsize ourselves in the past two years," he said. "Our meal program has been split up and separate from our main building here, not having a kitchen has been a real challenge ... there are some things we haven't been able to offer that we'd like to get going again, and we want to offer some new things as well."

Work on the Buhler Active Living Centre is winding down and the Winkler Senior Centre is waiting eagerly to get into its new home in the senior's housing complex's first floor, says director John Klassen.

"It's just time to pull everything back together," Klassen said. "We want to bring back a hub of activity where people can just come in and visit."

The new senior centre as part of the Buhler Active Living Centre will include a revamped gift store featuring handicrafts made by local artisans as well as products from Ten Thousand Villages, hair and foot care services, a commercial kitchen and dining room, multi-purpose room, workout room, and more.

"The community needs to keep in mind they can come in either with their elderly parents or they can come in on their own and enjoy the things we have to offer," stressed Klassen. "Our main focus will always be seniors ... but this centre belongs to the whole community. It's open to everybody."

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

Once the senior centre is in its new space, the plan is to hold grand opening celebrations throughout the month of June.

All month long everyone in the community is invited to stop by for free coffee weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Beyond that, the centre will host a different free event every week for either the community at large or specifically the 55+ crowd.

The first is the 55+ tea room on Wednesday, June 8 from 9-11 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. and a free 55+ congregate meal on Tuesday, June 14 at noon (registration is required for the meal; call 204-325-8964 to sign-up).

They'll follow that with a community waffle breakfast open to everyone

Continued on page 6

Morden hopes to start up Special O program

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden is gauging the level of support for starting up a Special Olympics program in the community.

A meeting to discuss the idea will be held next Thursday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Morden Alliance Church.

Special Olympics Manitoba will make a presentation about their programs and answer questions in the hopes that parents, athletes, and anyone else interested in helping make a local program a reality will step forward to do so.

"We really need to build that strong

community volunteer support to be able to put on these programs," said the agency's Garrett Hudson. "We know from our previous experience within the central region ... we are certainly aware and we know there is a good strong athlete base."

Special Olympics, however, is very much volunteer driven, Hudson stressed.

"The volunteer support is really what helps establish a program. It really is the community that has to get behind the program and support it," he said.

The idea to initiate a program here

arose in part from seeing strong financial support for Special Olympics in Morden through the recent Law Enforcement Torch Run and the Polar Plunge organized by the Morden Police.

The fundraisers raised enthusiasm among some families of special needs children who currently have limited programming to access, said Stephanie Dueck, Morden's recreation programmer.

Dueck encourages residents to "consider volunteering for this important program in our community ... you will be making a difference in kids' lives."

Special Olympics and the City of Morden would like to start programs for children aged 2 to 17 beginning as soon as this fall.

The programs that could be offered include Active Start for ages two to six, Fundamentals for ages 7-12, and a Multi-Sport Club for ages 13-17.

"Those programs are good to really provide athletes with an opportunity to build those sport specific skills, but to do so in an environment where they have a sampling of a few different sports," explained Hudson.

The *Winkler Morden*
Voice



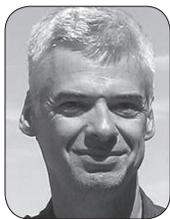
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Rick Reimer



ADMINISTRATION
Lana Meier



EDITOR
Ashleigh Viveiros



REPORTER
Lorne Stelmach



SALES
Gwen Keller



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Harry Siemens



PRODUCTION
Tara Gionet



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Nicole Kapusta

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get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Nature's jackhammer heralds spring

It is spring and with the season a young and virile woodpecker's thoughts turn to fancy and the prospect of hooking up, so to speak.

There's a lot of loud knocking in my neighbourhood these days as amorous woodpeckers seek to outdo one another to win the "Loudest Woodpecker Award."

In the world of woodpecker sex, apparently the loud, obnoxious ones stand a better chance of breeding (or so I'm told) ... this is not unlike the world of humans in many ways.

Who knows why, but apparently loud, annoying woodpeckers with strong beaks are the ones that need to get their DNA passed on. Perhaps these attributes bode well for the species since typically when they're not

hunting bird booty this loud knocking on trees brings forth bugs for feasting and thus survival.

I find it amazing how loud these little dudes can get as they fly from object to object seeking to out-compete other suitors in terms of sheer volume.

Sadly bereft of the technology to develop 22 inch subwoofers to blast their virility all over the place the way certain people do, and lacking the budget to purchase large, 10-foot tall pickup trucks with which to woo a mate, the humble woodpecker must make do with its tough little one inch beak to broadcast its worthiness, attracting a partner and shaming competitors at the same time.

It really is the bird equivalent of a person standing on a corner in a crowded neighbourhood and screaming for hours at the top of their lungs, "HEY!!! HEEEEEEY! LOOK AT ME!!! COME AND GET SOME OF THIS LOUD PIECE OF BEEFCAKE!"

Experts in the field of acoustics, the modest woodpecker can turn a telephone pole into a loudspeaker with little effort, tapping out love songs in a Morse code that can be heard for

blocks. It really is a marvel. I know if I were to climb to the top of a telephone pole with a small, one inch, beak-shaped pointy thing (technical term) I would be lucky to hear the sounds I was attempting to make let alone making knocks loud enough to be heard throughout the city.

For the woodpecker with enough good fortune to land on a large hollow metal box or the like it is game over for everyone else. You can hear those guys from the moon as they gleefully pound away, drowning out every other bird and attracting mates from as far away as Saskatchewan while going deaf at the same time.

It really is a wonder that all that constant cerebral pounding by nature's jackhammer doesn't cause brain damage ... this is a similar wonder again for certain humans.

Frankly I will be glad when the woodpecker families have nested and get back to the much quieter business of pecking for food and stop trying to turn my balcony or tin roof into a metronome on steroids, at which point I will only have to be annoyed by giant subwoofers and too-big trucks.



By Peter Cantelon

> SENIOR CENTRE, FROM PG. 5

from 8:30-10 a.m. on Thursday, June 16.

That day will also feature the official ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m.

The celebrations continue with a community soup and pie supper on June 23 from 5-6 p.m. and a community hot dog barbecue on June 30.

All these events are free, Klassen stressed, so if you're looking for some good eats and a chance to take a look at the brand new facility, these are the days to do it.

"I'd like to encourage seniors to come in and use the new building, check out the activities and services," he said. "And I'd like to encourage the community to support the new building, both the Winkler Senior Centre and the Buhler Active Living Centre.

"This project has always been a community project," Klassen said. "It doesn't end with just getting things built ... people need to fill this building."

If you are of an age to join the senior centre (50+) but haven't yet, June would be the month to consider it: every new person who takes out a \$20 membership will receive a coupon book worth \$23. Members receive discounts on registration for a variety of activities and programs, including use of the woodworking workshop, the gym, fitness classes, educational courses, and more.

CLEANING HOUSE

Prior to the big move, the senior centre needs to clean house.

"Since we're moving into the new building, we've got a lot of things that aren't going to fit in there," Klassen said, noting that includes their old commercial kitchen equipment, various pieces of furniture, cookware, a shuffle board table, and many other odds and ends.

To that end, an auction hosted by Bill Klassen Auctions will take place at the Main St. site on Wednesday, May 25 at 5 p.m.

Proceeds from the auction will go toward setting up the new woodworking shop in the Buhler Active Living Centre.

Anyone who wishes to donate items to the sale can contact the senior centre at 204-325-8964. They are also accepting donations of woodworking or workshop tools for use in the shop.

To stay up-to-date on what's happening at the Winkler Senior Centre, including how you can get involved as a volunteer, check them out online at winkler55plus.com.

Penner Waste purchases PVC

By Lorne Stelmach

The owners of Penner Waste in Winkler say it will be business as usual at Pembina Valley Containers with their purchase of the Morden business as of May 1.

PVC owner David Weiss said there were a number of factors behind his decision to sell, but the opportunity to hand it over to a local company that shares his commitment was the most important.

"I chose Penner Waste because it was a good fit," said Weiss, who noted he had three different companies interested in buying the business.

"They had the same passion for recycling that I had, and I've seen what they have done with their operation."

"It seemed a perfect fit," Jake and Barb Penner said in a news release on Friday, declining further comment on the sale at this time.

They suggested the two businesses will complement each other well, with Pembina Valley Containers further diversifying what services Penner Waste is able to provide to the region.

The Penners said their facility in Winkler is an industry leader as the first licensed construction and demolition recycling and compost facility in Manitoba, while PVC has much to offer not only with its household recycling facility but also toilet rentals.

"Now both companies can offer a complete range of service options for commercial and residential customers.

"In the upcoming months, Pembina Valley Containers will offer space for drywall, wood, shingles and concrete

recycling," they said, adding there will be opportunities for commercial composting as well.

They are looking at even more options to bring more materials for recycling while providing additional employment and completing work on what they described as a state-of-the-art recycling facility.

In addition, there are new options to purchase landscaping products such as natural and coloured mulch, certified compost, and a garden soil mix.

The Penners also said they have approached Municipal Waste Management, which has the collection contract with the City of Morden, to bring the household recyclable materials that are collected from Morden back to PVC. MWM currently takes the material to Gateway Resources in Winkler to be baled and then transported to a landfill near Estevan owned by its parent company.

MOVING ON

For Weiss, a real factor in his decision to sell the business was disappointment with how things played out surrounding his company's loss of the City of Morden collection contract to MWM.

He maintained there could have been further negotiation to make it continue to work, but "they didn't leave a lot of time ... they rushed it. They left no time for proper negotiation."

Despite that, Weiss said he has been happy to be part of the community all these years.

"When I started it was only a two hour a day job ... just me in 1987 ...



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Jake and Barb Penner of Penner Waste with David Weiss of Pembina Valley Containers as they announced the recent sale of the Morden-based PVC to the Winkler company.

when I left there was 40 people working," he said.

Weiss said he had high hopes for PVC's expansion in Morden, suggesting it would be one of the best recycling buildings in Manitoba if not all of Canada.

"My goal would have been to create another 40 jobs before I left."

Although it was difficult to step away, he feels strongly it was the right decision.

"It's a tough business to be in," he said, adding that they have "had the privilege of helping hundreds of people ... who have come our way and needed a job. Those are my best accomplishments ... to help

those people individually.

"I wrote into the contract that the special needs people were guaranteed a job," added Weiss, who concluded by saying he leaves with no regrets.

"I gave it my all. I'm one of these kind of guys I'm either all in or I'm all out. Either I'm all in ... passionate about what I do ... or I'll just step aside.

"When I saw the Penners had the same zeal or better zeal than I did ... then I knew it was a great time to pass it on."

Winkler PD supports Katie's Cottage

Winkler Police Chief Rick Hiebert presented Ruth and Randy Reimer of Katie Cares with a donation of \$3,500 last week. The funds came from the department's annual bike auction, which raised \$3,277 from the sale of over 50 unclaimed bicycles found by police over the past year. The money will go toward the Katie's Cottage respite home, says Ruth Reimer, who thanked WPD for their support. "It's actually very humbling to know that a community can come together and support us," she said.



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Cutting the ribbon on Rosenort CU

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Rosenort Credit Union officially cut the ribbon on its Pembina Valley branch in Winkler last Friday afternoon.

The credit union, located at 575 Boundary Trail just west of the A&W, had opened its Winkler office in February in response to a growing number of area members, says board vice-chair Bert Kornelsen.

"We actually had a significant number of members from this area, and those were the members that were inviting us to come and to open up an office here," he said, noting they previously had locations only in Rosenort and Altona and wanted to give members further west a branch closer to home.

Winkler's rapid growth also attracted the credit union to the com-



Local dignitaries joined Rosenort Credit Union staff and board members in cutting the ribbon on the financial institution's new Pembina Valley branch in Winkler last Friday.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

munity.

"Winkler has been a dynamically growing city and there has been no new financial institution for over 10 years," Kornelsen noted. "So we really felt there was room for somebody to pick up on some of that new business that obviously is coming with the growth of a city like Winkler."

The Pembina Valley branch is a full-service office, with eight staff offering a range of financial products and ser-

vices.

In its first two months of operation things have already been pretty busy, Kornelsen said.

"We are exciting about what is happening here," he said. "The member services have been very busy with opening up new accounts and memberships ... and also a significant number of loans coming through."

Rosenort CU has been a member-owned financial institution since the

1940s. It currently has more than \$330 million in assets and serves over 4,500 members across Southern Manitoba.

If you haven't had a chance to check them out yet, Kornelsen urges you to stop by the new branch to see what they have to offer for yourself.

"They will find excellent service here," he said. "We have a staff who are able and just eager to serve their needs."

Lots to explore during Open House Winkler '16

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Next weekend, 16 Winkler businesses, public buildings, and charities are throwing their doors wide open to the community as part of Open House Winkler 2016.

The second annual event takes place on Friday, May 27 from 1-4 p.m. and Saturday, May 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

It's a chance for you to see behind-the-scenes of locations all over the city, says organizer Deb Penner.

"There was a little bit of turnover from last year—a couple that dropped off and a couple of new ones," she said. "But it's always good to keep it fresh."

Taking part this year by offering tours, special offers, and freebies is Gateway Resources, the MCC Thrift Store, Child and Family Services, the Winkler Aquatic Centre (offering free swimming Friday night), Bethel Heritage Park (which hosts the Teddy Bear Picnic Saturday), Rede-Made Noodles, Ben Krahn Homes, Golden West Radio, the Winkler Museum, the Pembina Threshermen's Museum, the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre, RUSH Laser Tag, The Potato Store, Muscle, Hut, the Winkler Fire Hall, and the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall.

As an added incentive, visitors can enter their name at each location for a chance to win one of three \$100 gift cards from Winkler Co-op.

This is Rede-Made Noodles' first time taking part, and owner Abe Fehr says he's excited to showcase his George Ave. noodle-making operation.

"A lot of times when we're stocking the shelves at different stores we get

people coming up to us and asking where are these noodles made?" he said, noting this is a chance to give people a first-hand look at the answer. "We'd like people to be more aware and realize that there's a lot of great food made right here locally."

Visitors to Rede-Made on the Open House Saturday will get the chance to see some of the company's employees at work ("We have seven grandmas" who make the noodles Fehr says) and also try some free samples with schmaunt fatt.

"Come see how we make the noodles, from start to finish," he says.

Back again this year after having taken part in 2015 is the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre.

The centre will be offering free coffee and tours of their offices in the ALG Professional Centre downtown.

Executive director Linda Marek says this is a great way to give people—including those who may have never had a reason to visit them before—a chance to learn about what the centre has to offer and how the donations it receives from supporters are used.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Staff at Kroeker Farms' The Potato Store served up free french fries at Open House Winkler 2015. The store is taking part again this year, as are 15 other venues throughout the city.

Legion supper raises \$2,800 for local charities

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Legion's second annual fundraising supper was a huge success last month, and two local charities are reaping the benefits.

The Legion presented Big Brothers Big Sisters of Morden-Winkler and the Morden Parent and Child Resource Centre with cheques of \$1,400 each last week raised at the sold-out supper.

"We have a wonderful community that supports us," said Legion treasurer Tammy Petkau, who noted they more than doubled what they raised at the inaugural event the year before.

This year they had 135 people fill the Legion hall April 29 to enjoy a perogy and ham supper and musical entertainment from Elvis tribute artist Corny Rempel.

This is the first time they've added live music to the line-up, which certainly seemed to draw a bigger crowd.

"It just took off and they were beat-

ing down the doors waiting for tickets," Petkau said. "Everyone just enjoyed the evening so much. It was great."

Petkau said the Legion has a long history of supporting youth activities in the community, so these two charities were a good fit.

"They're great organizations for kids," she said.

Michael Penner, executive director of Big Brothers, says the funds will be used to support the agency's many mentoring programs.

"It was a big surprise for us and a very pleasant surprise," he said. "We're always excited when a community

group like the Legion thinks about us and values the work that we do and supports it financial. We're just thrilled by this."

Over the past year, Big Brothers has mentored 77 children in the Morden-Winkler area through its traditional mentoring matches and its in-school mentoring and group mentoring pro-

"WE HAVE A WONDERFUL COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS US."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Morden Legion's Bob Frost and Tammy Petkau presented Michael Penner of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Morden-Winkler and Karen Wowk of the Morden Parent and Child Resource Centre with \$1,400 donations each last week.

grams.

Resource centre coordinator Karen Wowk says the funds are earmarked for their new gym program.

"We've been working on a gym night program and we need a little bit more equipment for that," she said, going on to explain that the program is open to kids between the ages of two to five. "In this program they're developing skills to play games together as a group, games that they

can play with their families, skills that they're going to need to run, to jump, to kick balls, to hit balls ... they're developing skills and learning social interaction and good old-fashioned games."

Wowk thanked the Legion for the support.

"We were very honoured to think that they wanted to focus that money on children and youth in our community, because, really, that's our future."

Two facing drug charges

Two Winklerites are facing a litany of drug charges after police executed a search warrant on a home on Albert St. last week.

Just after midnight on May 11, the Winkler Police Service and the Regional Support Tactical Team entered 196 Albert St. and seized drugs, cash, several cell phones, electronic storage devices, and other drug trafficking paraphernalia.

Drugs seized included crystal meth, marijuana, and various prescription pills unsupported by prescriptions.

Several people were arrested and detained in the search. Two have since been charged.

Philip Raymond Reimer, 30, is facing several drug possession and trafficking charges as well as a charge of possession of goods obtained by crime (cash) and breach of probation.

Adam Nolan Kehler, 20, has been charged with possession and breach of probation.

Both men were remanded into custody at the Winnipeg Remand Centre to await their day in court.



> OPEN HOUSE, FROM PG. 8

"We feel like we're an important part of the community so we're glad for the chance to have people know more about us, see our space, learn what we do," she said. "It's a great way to connect with the public."

Check out the detailed Open House Winkler brochure on the cityofwinkler.ca events calendar for more information, including which locations are taking part on which days (some are Friday or Saturday only).



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LGBTTQ* speaker asks for tolerance, respect

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Pride Winnipeg president Jonathan Niemczak was in Morden Saturday to shed some light on the LGBTTQ* community.

Niemczak was the second speaker in the Diveritas series, which seeks to expose people to the full spectrum of human experience and perspectives, says organizer Peter Cantelon.

"The goal of Diveritas is to expose one another to the diversity of human beings," he told the full house in the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre's theatre room. "If there's any agenda here at all, it's simply to communicate that this diversity makes us stronger as a people."

Cantelon further stressed that he hopes the series—which previously hosted Dr. Idris Elbakri, president of the Manitoba Islamic Association—will help people be better educated when it comes to forming opinions about other people, cultures, and lifestyles.

"We believe that information and dialogue lead to understanding, and understanding can lead to tolerance, tolerance can lead to peace, and I think this is really the goal everyone wants to achieve," he said.

Tolerance and understanding were key focuses of Niemczak's talk, as well.

"You may not agree with what I'm saying, you may not see my point of view, but at the very least you [should] respect it and allow our community to carry on," he said, "because we don't mean trouble to anybody."

"There's this weird fear that we're trying to take over the world, which would be impossible because how would we populate the world?" he joked. "It's really not the case. At the end of the day we just want to live our lives."

People may ask, then, why the LGBTTQ* community feel it's necessary to hold annual Pride Parades.

"A lot of folks say, 'You guys got same-sex marriage, you don't really need a parade anymore. You've got

all your rights,'" said Niemczak. "No, that's not the case at all. There's still a lot of struggles within our community both here in Manitoba, across Canada, even globally, and so we definitely still need that parade."

Aside from raising awareness about issues of homophobia, transphobia, and the rights LGBTTQ* individuals are still being denied, Pride Parades also serve to honour the history of the gay liberation movement, Niemczak explained.

The very first Pride Parade was held in New York City in 1970 on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. The riots were the first time the gay community rose up against police oppression, Niemczak said, and it is in their honour that walks are held today.

"AT THE END OF THE DAY WE JUST WANT TO LIVE OUR LIVES."

"So we're not just doing it just for fun," he stressed. "We're doing it as a march to remember where our history comes from."

In Manitoba, the first Pride Parade was held in 1987 in response to the passing of the Manitoba Human Rights Code, which included making it illegal to discriminate against someone based on their sexual orientation.

"This was a monumental piece of legislation because it was one of the first times in Canada that sexual orientation was going to be an actual protected grounds," said Niemczak. "That's why Pride Winnipeg does our parade."

This year the organization is preparing to hold their 29th annual Pride parade and festival week May 27 to June 5.

FIELDING QUESTIONS

At the end of his presentation Niemczak fielded a number of questions that ran the gamut from asking what Pride Winnipeg and similar organizations are doing to support seniors in the LGBTTQ* community (they do run a support group called Over the Rainbow, Niemczak noted) to strongly questioning the idea that gender isn't necessarily binary (only male or only female).

Pride Winnipeg president Jonathan Niemczak was in Morden Saturday to speak on behalf of the LGBTTQ* community as part of the Diveritas series.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



"Trust me, there are folks that definitely do not identify with the male or female gender," Niemczak said in response to the latter, adding, though, that he respects a person's right to disagree with that statement and hopes they would extend the same courtesy the other way.

Granting basic human rights to LGBTTQ* individuals do not take rights away from others, Niemczak also emphasized.

"We're not trying to take away religious rights, we're just trying to gain rights," he said in response to one man who expressed a concern that when LGBTTQ* rights are granted, his own religious rights are being suppressed.

Niemczak pointed out that there are many different faiths and beliefs, and in a secular society they need to be given the same weight—the real issue is that all people deserve basic human rights against discrimination and personal harm, which is exactly what Pride Winnipeg is fighting for.

Several members and supporters of the local LGBTTQ* community noted that tolerance and acceptance in

our region remains a real challenge.

Niemczak said that open discussions like this are a good step towards further understanding.

"The important thing is [continuing] to have these open dialogues and an open mindset," he said, noting, as well, that Pride Winnipeg is willing to work with rural groups when it comes to starting up LGBTTQ* organizations in their own communities.

"If you can, try and stay. And if you're brave enough, become a champion for your community ... if folks can do that, then they can change the community, they can make it more inclusive. But if we all run away and leave and go to the big urban centres, then nothing changes.

"It takes a lot of bravery but if one person stands up you've become the voice of potentially hundreds of people that don't have a voice."

If you're looking for more information, check out Pride Winnipeg online at pridewinnipeg.com or connect with the local LGBTTQ* group The Grey Elephant Awareness Campaign on Facebook.

Horticulture Soc. looking for planting volunteers

Annual city-wide planting blitz takes place May 31, June 1

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Horticulture Society is looking for volunteers to help them beautify the city later this month.

Society members have already prepared 78 hanging baskets full of flowers for the downtown lamp posts, but now they're turning their attention to the public floral display sites all over the city.

"The city-wide planting is a big undertaking, requiring a lot of work," says president Margaret Penner. "We would like to see a large group of volunteers to come out to assist to get the job done."

This year's planting blitz will take place on Tuesday, May 31 and Wednesday, June 1. In total, upwards of 20,000 dozens flowers will be planted.

Last year the planting was done in a day and a half thanks to the 75 people who came out to help.

To take part, all you need is some spare time and a willingness to get involved, Penner said.

"We would just encourage anybody that is interested and able to come out," she said, noting as well that not all the work is physically demanding. "All those plants have to be popped out of their containers, so if you can't bend down and dig, you could help do that from a lawn chair. Every bit of help speeds up the process."

Planting will get underway at 8 a.m. on May 31. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Winkler arena at that time for their morning assignments, which will include tackling the planters at the swimming pool and arena, the Parkland ball diamond entrance, the Stanley Ag. Society grounds, and the soccer pitch garden.

The group will meet after lunch that same day at 1 p.m. on Grandeur Ave. to get started on the Parkview Gardens.

On June 1, volunteers are asked to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Horticulture Society members have been hard at work preparing the flowers for spring planting, which takes place May 31 and June 1.

gather at the Bethel Heritage Park at 8 a.m. to start on the planters in the park, at the library, the civic centre, and the concert hall.

At 9:30 a.m. they will head to GVC Tec to put the flowers in at the corner of Pembina Ave. and Hwy. 32 and fill out the "Winkler" floral display on Hwy. 32.

After a break at noon for the Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue at GVC Tec, work will continue at the public

works yard and both cemeteries.

If you would like to help with planting, you can contact the society in advance by calling Penner at 204-362-2552 or stop by one of the planting sites the day-of to lend a hand.

"The more volunteers we have, the faster we can get everything done," Penner said, noting they'd especially welcome younger people who want to get more involved. "We'd love to have them."

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PTM volunteers out in full force for opening day

By Lorne Stelmach

Take in the Pembina Threshermen's Museum sometime this summer and chances are good you might meet Alyce Klassen and Betty Warkentin.

They are two of the volunteer crew that help bring our pioneer past alive at the Hwy. 3 museum between Morden and Winkler.

Helping out at the museum is a natural fit for Klassen, who has been doing this for about five years now.

"I love history, and I have a lot of these costumes, so here's where I get a chance to show them off," she said at the Volunteer Search and Spring Tea day held at PTM on Saturday, which was also the museum's first day of the season. "I'm retired, and because I'm so much into history, this is just my cup of tea."

"I really enjoy going back in time," said Warkentin, who is in her third year of doing volunteer work at the museum.

Klassen said she works about a dozen shifts through the summer with key days including the Heritage Days, Pioneer Days, and Reunion Days.

"Plus we have some bus tours coming," she said, noting she likes to station herself in one of the museum's many heritage buildings.

"If I'm in there, I tell them all about the things that are in the house. And I might go into the Haskett store ... I used to live near Haskett ... I tell them how it used to be post office as well.

"If I'm in the sod house ... I'll pretend like I'm from *Little House on the Prairie*," she said with a chuckle. "When Betty and I are together, we just roam around just to provide atmosphere."

"It gives me an opportunity to create new costumes," added Warkentin. "I quite enjoy meeting people from various places. And they may ask to take our pictures, which is a compliment.

"I'm usually not one to be in any of the buildings. I like roaming the village and meeting the people."

There are a variety of ways people can get involved at the museum this summer, including joining the Valley Harvest Maids kitchen crew, helping out with grounds or equipment upkeep, or, like Warkentin and Klassen,



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Avid volunteers Betty Warkentin and Alyce Klassen welcomed visitors to the Pembina Threshermen's Museum Saturday for the annual Volunteer Search and Spring Tea day.

volunteering to dress up and play the role of a pioneer for an afternoon.

"It's certainly not for everybody ... but for the ones who may be interested it's a great opportunity and it's very enjoyable," said Warkentin.

"It's a great place if you're retired ...

just to come and have some fun with it," added Klassen. "There's all kinds of opportunities."

For more ways to get involved as a volunteer or a schedule of upcoming PTM events, check them outline at threshermuseum.com.



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Festival variety night a hit

Above left: The festival parade, one of the feature attractions of the Morden Corn and Apple Festival, was re-enacted through the Kenmor Theatre as part of the Variety Show fundraising night held there last Saturday. The evening served as a fundraising and awareness event for the 50th anniversary of the festival. Above: Performing a medley of hits from over the years were past festival performers Jayme Giesbrecht, Joel Nickel, Jeannie Nickel, and Rick Wiebe. Left: A band of local musicians paid tribute to the festival with a song all about the corn as sung to the tune of the Beverly Hillbillies theme.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



When a Bug Is Not an Engineering Problem

from *Creation Moments Radio Program*

Isaiah 54:11 "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stone with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires."



Squid and chameleons change colors. So does the golden tortoise beetle. But it does so in a way never before seen.

Squid and chameleons change colors by signaling pigment cells in their skin to shrink or expand. The golden tortoise beetle uses an entirely different method. The beetle is normally a very shiny golden color. But when disturbed, it turns blood red. The secret of its color change lies in the unique structure of its shell. It is made up of transparent chitin. The chitin is arranged in three levels, each with their

own layers. In between the layers are microscopic channels, connecting them together. Normally, the beetles' body fluid fills the layers, smoothing them into perfect mirrors. But when disturbed, the body fluid flows out, making the shell transparent and revealing a bright red fourth layer.

Scientists quickly recognized that this design could lead to some important new technology. "Nature never stops surprising us with elegant solutions to everyday problems," said a chemist at GE Global Research Center in Niskayuna, New York.

This design is such an "elegant solution" to some engineering problems that "nature" must be given credit as if it were a being. Why not just recognize that the Designer of this "elegant solution" is the Triune God Who created it and uses color to show His glory to His creation?

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for using color so generously to beautify Your creation and show forth Your glory. Amen.

For further info. contact *Creation Science of Saskatchewan Inc.*,
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Winkler teen wins YMCA Award of Promise

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's Jessica Froese was one of only 12 people in Manitoba to bring home a 2016 YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award earlier this month.

The Gr. 12 student at Northlands Parkway Collegiate was presented with the Prairie Award of Promise for all the charitable and leadership work she's done in her school and community.

"Each year we honour some of the province's brightest and most accomplished women," said award steering committee chair Melanie Verhaeghe. "These talented, generous, and promising women make all of our lives better through their work, time, and dedication to their communities. We are privileged and humbled to recognize their trailblazing, advocating and change-making efforts."

For Froese, sitting alongside her fellow nominees—there were 50 very accomplished women up for awards—at the gala May 4 was a humbling experience.

All of them have done so much good in their communities, she said.

"It's actually amazing how many people actually do things in their

schools," she said of the nominees in the youth category. "And that there's so many women making a difference, too."

"It's good to know that I have the potential to become something like that one day."

Froese certainly has plenty of accomplishments of her own already.

As a member of her school's Peer Leader group she's shared her own story as a survivor of abuse and encouraged other students to speak out against abuse.

She's also given her time as a youth leader at her church and taken part in two missions trips to an orphanage in Nicaragua, raising funds to purchase Spanish Bibles for the facility.

Still, hearing her name called was a surprise.

"I was a little shocked, actually. They had a person on stage and she was talking about how the award was going to a humanitarian and so on and I was like, 'That's not me' and then she kept going and I realized, 'It is me,'" she said, laughing.

The award came with a \$2,000 scholarship, which Froese plans to put to good use when she pursues a business degree after high school.



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY MARNY BARNES. Shannon Leppky of MPI, sponsors of the YMCA-YWCA Prairie Award of Promise, presents the award to Winkler's Jessica Froese on May 4.

Teddy Bear Picnic in Winkler next Saturday

Medical professionals on hand to give check-ups to children's furry friends

By Ashleigh Viveiros

If your child's favourite stuffed ani-

mal has been looking a little under the weather lately, next weekend's Winkler Teddy Bear Picnic will fix

them right up.

The Winkler Family Resource Centre's annual Teddy Bear Picnic takes over the Bethel Heritage Park downtown from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 28.

On hand for the day will be local medical professionals ready to examine and diagnose whatever ails the favourite toys brought in for care, says organizer Cathy Savage.

"This is great for kids because then they're exposed to doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, eye doctors in a fun, friendly environment," she says, noting it puts kids at ease when they themselves have to go in for a check-up after seeing their favourite stuffed animal or doll go through one first.

The day will also include fun activity stations, a barbecue lunch (hot dogs, chips, and drinks sold for \$1 each), and entertainment from children's entertainers Lulu and the TomCat at 11:30 a.m., Tim Butler at 1:30 p.m., and The Snow Sisters.

The Snow Sisters are a pair of fairy

tale princesses who will be greeting kids around the park starting at noon, with a stage performance at 1 p.m.

Kids will also have the chance to check out a Winkler fire department truck, police cruiser, and an ambulance.

"And there will be a bunch of other exciting booths that people can check out," Savage says.

Your first stop at the park should be the Winkler Family Resource Centre tent, where every child will be given a free picnic gift bag.

"And the first 50 children will receive a free book in their bag," says Savage.

Admission to the picnic is free, though any funds raised through donations or barbecue sales will go to the resource centre's programs for parents and pre-schoolers.

Savage notes the Teddy Bears Picnic would not be possible without its many corporate sponsors.

"We are so thankful to all our sponsors," she says.



Boundary Trails Health Centre celebrates 15 years

By Lorne Stelmach

As much as many things have changed since Boundary Trails Health Centre opened 15 years ago, the regional hospital now finds itself still facing some of the same challenges.

The facility is currently looking to expand to meet the region's growing needs, which was certainly an issue directors faced in planning for BTHC leading up to its opening in 2001.

"I think we didn't get a sense of the amount of population growth in all of the reviews that we did," recalled Eileen Vodden, who became facility director at the hospital after having served in a similar capacity for the Morden and Bethel hospitals. "That was something that is slightly disappointing in that, had we been able to build 122 beds, which is what we asked for, it would have met the needs."

Vodden, who now works as regional program director for acute care with Southern Health, looked back and also ahead as the hospital served cake and refreshments last Friday to mark the anniversary.

She noted BTHC opened with approval for 94 beds, despite the fact local leaders felt they could not manage with fewer than 110, as Bethel Hospital in Winkler at that time had 57 beds while Morden's hospital had 72.

"So we were trying to stay in that range ... even though we didn't know what the growth would be, we did know that there probably would be significant growth," Vodden said. "What's interesting is everything that we put in the functional plan ... which was basically what would the building do to provide care to people ... has happened, though even more so than we expected."

Statistics certainly offer evidence of how much the demand on services has increased over the past 15 years.

BTHC has gone from delivering 434 babies in its seven delivery rooms to 956 in 2015.

The four spaces for chemotherapy that included 590 treatments in 2001 has doubled to eight spaces that provided 2,177 treatments last year.

The emergency department treated just under 26,000 patients compared to about 18,000 in 2001.

And the three operating rooms had 1,647 surgeries 15 years ago, while last year saw 4,156 procedures done still with just three ORs.

"The operating rooms are busier than we had anticipated, and we're very tight for space," said Vodden. "At the same time, we have people going home a lot quicker."

"It's just nice to see though that people from the surrounding area can come and get the majority of their



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Staff, patients, and visitors joined in on having some cafe and refreshments for the 15th anniversary celebration of the Boundary Trails Health Centre last Friday.

care here," she added, noting the region has been well served through BTHC with the number of physicians having increased from about 30 to over 50 today, in addition to a range of other specialists.

"We're happy that we've had the physician growth because they can then ensure the service delivery is good."

"We didn't really anticipate how maximized the beds would be, though," said Vodden. "Most times in this hospital ... there are only five empty beds. In a place like this, you can usually look to make sure you have at least 10 beds available ... going into a weekend, you want to make sure you've got rooms for any emergencies."

The other growing challenge for BTHC has been drawing patients from a large region.

Orthopedic patients may come from as far away as Saskatchewan. Winnipeg also sends some patients out here. Obstetrics, meanwhile, sees people from as far west as Killarney,

which Vodden observed is a long way to drive if you're in labour.

And while chemotherapy patients do mostly come from within the region, it is a catchment area of about 80,000 people in total.

Vodden said the hospital has continued to benefit from having very strong support from the BTHC Foundation, and not only to help meet the equipment needs.

"The foundation is interested in providing things like palliative care and spiritual care, which is not something that is supported on a provincial basis," she noted.

The foundation is also now helping drive a planned BTHC expansion with a proposed construction of a new administrative centre that would free up existing space for medical care.

"They're going to build the hospital as to how it was originally dreamt," said Deborah Enns, foundation board chair. "The hospital is small in all areas, and we need to expand in pretty much every unit that we have."

Chamber launches walking club

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with the Winkler Recreation Department to get people outside exercising over their lunch breaks this summer.

Starting this week and running every Tuesday and Thursday through to September, Winklerites are invited to meet at City Hall just after noon for 30 minutes of walking and networking.

"We're always looking for new ideas and casual networking opportunities as well," says chamber executive director Tanya Chateauf. "And then also we were looking for a way to partner with the Winkler Rec. Department to promote health and wellness."

Chateauf stresses the "Walk the Downtown" group is for all fitness levels. She hopes downtown workers

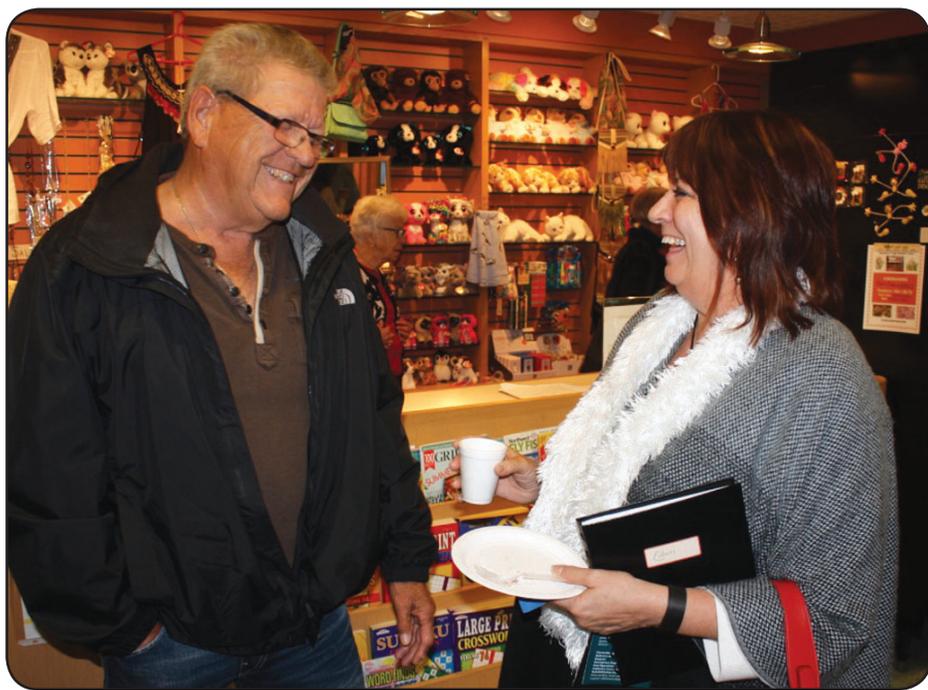


PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Eileen Vodden, visiting here at the 15th anniversary celebration of Boundary Trails Health Centre last Friday, recalled the beginnings of the regional hospital for which she served as the facility director after having held a similar role for the Morden and Winkler hospitals.

NPC Youth in Philanthropy give back

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Northlands Parkway Collegiate's Youth in Philanthropy distributed its annual grants last week to three local charities focused on helping kids.

The student group presented the Chance 2 Grow program with a \$650 donation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Morden-Winkler with \$400, and the Winkler Family Resource Centre with \$250.

"With our group it was pretty unanimous," said YIP member Nicole Klassen, Gr. 12. "We all have a passion for helping kids get further in life, even if they don't have the money, so we wanted to support those charities that did that."

The Chance 2 Grow program helps underprivileged children take part in recreational activities of all kinds, says Sandra Doell, administrator of the Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba Foundation.

"We think it's an incredibly unique program because we have opportunities to fund sports through other providers but we also want to encourage people who find music or art, whatever it is that ignites a spark in a child and gives them a chance to develop feelings of belonging, attachment to their community—that's a chance to grow," she said, thanking YIP for their support. "I think it's really exciting to see young people giving back to other young people."

Big Brothers Big Sisters will use its grant for its Go Girls program, said executive director Michael Penner.

"Go Girls is a junior high-based group mentoring program that helps girls make healthy lifestyle choices and emphasizes self-esteem and healthy body image," he said.

The program started in the area two years ago and has been in high demand ever since.

Penner noted it's great to see high school students take such an interest in giving back to their community.

"The fact that they want to make their community a better place is a very encouraging sign," he said.

Finally, the Winkler Family Resource Centre will use its funds to purchase toys for its Jolly Tots Family Drop-in program for parents and pre-schoolers.

The program is looking to expand into Reinfeld in the near future, said executive director Cathy Savage.

'A GOOD WAY TO HELP'

YIP raised the money through a variety of fundraising events, including renting out a prime parking spot in the school's visitor parking zone in exchange for donations, gift wrapping services at Christmas, and a hugely successful bake sale.

"The biggest one was probably our Easter bake sale," said Klassen. "We were planning to sell at Co-op, but we



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The NPC YIP group presented Michael Penner of Big Brothers Big Sisters and Sandra Doell of Chance 2 Grow with donations last week. The Winkler Family Resource Centre also received funding from the kids.

just sold out right at our school here, which was great."

Klassen urges younger students to consider joining YIP next school year.

"It's a really great experience and I think it's good for everybody just to try because it's a good way to start

helping people in your community," she said.

"It's a good way to get involved in giving back in the community," agreed fellow YIP member Jenna Penner. "It's a good way to start."

Morden-Stanley-Winkler forming regional wastewater corp.

By Lorne Stelmach

Winkler, Morden, and the R.M. of Stanley are joining forces on a plan to advance their regional wastewater treatment project.

The three municipalities will create a new entity to jointly oversee the operations, similar to the way the Pembina Valley Water Co-op's municipalities jointly manage that organization.

"What we're doing now is we're looking at forming a regional wastewater corporation," Winkler Mayor Martin Harder explained at the May 10 meeting of city council. "The biggest issue is to have the two plants under one management group."

Details of the project still need to be worked out, but there is clear agreement on the need for new regional wastewater treatment facilities

"The most economical system was not to have one plant ... because of

the amount of storage required ... we need to store our wastewater for six months ... so we would need to be buying thousands of acres of land," Harder explained. "The idea was we would separate them, use existing lagoons as storage."

Harder believes setting up this new corporate entity will help advance the project along.

"I think it will indicate the seriousness ... and that this is truly a regional project," he said.

In other council news, Winkler is on board with the province to move ahead on improvements to the Hwy. 32 and Pembina Ave. intersection this year, including putting in new traffic lights.

The City has come to a memorandum of understanding with the province outlining details of the project and the cost sharing.

"The city will also manage the project ... and we're going to try to make it go as smooth as possible," said Hard-

er. "The city is committed to \$425,000, and the province is committed to \$1.275 million."

The city will be responsible for moving sewer and hydro lines and completing the engineering and tender documents.

"I'm certainly hoping it will be starting earlier in summer rather than later," Harder said. "I know Manitoba Highways was looking to go ... they wanted to make sure it is one of the earlier ones."

> CHAMBER WALK, FROM PG. 16

will take advantage of the opportunity to get away from their desks for a little while.

"It's really just a great way to connect with other businesspeople and get some fresh air," she says.

If there's enough interest, the walking group could be extended to include additional week days.

"It may be slow to start, but I think throughout the summer there will be lots of opportunity to grow the

group," says Chateauf.

A representative from either the chamber of the Rec. Dept. will lead the walk each day.

If you'd like to learn more, contact the chamber at 204-325-9758.

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Photo by Troy Palmer

Red Cross responds to Fort McMurray fires, launches Alberta Fires Appeal

A massive wildfire in Fort McMurray, Alta., has threatened a dozen communities in the area since it started spreading on May 1.

A mandatory evacuation has forced all 70,000 Fort McMurray residents to leave their homes in search of safety – the largest fire-related evacuation in the province's history. The fire has destroyed homes in several areas.

Canadian Red Cross is on alert with personnel and stock ready to deploy to the affected area as needed.

Donations could provide relief for those affected in the form of emergency food, clothing, shelter, per-

sonal services, and other necessities to help assist with recovery and resiliency.

Canadians wishing to make a donation are encouraged to make a financial donation to the Alberta Fires Appeal.

When we launch an appeal, donations made in response to it are used to help communities and countries identified in the appeal to recover from emergencies and disasters by providing immediate assistance and relief. Once these urgent needs have been met, we may use any remaining funds in and beyond the region to strengthen resilience to future emergencies and disasters or to pro-

vide humanitarian aid in the event that new needs arise.

The fundraising cost related to any emergency appeal will not exceed five per cent. Remaining funds will be used for Red Cross operations to support vulnerable people, families and communities. This includes a small portion of funds, one and a half per cent, which ensures the Canadian Red Cross is ready and prepared to respond to future disasters.



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BTHC hosts Chinese medical students

By Lorne Stelmach

An international exchange saw two medical students from China spend a week learning about and experiencing health care here in southern Manitoba.

The exchange involved the University of Manitoba family medicine department and the University of Shan-tou in China.

Two Chinese students who spent two months in Winnipeg also had five days in Morden and at the Boundary Trails Health Centre to get the experience of practicing medicine in a rural location.

"We wanted them to see what a family doctor living in a rural area would have for a typical daily life

... and how day to day it changes," said Dr. Leanne Nause, who also went to China as part of the exchange.

"There's so many experiences for them to have, so I wanted them to get as much out of it as possible. I especially wanted them to see how in Canada we interact with our patients."

That was what especially left an impression here for both Polly Fu and Lisa Mou.

"Family medicine has a lot of as-

pects to it," said Fu, who noted how much more attention is paid here to the overall health and well-being of the patient as well as the emphasis on preventative health care.

What made the biggest impression on Mou was "the relationship and communication between the doctors and patients.

"The doctors talk to the patients in detail," she said, stressing an important thing she was taking away from the experience was "how to communicate with patients, how to explain everything to them."

It was an educational experience as well for Nause, who went to China to teach at the medical university there for two weeks.

"I went with a group of other doctors and a nurse. I met both Polly

and Lisa while I was in China, so it was very exciting to have them come out to my community," she said.

"We had a lot of fun teaching there," she added. "I've never done anything like that. It was a new challenge for me.

"The biggest part was trying to engage the students and get them to open up. Once I knew how great their English was ... we could learn lots of medicine.

"WE WANTED THEM TO SEE WHAT A FAMILY DOCTOR LIVING IN A RURAL AREA WOULD HAVE FOR A TYPICAL DAILY LIFE."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Dr. Leanne Nause with medical exchange students Polly Fu and Lisa Mou at the Boundary Trails Health Centre last week.

"It was very educational for me, too ... learning about the culture in China was very exciting for me because I love travelling."

Meanwhile, back here in Morden Mou and Fu were kept pretty busy during their visit.

"We had a day assisting in the operating room. We spent a day in my clinic seeing patients. We had a day in the emergency department," Nause said.

Mou also noted they went to a local nursing home and were impressed with the level of care and services.

"It's very different from China. There are many medical centres and people can easily get health care," she said.

Nause appreciated what the two students seemed to be taking away from the experience.

"I think it's very exciting that they have grasped in Canada it's very important for us as health care providers to make a good relationship with our patients and communicate with them," she said.

"Patients like to know about the illness and like to know about their treatment options ... it's the most fundamental skill for a family physician or other health care provider.

"So I actually really appreciate that that's what they are taking out of their experience because it is very important."

She also appreciated their eagerness and openness during their time here.

"They've been very enthusiastic ... they love the people and the places, so it's been fun to have them here."

Construction season set to start in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

Construction season is getting underway in Morden with 18 road, sidewalk, pathway and other capital projects planned for the months ahead.

In addition to road paving, there are a range of other projects that tie in to the city's aims to improve accessibility and promoting healthy living, said Mayor Ken Wiebe.

He said they look at the various needs in the community to where we're going to spend the dollars, with 15 projects set for this year

along with three being continued from last year.

One of those is restoration work on Gilmour St.

"We have to fix that up where we put the new sewer line in," said Wiebe.

The paving of Loren Drive on the eastern entrance to Morden will also be completed.

"Now we're going from First Street to the new Tabor Home," Wiebe said.

And also set to be finished is the extension of Ninth Street South in the industrial park.

Some work is dependent on fund-

ing, but new projects planned for the year include:

- Iris and Dogwood completion of paving.
- Dead Horse Creek footbridge repairs
- Nelson and Eighth Street surfacing work
- Access Event Centre parking lot and back lane repairs
- Morden airport runway repairs
- Nelson St. sidewalk construction on west side from Parkhill to Greenwood
- Mountain and North Railway crosswalk construction.

- Gilmour crosswalk sidewalk extension to connect with Birchwood.
- Birchwood Drive cut-through for access toward Mountain.
- Colert Beach pathway repairs.
- Kinsmen footpath repairs for access from Alvey.
- Civic centre brick footpath repairs
- Kinsmen Sun Catch park improvements
- New entrance sign construction on the east end of Morden at Pembina Connection.
- Drainage improvements for north back lane from Stephen St.

arts & culture



NPC band, choir students take on New York City

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Northlands Parkway Collegiate band and choir students took a bite out of the Big Apple earlier this month.

The school sent a Gr. 10-12 band, Gr. 10-12 choir, and the Vox and Dynamix jazz choirs to compete in the WorldStrides Music Festival in New York City.

"As musicians New York is probably one of the major hubs for music in the world, and certainly for North America," says band director Eric Skoglund. "So for us to participate in a festival in New York, there's probably no better understanding or appreciation of where we are in terms of our music than to go to a festival such as this and know where we stand from a perspective of New York musicians."

The choirs, for example, got feedback from adjudicator Laurel Masse, a founding member of the multi-Grammy winning vocal quartet Manhattan Transfer.

The performances all took place in the historic Riverside Church, an 86-year-old Gothic cathedral in Upper Manhattan.

"It was a space I'd never really performed in before," said choir member Aley Klassen. "It was really cool to see how the sound was different in such a big space and how it bounces off the walls."

Indeed, the band students said they were a little overwhelmed by the venue in the first of three selections

they performed.

"Unfortunately we were really, really nervous the first piece that we played, so because of that we sounded out of tune," said Mark Giesbrecht.

"The last two songs we did much better on because by then we were more relaxed," added Calie Falk.

All four groups represented our area well, coming home with a gold medal for band and three silvers for choir.

Music aside, the trip was also a great



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above: NPC jazz choir Dynamix got to perform for Laurel Masse, one of the founding members of the Manhattan Transfer, while competing in the WorldStrides Music Festival in New York City. Three NPC choirs and one band performed at the event, bringing home three silvers and a gold. Left: The band with their gold plaque.

opportunity to see one of the most famous cities in the world.

"It was an eye-opener coming from a small town to such a big city," said Skoglund. "We got to go to the Bronx Zoo, saw downtown New York, we went on a cruise our last night there where we got to see the Statue of Liberty ... they got to see it all."

Highlights for the kids included a stop on Broadway and a visit to the National September 11 Memorial

and Museum.

"My favourite part of the trip was probably *The Lion King* musical because that's something I've been wanting to do my whole life," said Klassen.

"The 9/11 Memorial, was a huge eye-opener," added Evan Dueck. "I usually don't think about stuff like that, but then going and seeing it just puts a whole new light on it."

YA author stops in for Book Week

By Lorne Stelmach

Allison van Diepen writes books that very much reflect the inner city environment that helped shape her.

A teacher who now calls Ottawa home, van Diepen, however, came to reading and then writing a bit later on in her youth.

She remains grateful she did find the motivation, so a goal with her career now is to help teens get similarly inspired to pick up books.

"The big thing is inspiring them to become readers," van Diepen commented while making appearances at the Morden and Winkler libraries last Thursday as part of Children's Book Week.

"Some kids are already read-

ers, but some kids are not ... a lot are not. And actually, when I was growing up, I was more of a reluctant reader. When I was in my early teens, I found some books that really thrilled me and really made me into a reader."

Taking part in Children's Book Week had van Diepen touring around Manitoba, going as far afield as Flin Flon and Powerview in making 15 school and library visits in five days.

Van Diepen has 10 books to her name in the young adult and fantasy genres, including *The Oracle at Dating* series, *The Vampire Stalker*, and *Take-down*.

"One of the things about my books

is they are well known picks for reluctant readers," said van Diepen. "When a teacher has a student who says 'I hate reading' they might give him one of my books and find that they actually do enjoy the book."

She said a book tour like the one last week is a great opportunity for her to not only get word out about her books but also speak to a great number of teens.

"I can expose them to my work ... and I tell them about what inspired my books," said van Diepen. "I was largely inspired by my experiences teaching in Brooklyn, and now I teach at an alternate school in Ot-

Continued on page 22

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN



New record for GVSD track meet

Garden Valley Collegiate hosted athletes from upwards of 20 schools for the Garden Valley School Division invitational track and field meet May 11.

With over 550 athletes competing, attendance at this year's meet shattered the record of 525 participants set last year.

The teens competed in a full range of events, including track distances ranging from 100 metres to 3,000 metres and field events such as high and long jump, discus, shot put, and javelin.

GVC will next host the Zone 4 Track and Field Meet May 31 to June 1. Local qualifying athletes will then head to Brandon to compete in the provincial championship meet in June.

Meanwhile, in other high school sports this past week, in Zone 4 girls fast pitch the Zodiacs fell to Portage 13-1 and to Altona 9-7, Morden downed the Aces 13-3 and then fell to the Saints 10-3, and the Nighthawks bowed to the Sabers 15-10 and the Cougars 16-5.

PHOTOS BY
ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
Garden Valley Collegiate hosted the GVSD invitational track and field meet last Wednesday, hosting over 550 athletes from 20 schools in all manner of short and long distance track events (above, below) and field events including long jump (right) and javelin throw (left, below).





Start your engines

Drivers in the Street Stock class accelerate past the green flag in Sunday's opening day of races at the ALH Motor Speedway. The day's winners included Kevin Smith, Brian Kentner, and Brad Wall in first, second, and third in Pure Stocks; Austin Hunter, Ryan Cousins, and Lance Schill in Midwest Mods; Shawn Teunis, Brad Wall, and Rod Wolfe in Street Stock; Axel Anderson, Bailey Cousins, and Brodee Eckerdt in Slingshots; Ward Imrie, Scott Greer, and Jerome Guyot in A-Mods; and Rob Reese, Dean Miljure, and Lane Peters in 4-Cylinders. Next race day is this Sunday at 4 p.m.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Giants squash Orioles in season opener

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Orioles dropped both games of the Sunday double-header that opened their 2016 Manitoba Junior Baseball League season.

The Orioles ran into strong pitching in their first game as Austin Smith threw a two-hitter to pace the Elmwood Giants to the 6-3 win.

Pembina Valley got their bats going more in game two, but they were outgunned with the Giants taking the 12-7 win.

Opening day in the MJBL also included double-headers between the Altona Bisons and Winnipeg South, the Carillon Sultans and the St. Boniface Legionnaires, and newcomers the Brandon Marlins against the St.

James A's.

The Bisons dropped 10-3 and 7-4 decisions, the Sultans downed St. Boniface 5-2 and 11-7, and the rookie Marlins swept their double-header

9-0 and 7-5.

This week the Bisons hosted the Orioles on Wednesday. Results were not available at press time.

The team next heads into Winnipeg

to face St. Boniface in a Victoria Day double-header.

The Orioles don't make their home field debut until June 1 when they host Altona.

Storm looking for first win Monday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm soccer club are still on the hunt for their first win of the season after being blanked by Scotia United last week.

The boys headed into Winnipeg for a chilly game on May 13 that got off to a solid start, with Winkler dominating

play in the opening half, though they were unable to score.

Scotia United had no such problem, getting three in by game's end for a shutout victory.

Storm coach Reinaldo Oliveira says the team's many rookie players are still struggling to find their footing.

"I really hope we can fix some issues

and build more confidence," he said. "Nine players from last year [are] out this year, so a lot of new guys on the team. But if we need to rebuild again we will do that."

Come cheer the Storm on for their first home game of the season on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Parkland soccer pitch.



Writer Allison Van Diepen with the Morden Library's Kim Van Vliet Thursday during a stop on her Children's Book Read tour of Manitoba, which also included a reading at the Winkler library earlier in the day.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

> BOOK WEEK, FROM PG. 20

tawa and work with a lot of at-risk youth.

"I write mostly gritty, urban teen fiction ... teen fiction that takes place in the inner city," she said, suggesting that is a good way to encourage reading by giving young people something they can relate to through "books that reflect the reality of their lives."

"Inner city teens can really relate to it because they reflect some of the real issues that they face in their lives," she said. "They reflect neighbourhoods where there's violence ... and how do teens navigate this. Those are questions that I'm

searching for answers to."

If she can come away from events having inspired a teen to pick up a book, it will have been worthwhile for her.

"Everyone's a reader if they find the right book," van Diepen said. "My big goal is to make sure teens have positive experiences reading before they finish high school. Because if they finish high school and think they're still not readers, then they may never be encouraged to pick up a book."

"So my goal is to get them excited about it."

Agriculture

Frosty weather hurt crops in some areas

By Harry Siemens

The cold weather of last week had an impact on crops in the fields, but just how much varies greatly across the region, says agronomist Jason Voogt of Field 2 Field Agronomy.

"The frost, as it always is, is quite variable from area to area and that reflects the lows and soil types and conditions," he says.

The temperature dipped to -3 C in the Winkler-Morden area for a few hours overnight, while further north towards the Roland-Carman area and up into Fannystelle saw lows closer to -6 C.

"With that, I'm seeing lots of hit and miss results as far as the amount of frost damage in fields, mainly to canola and there is some corn that was just up that had some injury as well," says Voogt. "We are not as worried about those cereals, but more worried about the canola that had emerged ... and as we go north, more damage, more plants affected."

He says some plants, especially the larger ones, may actually recover. Definitely from Saturday to Monday he could see some pretty obvious signs of plants that will likely pull through, while others are completely done for.

Voogt says there are generally three scenarios: frost damage pure and simple, fields partially emerged with dead seeds still in the soil, or partially emerged fields with those plants killed or damaged by frost and perfectly intact seeds sitting in dry dirt.

"We have a really unique situation going this year in that because things were so dry, when farmers seeded, there isn't a clear cut picture, and it varies area by area," says Voogt. "We have a percentage of the entire seeded canola field that has emerged. For example, a field I visited northeast of Winkler towards Roland, had about 30 to 35 per cent of the canola up and of that 35 per cent I'd say 100 percent killed by frost."

However, the remaining 65 percent in the ground is sitting in dry soil and hasn't done anything yet. This is going on up to two weeks now and won't germinate until it rains.

"What I'm advising the guys right now is, obviously if it is only a small

portion of the plants frozen and still a significant amount of ungerminated seed in the ground to come, I'd say wait and hold on for now," he says. "Maybe put in a request for crop in-

urance for now, maybe talk to their seed retailer about sourcing additional seed, just to kind of have it ready and not looking at seeding just yet. Seeding today, is essentially seeding

into dry dirt."

If all goes well, though, Voogt says he is optimistic we could have a decent canola stand despite the late frost.

Dry soil conditions also an issue

By Harry Siemens

Manitoba farmers have anywhere from 10 to 60 per cent of their crop in the ground, depending on what area they're in.

In some cases, producers are hitting up against dry soil conditions, forcing them to halt fertilizing and seeding work until we get enough moisture to make it worthwhile.

St. Jean mixed crops farmer Gilbert Sabourin says the overall dry conditions coupled with low temperatures

last week have not boded well for his canola crops.

"My thermometer showed -6 and usually that is on the warm side, so it could easily have dropped to -7 and lower," he says. "The bigger canola plants survived, but the smaller ones? Toast. Those are black right now. Will they recover? I don't know."

In checking further in the fields, he notices lots of places where hardly any canola came up.

"Then I start digging down, I can find the seed, but basically just the

hull of the seed," he says. "The seed had swelled up with moisture, and then killed it because not enough moisture to really push it along. There are more crop issues than just frost, but they kind of go hand in hand."

"Even if I want to go re-seed the canola, I'd just be putting it in the dust. Here at home we've missed all the rains basically since we started seeding," says Sabourin. "It's dry."

Continued on page 24



By Harry Siemens

PEDv contamination an ongoing concern

The issue of potentially contaminated trucks carrying live pigs to and from the U.S. and Canada isn't going away.

The Western Canadian Swine Health Alliance keeps asking the federal government about the recent suspension of an emergency protocol designed to keep PED virus out of Canada.

Effective May 2, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency ended a protocol which had allowed swine transports returning from U.S. farms to be washed and disinfected in Canada. The government now requires are now disinfection and cleaning to happen in the U.S., where they may be getting washed with recycled and possibly contaminated water.

The alliance has sent a letter to federal Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay expressing concern over the change and calling for a solution.

Chair Dickson Gould, who also

owns Winkler Meats, says these trailers face a far greater risk of contamination from PED or other diseases at U.S. truck wash facilities than they would delivering pigs to a U.S. farm.

"When our pigs go down to the U.S. it's usually single sources of pigs or pigs of the same health status going into that farm and the only touch point between the inside of those trailers and the farm is the loading dock and the back of the trailer," says Gould. "If we have to go in and get the trucks washed and disinfected in a wash facility that is using recycled water and if there happens to be PED virus at that site, then basically all of the crevices within the inside of that trailer get contaminated."

I reached out to former Ag Minister Gerry Ritz about this issue, asking why it's been so difficult to resolve and why he didn't resolve it.

Ritz says the issue is there is a law on the books that has said all along that trucks have to be washed be-

fore they cross the border back into Canada.

"Two years ago I put an emergency order in place because of PEDv to say the trucks could be washed on the Canadian side," he explained. "The easiest way was to say you come through customs, we seal the trailer, go to the closest truck wash about an hour away, they did it and we inspected them there."

The current government opted not to extend that order when its time was up, says Ritz, who notes he had suggested a wash facility be built near the border on our side.

"I made the offer to the then Government of Manitoba under Growing Forward 2 that they build the building because the federal government does not do bricks and mortar, we are not allowed to," he says. "[So] have the industry build the building [and] the feds put in all the necessary equipment in it at federal gov-

Continued on page 24



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We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.


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Announcements The Winkler Morden Voice

WEDDING



We are pleased to announce the engagement of Ryan Hildebrand, son of Brad & Sharon Hildebrand, and Sydney Schultz. Congratulations on their upcoming marriage on June 4th. We wish them God's Richest Blessings and many years of happiness ahead!
Love Mom & Dad Hildebrand

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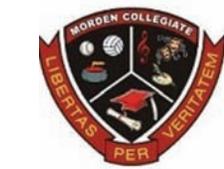
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