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A place to call home

Binwa and Rita—alongside their kids Sifa, Esther, and Elisha—broke ground on the site of their future home in Winkler, which is being built by Habitat for Humanity. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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**TWO SPARROWS GREENHOUSE**

# Habitat for Humanity gets shovels in the ground on its sixth local build

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After months of anticipation, Binwa, Rita, and their kids Sifa, Esther, and Elisha broke ground on what will become their new Habitat for Humanity -built home in Winkler.

The family, whose last name is being kept private at the request of Habitat, were joined by members of the Winkler-Morden chapter of the non-profit, local dignitaries, and an army of friends and family at the sod-turning ceremony on a lot on Makena Way Saturday morning.

“We are so excited to see we’ve reached this [point], because we have been long waiting for it,” said Binwa. “We are so excited to see that they want to start now to build. We hope that next year we can move in.”

The couple moved to Winkler from the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2019. With two young children and a teenager, they’ve long dreamed of having a house of their own. The



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler’s latest Habitat for Humanity family were joined by representatives from all three levels of government as well as both the local Habitat chapter and the provincial organization at a sod-turning for their future home on Makena Way in northwest Winkler Saturday.

Habitat program allows them to make that dream a reality far sooner than they could have imagined.

Habitat for Humanity offers its chosen families a zero per cent mortgage with payments geared towards their income level. No down payment is required.

Fundraising is done to pay for the construction of the house so

that when families begin to pay back the mortgage, those funds can go into the next project.

It gives families who would otherwise struggle to achieve home ownership a leg up.

“We were saving to plan for it, to get a mortgage,” shared Binwa. “But when the opportunity came with Habitat for Humanity, we decided to apply ... it was a very good opportunity for us.”

“[It was] not easy. It’s not every family which can be chosen, but by the grace of God, Habitat for Humanity chose our family to say they can make a house for us.”

Looking around at the people who

came out to show their support at the sod-turning, Binwa said they are grateful for the kindness and generosity of the community.

“We are so blessed to have many people around us who love us and who participate for every event we do for everything,” he said. “They help make everything easier for us. We are blessed with a church which loves us and helps us.”

Binwa and Rita have been doing their part to work off the 500 hours of sweat equity required of all Habitat families.

In addition to swinging a hammer on last year’s house build in Morden, Binwa has also been involved in helping newcomers at Regional Connections Immigrant Services settle into the area, volunteering with the Winkler Harvest Festival and at the Salem Home personal care home, and coaching youth soccer. Rita, meanwhile, has been volunteering at the MCC Thrift Shop.

Continued on page 11

## Pembina Threshermens Museum is officially open for the season!

### LINEUP OF EVENTS THIS 2024 SEASON:

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**Pioneer Days: July 13 (10-5 pm)**

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# Morden's Myrna and Fred Mayor honoured as Citizens of Distinction

By Lorne Stelmach

The first couple to be jointly honoured as Morden's Citizen of Distinction were the guests of honour at a ceremony Sunday afternoon at a packed St. Paul's United Church.

Fred and Myrna Mayor were recognized for an outstanding record of volunteer service that spans over five decades.

"Morden has and will always be a community of service," said Myrna. "Serving our community has always been our deepest pleasure, and the rewards of doing so are far too many to count."

Rick Britton, who was part of nominating the Mayors, saluted them for their positive attitude, enthusiasm and willingness to help others and "for their outstanding record of consistent volunteer service, contributions and commitment for far more than five decades."

"One would be hard pressed to find a corner of the community that has not been impacted by Fred's and Myrna's volunteer efforts, as giving back is at the core of who they are," added Sharon Deveson, who was also part of nominating the couple.

Fred has been an active member of the Elks club since joining in 1968. As

a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, he has chaired the sick and visiting committee and together with Myrna volunteered at community bingos and continues to work the meat and card draws every three months.

He sat on the board of directors of Tabor Home for 12 years and was an active member of the Lions Club in the '80s and '90s and currently holds a seat on the Morden Activity Centre board.

Both Fred and Myrna are Corn and Apple Festival volunteers, working at various booths over the years and most recently helping at the Morden Activity Centre's lunch, while Myrna served as festival queen mother in the early '90s.

Myrna managed the Morden Medical Centre

until her retirement and remained active with community board. She was also a member of the Royal Purple group until the organization ceased operation, and she has lent her voice to the St. Paul's United Church choir since the '60s.

More recently, she was on the Morden Area Foundation's Power of the Purse committee from 2021 to 2023, and she can also be found working volunteer shifts at and serving on the board of the Morden Thrift Shop.

Fred and Myrna are active members of the St. Paul's United Church,

**"SERVING OUR COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR DEEPEST PLEASURE, AND THE REWARDS OF DOING SO ARE FAR TOO MANY TO COUNT."**



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Area Foundation president Sue Nelson (left) shares a laugh with Myrna and Fred Mayor as she presented the couple with the Citizen of Distinction Award.

both having held various seats on the worship and policy committees and having been involved in fundraising and expansion initiatives and other groups. Both have also logged in many miles driving cancer patients to Winnipeg appointments through South Central Cancer Resource.

"Myrna and I are both overwhelmed with gratitude to have been selected to receive this recognition ... it's truly an honour to be placed in this distinguished company," Fred said

in noting the other previous award recipients in attendance. "It's been an overwhelming experience."

"It's hard to believe that we've actually been involved in that much volunteering with different groups," said Myrna. "We've always felt good about what we've done, and it has been appreciated ... it's been all worthwhile to keep on doing what we've been doing to help make Morden a better place."

Continued on page 4

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### WORK & WESTERN WEARHOUSE



Left: The Mayors presented SCCR's Dianne Mestdagh with the \$1,000 donation that comes with the Citizen of Distinction Award. Above: The St. Paul's United Church choir performed in tribute to the couple.

> CITIZENS OF DISTINCTION, FROM PG. 3

Both noted it just always seemed natural for the two of them to do things together.

"After we were married, it just became a part of our life, being involved, being at the church or other community activities. It's just been a way of life," said Fred.

"It's hard to say ... how we've managed to pull it all together," added Myrna, recalling how they had to hire a lot of babysitters. "And it was not a big thing to do."

"It's very humbling," she added, noting the large crowd on hand for the ceremony. "We just don't expect to get that kind of response."

As part of the honour, the Mayors were given a \$1,000 award to present to a recipient of their choice. They selected South Central Cancer Resource.

"You know that you're doing something to help people out ... you feel good being able to do that for people," said Myrna.

"You see so many people that are in need of that type of a service," said Fred, recalling his time as a volunteer driver. "It felt good to be able to do it. I also just enjoyed the company of

the people and made a lot of good friends."

SCCR president Diane Mestdagh expressed their appreciation for the support.

"I'd like to thank you for selecting South Central Cancer Resource as the recipient of your award. We are very aware that there are many very worthy charities in our community."

# Nicole Levesque acclaimed to empty Western SD seat

By Lorne Stelmach

The newly-elected trustee for Western School Division looks forward to the challenge of learning the ropes of serving on the school board.

Nicole Levesque was elected by acclamation in the recent by-election, which became necessary with the resignation earlier this year of trustee David Guenther.

"It's going to be a learning curve because I don't really know much about the school system," said Levesque. "The division is going to keep growing ... and it's going to keep getting bigger and bigger, so there's challenges."

Levesque grew up in Hamilton and moved to Morden about 20 years ago. She works as a dental hygienist.

She has three girls aged six, eight, and 11 in the school system, so she has a vested interest in that system.

"And I just wanted to do something because we're not a sports family. I don't really have any hobbies," Levesque said. "I thought it would be interesting to see the inner workings ... and I have three kids who are in the French Immersion program, so I thought it would be nice to be in the know, nice to see what's happening and get involved."

"I know a few people on the board as well, so it would



Nicole Levesque

be interesting to work with them," added Levesque, who took part in her first meeting Monday.

She feels she brings a couple things to the board table.

"I've worked with the public for the last 20 years," said Levesque.

"I grew up French ... and the program is big here and I think it's getting bigger, and there's a lot of people interested in it," she added. "I think it's a very good program to have here, and so I guess I could be a voice for the French community. I think it could be beneficial to have somebody that has that background."



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# Alyssa Neufeld named Make It a Reality award winner

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Foundation last week presented Northlands Parkway Collegiate Gr. 12 student Alyssa Neufeld with the 2024 Make It a Reality Scholarship.

The \$25,000 award is designed to support a local youth who might not otherwise be able to achieve their post-secondary aspirations.

Neufeld's drive to succeed despite more than her fair share of obstacles made her stand out, shared scholarship committee chair Barb Neufeld.

"We had the great honour of reviewing many applications from some of the most amazing young people in our community," she said. "I must say that it gives us all hope for the future to know that we have so many dedicated and committed young people in Winkler. These students not only excel academically, but are willing to step up in countless ways to be leaders and contributing members in their schools, churches, and the community at large.

"It was a hard decision to make, but one student stood out above the rest. The committee was inspired by Alyssa's positive energy, her self-awareness, her determination to make life better for herself, and for her resilience.

"She's had a lot of adversity in her life, and she has risen above," Neufeld said. "She is an impressive young lady."

Following a failed adoption, Alyssa Neufeld has lived on her own for the past year.

"Due to the lack of [foster] homes, I had to find my own places to live," she said, explaining the only other option presented to her by Child and Family Services was a homeless shelter in Winnipeg. "It's been a struggle to find housing, but I have stayed where I am now since the very end of last year and it's been amazing."

Living independently as a teen means Neufeld is kept busy not just with school but also working 30 hours a week.

Still, she has made it a priority to give back when she can.

"Outside of school, I've been able to volunteer with the concert

hall taking tickets, so that gives me exposure to a lot of the events that are run in the community," Neufeld said. "I also have been involved with the senior centres a bit, but most of my volunteer work has been at school in the Life Skills program.

"I think volunteering gives you a sense of purpose," she said. "For me, it was really difficult because I had a hard home life. So to be able to get involved in the community, it gave me

**"SHE'S HAD A LOT OF ADVERSITY IN HER LIFE, AND SHE HAS RISEN ABOVE."**



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Make It a Reality Scholarship winner Alyssa Neufeld (centre) with Winkler Community Foundation scholarship committee members and staff (from left) Barb Neufeld, Natalie Neudorf, Dr. Kavi Abbu, and Tena Lane. Missing are committee members Cam Wiens and Elaine Janzen.

purpose, it gave me a reason to wake up.

"You never know when something is going to happen in your life that you're going to have to rely on the community, so why not give back to a community that gives back to you?"

Neufeld added that making her late mother proud has been another driving force behind her efforts.

"I didn't get to know her very much, but I know that she was one of the most selfless and dedicated people out there, so basically all my high school career I pushed myself. It was hard, but I know that she would have wanted me to have a better life for myself," she said. "This award means that I get to be the first one of my family to graduate high school and pursue a post-secondary education."

She plans to study history and English at university with an eye to

eventually becoming a high school teacher.

Neufeld isn't the only Winkler area youth receiving financial support from the foundation's scholarship program this year.

Barb Neufeld noted the foundation's Gordon Wiebe Education Fund is granting over \$100,000 to more than 40 students.

The fund was created nearly a decade ago thanks to a \$2.2 million bequest from Winkler pharmacist Gordon Wiebe. It presented its first round of scholarships in 2017.

"If we can get a student, a young person, who won't have an opportunity, or would find it really difficult without this, if we can give them a leg up, then I think we're doing exactly what Gordon wanted his money to do," Neufeld said.

# Winkler Teddy Bear Picnic coming up June 8

By Ashleigh Viveiros

If your child's favourite stuffed toy hasn't had a check-up in awhile, next week's Winkler Teddy Bear Picnic is the place to fix that.

The Winkler Family Resource Centre hosts the free family event in Winkler Park on Saturday, June 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If the weather is poor that day, the festivities will move to the centre's space in the Emmanuel Mennonite Church (750 15th St.).

"We will have health care professionals of all varieties there," says

WFRC executive director Chantal Human. "They'll set up their tables and kids are welcome to bring their teddy bears and their stuffed animals and go table to table where each health care professional will do a little check up on their teddy bear."

It's a chance for kids to interact with local doctors, nurses, optometrists, physiotherapists, and pharmacists outside what can be a scary clinical environment for youngsters.

"The main purpose is so that kids are more comfortable with them when they go to their appointments,

but on top of that, it's just a really fun day for everyone," Human says.

The day will also include a few other activities for the kids, as well as a barbecue lunch available for purchase.

"Any proceeds from that will go directly back into our programming," Human says.

WFRC offers free early childhood education programs designed to develop pre-schoolers' literacy, numeracy, and social skills.

"A big thing this year is we're doing a strategic planning in the fall," Human shares. "We'll be looking at how

can we grow, how can we support Winkler families even better?"

The centre's program sessions through the year fill up quickly.

"This last program registration, we have wait lists that we can't get through," Human says. "And something that was really interesting is two-thirds of the registrations this last time were new families. So we're reaching new people.

"Every day I'm getting phone calls from people looking for different family-based resources. There are lots of needs."

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*The* **Voice**

# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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## Let's legalize murder?

**D**o you think we should legalize murder in Canada? I heard an argument for this, so hear me out.

Did you know that in 2022 Canada's murder rate as a percentage of the world's was a mere 0.77 per cent?

What this means is that murder in Canada is so statistically small from a global perspective that it makes no difference one way or the other to the global population. So, given this, there really is no point in



**By Peter Cantelon**

trying to stop it.

We should probably just get rid of laws against murder and start encouraging countries like Mexico to shape up and improve their own standing as the global murder leader at 29.39 per cent before we spend our own precious resources on law enforcement, rehabilitation and the like.

I mean, how dare anyone suggest Canada do anything about murder when countries like Mexico are orders of magnitude worse?

Here's another example of how Canadians are robbing themselves of precious valuable resources simply by "doing the right thing."

Canada's share of the global fishery in comparison to China is so infinitesimally small that we should eradicate all catch limits and let Canadians go nuts, right? I mean, limiting catches

by Canadian fishing vessels makes zero difference compared to others, so why bother?

That all sounds ridiculous, right?

I mean, the above scenarios are so patently silly, and the logic behind them so unbelievably flawed, it's inconceivable that people might take them seriously. But every day there are just as silly arguments being made about all sorts of things, and people just buy into them.

For instance, not long ago, someone decided to complain about how Canada's efforts to reduce carbon emissions were ridiculous considering we are such a small percentage of the global output (it's actually a sadly common complaint). In fact, there are people who think we should be

Continued on page 7

# Letters

## SUNCATCH FRUSTRATION

Sadly, the City of Morden councilors and mayor still don't get it.

Seventy per cent wanted the sun-catch "done again"? Ninety-nine per cent of the hundreds who signed the petition about "doing the street closure" were against it.

When the inconvenient truth about the street closure is brought up, this council has swept it under the rug.

They have silenced their opponents, Sandra Wiebe and Marilyn Skubovious, business representatives.

Those who are against the street closure are voters. And at the next municipal election we will see the real

percentage of voters who want the street closed.

**Dr. Alain Kolt,  
Morden**

## Letter policy

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

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

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

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

Send your letters to us by e-mail at [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca).

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## • FAITH FOCUS

## Daily bread

**H**ow much time do we spend every day engaged in reading?

When we pick up a product to learn about the contents or instructions for use, we are engaged in reading. When the mail arrives we read to see what messages of importance might have come. We read road signs as we drive, although we need to admit that sometimes we treat signs as a suggestion rather than the rule.

We promote reading to our children when they are young and reading by our children as they are maturing. Books with illustrations help capture their imagination as they begin to explore the world beyond their circumstances at home, school and in the community.

Some prefer to read books and news primarily with electronic devices. My cell phone provides me with a monthly summary of screen time and other



By Randy Smart

details related to my use of the device.

I am not opposed to reading from our electronic devices but in personal practice, I am still a believer in the value of books—printed, bound and waiting for you and me to discover. I like to read in blocks, a chapter or section depending on the style of book, and then set the book aside while I think about what I have read as I give time to other tasks of that day. We need time to absorb and ponder, rather than rush through the content.

It is interesting to observe that Jesus promoted reading. His teachings were not simply based on his personal opinion. They were grounded in specific laws and principles which were recorded in the Scriptures. The ques-

tion of what Scripture says played prominently in his discussions with the Pharisees and Sadducees who were his regular critics.

A frequent phrase of Jesus to these critics was, "Have you not read..." and then he would refer to a specific point of teaching from the Old Testament. Sometimes we build a lot of opinion on a foundation that lacks a true knowledge or understanding of the facts.

If we were to meet the Lord Jesus in person and ask him some of our questions, is it possible he would gently say to us, "Have you not read...?" Taking time to read in the Bible—even for a few minutes each day—can be a wholesome practice for soul and spirit. You should have some kind of

plan or system. You could read along with a daily devotional guide. Make sure that you specifically take time to read from the Bible directly, rather than just reading about it.

You will not immediately find the full answer to the questions you have, but you can find a signpost of God's truth and grace to give you the hope and help you need as you look to God for courage and direction for this day. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray "Give us this day our daily bread..." The bread is a reference to all the needs of everyday life. The Scriptures provide guidance as we seek God's bread for our hungry soul.

*Randy Smart has been a pastor in Southern Manitoba since 1979.*

### > CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

focusing on something else more immediately important rather than wasting our time trying to reduce emissions, as if it were a this or that sort of choice.

For the record, in 2022, Canada's carbon emissions amounted to 1.47 per cent of the global total (or twice the rate of our share of murders on the global stage).

These constant weird arguments of "if this, then this" that amount to false dichotomies or artificially forced binary choices are designed

to obfuscate, create division, and foster frustration, nothing more.

The reality is that we know reducing carbon emissions is better for the climate than not reducing them. So why wouldn't we want to do the very definition of a good thing: stewarding this earth?

If every country who had emissions of less than two per cent used the argument that reducing their emissions made no difference and did nothing, that adds up to more than 60 per cent of all global carbon

emissions—twice the amount of the largest producer (China).

Making good choices matter, no matter how small the impact. We cannot let the lie that our little choices don't matter to spread and infect society because this is simply wrong.

You decision to reduce your carbon footprint by cycling one out of five days a week to work instead of driving matters. Decisions like this make a difference. Keep at it and do not be discouraged by poor thinking and bad arguments.

## Truth & Action Working Group hosting film screening

By Lorne Stelmach

A film screening and presentation in Morden will shine a light on the impact Manitoba Hydro has had on the lands and lives of the community of South Indian Lake.

The local Truth and Action Working Group is hosting a showing of *Augmented Flow: Licence to Destroy* Tuesday, June 11 at 7 p.m. at the Westside Church. The evening will also include a presentation by Les Dysart, CEO of the Community Association of South Indian Lake.

*Augmented Flow* features elders, knowledge keepers, and other community members sharing their perspectives on hydro and its impact on their lives and lands.

The story revolves around the Churchill River diversion, which was built in the early 1970s, but the impact continues to this day.

The hydro project diverted most of the natural flow of the Churchill River through a man-made channel into the

Rat and Burntwood Rivers and ending up in the lower Nelson River to power the mega-dams.

"Our community and our residents were forced to relocate from our traditional homes in about 1975. We really had no say in the matter, even though we refused. We were practically forced to move," said Les Dysart, who served as a producer, writer, and narrator for the film.

He is a lifelong resident of South Indian Lake (SIL), now known as O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (OPCN) and grew up on the shores of the lake and is an active hunter, commercial fisher, and trapper.

For this community, whose lifeblood is the lake, Manitoba Hydro's relentless pursuit for power has gouged and eroded not only the health of the lake but the First Nation community itself, said Dysart.

In the film, elders and community members describe the turbulent engineered flooding that has shut down the fishing industry, drowned their

homes, washed away historical and sacred sites, and forced relocation.

"It was a devastating impact," said Dysart. "Our community, as remote as it was, was the third largest lake whitefish fishery in North America at the time of relocation. We had a significant economic industry associated to the lake whitefish fishery.

"That fishery and economy, along with our community, has been devastated since then," he continued. "We can barely produce a fraction of it now, less than 10 per cent of the historic commercial catches."

Dysart sees the film as an important way to get the story and their message out.

"I've been active, over 25 years trying to educate and advocate for change because change is possible, where we can find a balance with Manitoba Hydro and our community, so we can move forward in a more positive manner for both entities.

"It's now a tool where I can educate all stakeholders ... and all Manitoba

residents and Manitoba Hydro customers are stakeholders in what happens to our community," he added. "They need to be aware of the forced sacrifice we have had to endure for the last 50 plus years for power generation.

"I've learned most of the impacts were avoidable and definitely could be mitigated, and Manitoba Hydro does very little to mitigate the impacts, and that needs to change," he said.

"I want to make people aware but also want them to raise their voices," he continued. "People need to know when they flick on a switch that there's impacts in our community.

"It can be managed better ... they just need to be held responsible and be responsible to the people in the communities they impact."

In the end, he wants people to come away from the Morden presentation with some sense of hope rather than just anger or dismay about it all.

Continued on page 8

# get informed

## Morden Community Thrift Shop hands out \$268K in grants

By Lorne Stelmach

A wide variety of community organizations and projects are benefiting from the spring grants presented Monday by the Morden Community Thrift Shop.

There were 27 organizations receiving a portion of the \$268,000 handed out by the thrift store on Monday, with the largest being \$45,000 to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation for medical equipment in support of the hospital expansion.

"We have a lot going on ... it's happening, and we are really, really excited about it ... we're trying to build a hospital for these doctors to come to, and with your help, that's happening," said foundation executive director Shannon Samatte Folkett.

"Our hospital, our fire department and our police department, they're high priorities on our list ... those are the first ones we look at," said thrift store president Kent Noel in explaining how they go about selecting their recipients.

"It's a process even just going through the applications and who can get what, how do we break this down ... we have a budget we have to work with," he noted.

"After there ... we have to break it down little by little, but we try to give everybody a little something if we can," he said, adding that the applications not only go through the board but then to the volunteers for them to have their say.

"Everybody that sends an application, we do take a look at it ... if we can, we do what we can do."

Noel was pleased they had a bit more money to work with this time around as business has continued to recover post pandemic.

"We were slow ... we had some slow times, but it's booming for us right



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Twenty-seven organizations received \$268,000 in funding from the Morden Community Thrift Store on Monday.

now," he said.

"It's up quite a bit from our normal donations back to the community, which is usually in the fall and in the spring ... we've had tremendous sales the last few months, and it's all because of our community being able to donate to us and our volunteers doing the hard work."

And the payoff comes on the day when they are able to hand over the money back to the community.

"It's heartwarming to see the smiling faces," he said. "There's a lot of hard work that goes into doing what we do, and this is the reward. It's a blessing to be able to do this for the community."

Here is a breakdown of the remainder of the grants:

- STARS air ambulance: \$35,000.
- Menzies Medical Centre: \$30,000.
- Morden Fire and Rescue: \$25,000 for breathing apparatuses.
- Western School Division for Ecole Discovery Trails School: \$20,000 as part of a five-year \$100,000 commit-

ment in support of the track and soccer field.

- Morden Police Service: \$15,000 for a hydraulic breach.
- South Central Cancer Resource: \$10,000.
- Many Hands Resource Centre: \$8,000 for food currency voucher program.
- Tabor Home: \$5,000 for a mural and walking path.
- Youth for Christ: \$5,000 for program funding assistance.
- Pembina Counselling Service: \$5,000 for counselling assistance support.
- 500 Stephen Street community centre: \$5,000.
- Morden school aged programming committee: \$5,000.
- Morden Citizens on Patrol: \$5,000.
- Morden Handivan: \$5,000 towards new van.
- École Morden Middle School: \$5,000 towards wheelchair accessible play structure.
- Katie Cares: \$5,000 for new beds.

• Darlingford fire department: \$4,000 for rescue and fire suppression equipment.

- Pembina Valley Humane Society: \$3,000 for a new washer and dryer.
- Morden Family Resource Centre: \$3,000 for program support.
- Regional Connections: \$3,000 for newcomer youth drop-in support.
- Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre: \$2,500 for supplies.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley: \$2,500 for mentorship programs.
- Douglas Kuhl School of Music: \$2,500 for the string ensemble.
- Morden Christian Programming: \$2,500 for sound equipment at Corn and Apple Festival.
- Central Manitoba Choral Association: \$2,000 for travel assistance.
- Pembina Climate Action Network: \$2,000.

In addition, the thrift store has provided \$8,000 to Morden Collegiate in support of upcoming scholarships.

The **Voice**

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### > FILM SCREENING, FROM PG. 7

"I hope it's a positive experience for them and that they learn about Manitoba Hydro ... because Manitoba Hydro has over six decades of literally pulling the wool over people's eyes on the impacts they do mostly to indigenous people

and communities," said Dysart. "I can't change the past, but we can give people the reality so they can make informed decisions and move forward in a more positive manner with balance."



# GVC students distribute \$4,230 in grants to local non-profits

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley Collegiate students invited representatives from five local non-profits to the Winkler high school last week to receive \$4,230 in grants.

Instead of the usual Youth In Philanthropy extracurricular group, GVC this year folded traditional YIP activities into its various business classes.

"We did things a little bit differently this year," explained teacher Susana Hawryshko. "Rhonda Kezema and I are both business teachers at GVC and we decided that we were going to work on teaching social responsibility as a business owner and incorporate that into as many classes as we could."

As a result, the venture development students organized an artisan market to sell the products of the businesses they developed, with table proceeds going to the YIP fund.

Meanwhile, the GVC accounting students put their skills to work by selling student discount cards and keeping track of their sales and proceeds.

Finally, personal finance students planned and ran a food drive for the Winkler and District Food Cupboard and also organized a donut sale to raise some money.

"Fundraising is our way to give back to organizations in our community that are working to help others," noted Hawryshko.

Students reps from each campaign came together this spring to decide where the money would go.

"This year we were really lucky, and it was tough at the same time, because we received 10 grant applications," Hawryshko said. "The criteria for granting was if the group felt that they had a connection to the requested organization or to the project, did the project have any direct impact on GVC students or students in the community, as well as was the group able to provide most if not all of the money that was being requested?"

Katie Cares received \$100 to purchase new pillow cases for the Katie's Cottage respite home.

The Winkler Day Care Centre received \$130 to purchase puzzles for their playground.

Regional Connections' Settlement Workers in Schools program received \$1,000 to help with the program's transportation costs.

The Winkler Family Resource Centre received \$1,200 towards their new Coping With Change program focusing on post-partum care.

And Adult and Teen Challenge received \$1,800 to support individuals



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Back Row: GVC teachers Susana Hawryshko and Rhonda Kezema, Steve Chaboyer and Derek Neufeld from Adult and Teen Challenge, Ang Nickel from Winkler Day Care, Karly Wiebe and Aminat Ismail from Regional Connections. Front row: Chantal Human from the Winkler Family Resource Centre, student Cristina Dyck, Ruth Reimer from Katie Cares, and students Dishika Bansal, Heidi Braun, and Rachel Strempler at the presentation of the school's 2024 Youth in Philanthropy grants last week.

struggling with addictions.

The granting process was certainly an eye-opening one, the students shared.

"There's lots of different opinions on where [funds] should go," said Gr. 10 student Rachel Strempler. "But at the end of the day we all agreed that any money we could give back is money well given, and all of the options were just great opportunities to give to."

Strempler and fellow Gr. 10 students Heidi Braun and Dishika Bansal were part of the group that organized the food drive, which collected over 1,000 items for the food cupboard.

"I always wanted to have ways to get involved with the community," said Bansal of her involvement. "I was really excited about the fundraiser and being able to help count everything and make it organized."

Braun noted the highlight was "to be able to give back" and ensure everyone is able to put food on the table.

"The food drive directly affects students in our school," added Strempler. "There can be families that can really benefit from that, so having the option to help those around us when we don't always see those needs is a really cool opportunity."

Chantal Human from the Winkler Family Resource Centre says it's great to see young people stepping up and working together to make a difference.

"I think it's so neat to see kids so passionate about their community," she said. "I was talking with the teachers here, and they were saying the [granting] discussions the kids are having are so in depth ... it feels really nice to see that as an organization, as

Winkler Family Resource Centre, that we're seen and that the kids can see what we're doing is valuable."

"I think it's a great exercise for students to go through, because they can learn so much about how a non-profit might work," noted Ruth Reimer

from Katie Cares. "That is always the goal, is that a student learned something, and from that they can build and grow, And maybe one day they're going to be on the other side, that they're going to be asking for a grant, so they know the process."

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# Iconic Morden Park tree gets a facelift

By Lorne Stelmach

A landmark tree in Morden got a new lease on life this past week as a natural piece of art.

The large American elm in the centre of the road entrance into Morden Park required significant work given its declining condition.

The tree had become a safety hazard, with dead sections hanging over the sidewalk and adjacent roadway, so it required the removal of unsafe branches.

The elm however was not suffering from Dutch Elm Disease and didn't require complete removal, so the city hired Barry Dueck, who specializes in chain saw wood carving, to work with it.

"We are committed to preserving our natural treasures as much as possible," said Shawn Dias, parks and urban forestry director for the City of Morden. "While the tree has unfortunately lost some of its vitality, our focus remains on ensuring public safety and maintaining the integrity of the remaining structure."

"I think it's going to be very cool," said Dueck, who worked on the tree through the whole week.

"I've been doing this for about four or five years now. For me, I get to take something that's basically going to be thrown away or it's going to become fire wood. It's going to be disposed of,

but I get to make something beautiful out of it."

Wood carving has been a side business for Dueck, but he has been getting busier with it, and he has been involved with the Morden Arbor Day for a number of years as a demonstrator. (This year's Arbor Day festivities take place in Morden Park from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, June 9.)

This project came about after a number of discussions with the city and particularly with Dias.

"It's something we first talked about months ago when we knew the tree had to come down because of the rot in the top of the tree. It was becoming a danger," said Dueck.

"It was actually a pretty exciting phone call to get a big project like this," he added, noting some of the community reaction initially was mixed without people knowing why it was being done.

"I think it starts off half positive and half negative, but so far I think it's been pretty positive ... people have been driving by and giving thumbs up or honking horns," he said.

"We were cutting it down, and it was basically hollow to where it's cut now. That's where it gets more solid ... so it was getting ready to fall."

Dueck and Dias both came to the table with ideas and did up a few drawings for the possible design.

"The elm leaves on either side were something Shawn was very happy about to pay honour to the elm tree," said Dueck. "And there's going to be an eagle on the top with a nest and some eaglets. That was one of my ideas."

A lot of thought and careful planning goes into a project like this, he noted.

"I want to get the dimensions right to make sure that everything is going to fit," he said, while stressing also the need to protect and



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Barry Dueck last week transforming the Morden Park entrance tree into a work of art. Below: City staff had to cut down part of the old tree for safety.

save what is left of the tree.

"That's why we started with stripping the bark. Once the bark is off, the danger of Dutch Elm Disease is no longer a thing, from what I understand," he said.

Dueck finally seals it with a var-

nish which is very weather resistant, although it will probably need to be reapplied every year.

"Once it's carved and sealed, it can be here for many years," he said. "As long as we keep the weather out, it will be standing there for a long time."



CITY OF MORDEN PHOTO

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> HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, FROM PG. 2

"I like to be involved in the community because I want to be one part of this community," Binwa said. "I want to contribute to the community."

"This family has already been super involved in the community and Winkler, volunteering in different areas," said Christina Falk, who is not only a part of the Winkler-Morden Habitat for Humanity chapter but also now a chapter support manager for the provincial organization. "We're super proud of them for all the hours they've put in already towards working towards this house."

**A LOCAL EFFORT**

Winkler was actually the first community in Canada to have a Habitat for Humanity build back in the 1980s.

In the past six years since a regional chapter was started up once again, they've built five houses in Morden and Winkler with the help of local tradespeople, volunteers, and donors.

"The success of [Habitat] chapters is that volunteer effort, the volunteer labour, the steering committee work that gets done, the building of the home that happens, the fundraising that takes place," said Jamie Hall, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Mani-

toba. "The magic of Habitat is that it's a local effort.

"The Winkler-Morden chapter has figured that out, I would say," he added, noting the pace the chapter has built houses has been incredible. "I don't think there's another community this size in Manitoba that builds houses at that rate."

With the ground on this latest build finally broken, Falk says they hope work will move quickly in the months ahead.

They'll be looking for volunteers to help build the house, she said, and financially they do still have a ways to go to pay for the project.

"We're pretty well on our way, but we have probably about \$35,000 left that we need to raise," Falk said. "It doesn't sound like a huge number, but sometimes that last little bit is the hardest to get to. So we're still looking for some donations, personal and from businesses in the community as well."

You can learn more about supporting Habitat's work with a donation or as a volunteer online at [habitat.mb.ca/chapters/winkler-morden/](http://habitat.mb.ca/chapters/winkler-morden/). The chapter can also be reached via email to [info@wm.habitat.mb.ca](mailto:info@wm.habitat.mb.ca).



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**MANITOBA**

# Legends Car Club's Drive for Cancer raises funds for SCCR

By Lori Penner

Rainy conditions didn't stop the Legends Car Club from hosting another successful Drive for Cancer on May 25.

The annual event raises much-needed funds for South Central Cancer Resource (SCCR), which supports cancer patients throughout the region.

This drive followed a successful BBQ fundraiser hosted by the Club on

May 18 at Janzen Chevrolet in Winkler. Both events raised a combined total of \$24,690.

"In spite of the smaller turnout for this year's drive, that number is pretty consistent with what we've usually raised during the 25 years we've held this event," said club member and volunteer driver Lyle Dunsmore. "It boggles my mind how here in Southern Manitoba, when the need is there, people just step forward and give. It's almost unbelievable when you think about it."

The drive began at The Gardens on Tenth in Altona. Due to the weather, drivers followed a revised route that took them from Altona to Morris, then to Winkler, and back to Altona.

At each stop, pledges were collected, contributing to the fundraising total. Participants could also join the 50/50 Poker Run.

The day culminated with a barbecue at West Park Motors, providing a chance for participants and supporters to gather and celebrate their efforts.

"We had about 15 classic vehicles at various stages of the route," Dun-

smore said. "Normally, we would have about 30 to 40 classic or special interest vehicles. But it's not really about the number of cars that show up. You could have 150 cars, but if nobody goes out and gets pledges, this whole thing doesn't work. Often, the money comes from people who would not normally even think of leaving a donation to the Cancer Resource, but this event gives them an avenue to do that."

Over the years, Legends has lost a number of members to cancer, and there are other members who are currently facing it.

"As we get older, we know more and more people who are dealing with it. The SCCR has become a resource for some of us, as well. So, as long as we can do this event, we'll keep doing it. None of us is getting any younger."

The need for support has steadily increased. Dunsmore said the \$25,000 they raised at one of their first events decades ago represented SCCR's total annual fuel budget to drive people to Winnipeg for their appointments.

Continued on page 13



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Poker Run winners Don Elias, Chase Sawatzky, and Myron Toews with Legends Car Club member Lyle Dunsmore at the group's Drive for Cancer last weekend.



Public Notice is hereby given that Enbridge Pipelines Inc. (Enbridge) intends to conduct the following Pesticide Program from June 1, 2024 – November 15, 2024, to control noxious weeds on Enbridge ROW's, temporary workspaces, stations, and various facilities along the Enbridge Mainline and Bakken corridors.

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## INVITATION TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF SPACE FOR LEASE IN MORDEN, MANITOBA FILE NUMBER: 81002984

Public Services and Procurement Canada is asking interested parties to submit a response by June 18, 2024, with respect to providing office space for lease in buildings in Morden, for a term of 15 years commencing on or about April 1, 2027.

To view the complete text of the request and to respond to this invitation, visit <https://canadabuys.canada.ca/en/tender-opportunities> or contact Marlene Chow at 403-605-5759 or [marlene.chow@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca](mailto:marlene.chow@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca).

# Winkler chamber launches Member 2 Member program

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce launched its new Member 2 Member program at its annual Member Appreciation Barbecue on Monday.

As members chowed down on smokies and fries at The Bunker over the lunch hour, chamber staff and board unveiled all the deals the new program offers.

"It's a way of creating more of a sense of community amongst our members, as well as providing additional value," explained executive director Tanya Chateauneuf.

The program provides registered members with a card that gets them access to discounts at a variety of par-

ticipating local businesses. There is no cost to register. A full list of discounts is available at [winklerchamber.com/membership](http://winklerchamber.com/membership).

"It's just a way of us encouraging to shop local and support each other as members," Chateauneuf said.

"We have 22 businesses signed up already," she noted, urging chamber members interested in getting involved to contact her for details.

As for the barbecue, Chateauneuf said it's always a great way to say thanks to their members for all their support through the year.

"We love the opportunity to interact with our members any chance we get, and this barbecue is just the perfect scenario where we can connect."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler chamber board members Hank Froese and Leah Klassen served up a hearty lunch at the organization's Member Appreciation Barbecue on Monday.

## > DRIVE FOR CANCER, FROM PG. 12

"Last year their budget was \$207,000 for fuel. So the need is not getting smaller, but we're still do-

ing what we can. I'm always amazed that when the money is needed, somehow, it's there. You never hear them say, 'Sorry we've run out of money.' They

just keep going on. The stuff they do for people at Cancer Resource is extremely important."

Continued on page 14

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# Plum Coulee fdn. hands out over \$23K in grants

By Lori Penner

The Plum Coulee Community Foundation presented its 2024 grants last week, reinvesting thousands of dollars back into the community.

The funds were presented during the board's annual general meeting, which followed a successful soup and pie fundraiser that brought in \$2,300 for the foundation.

The organization's net assets, including investments, grew to \$835,199 last year, generating just over \$23,000 in interest, which will support eight local organizations.

General grants totalling \$17,814 were distributed to Winkler Family Resource Centre, Plum Coulee School Parent Advisory Council, Plum Fest, Plum Coulee Community Gardens, Plum Coulee Minor Ball, Centre on Main, and the Imagination Library. As well, the Plum Coulee Prairie View Elevator Museum received a maintenance grant of \$5,352.

Mary Eberling-Penner of the Plum Coulee School Parent Advisory Council said they are deeply grateful for the \$3,000 they received for Phase 2 of their play structure.

"There has been a lot of fundraising toward the play structure upgrade over the years. The big slide ended up being \$40,000, which was more than we anticipated. The ice came in January, and the old slide from the eighties had gaping cracks in it, and was not salvageable, and had to come down. The kids were very disheartened. After fundraising and seeking grants, we've been counting the pennies. I think this grant and the last fund-

raising efforts by the school could be enough to purchase the slide. It's amazing that a school in a town this size can raise \$40,000 in a year."

The board was also happy to report that last fall's Giving Challenge raised \$16,871, which increased the amount in their general community fund, allowing them to grant more to local non-profits.

"It was a very successful year, rounding off with our soup and pie, which always has such great support from the community," said board chair Levi Taylor.

Taylor noted that the board had a tough task selecting grant recipients from the 17 applications they received this year.

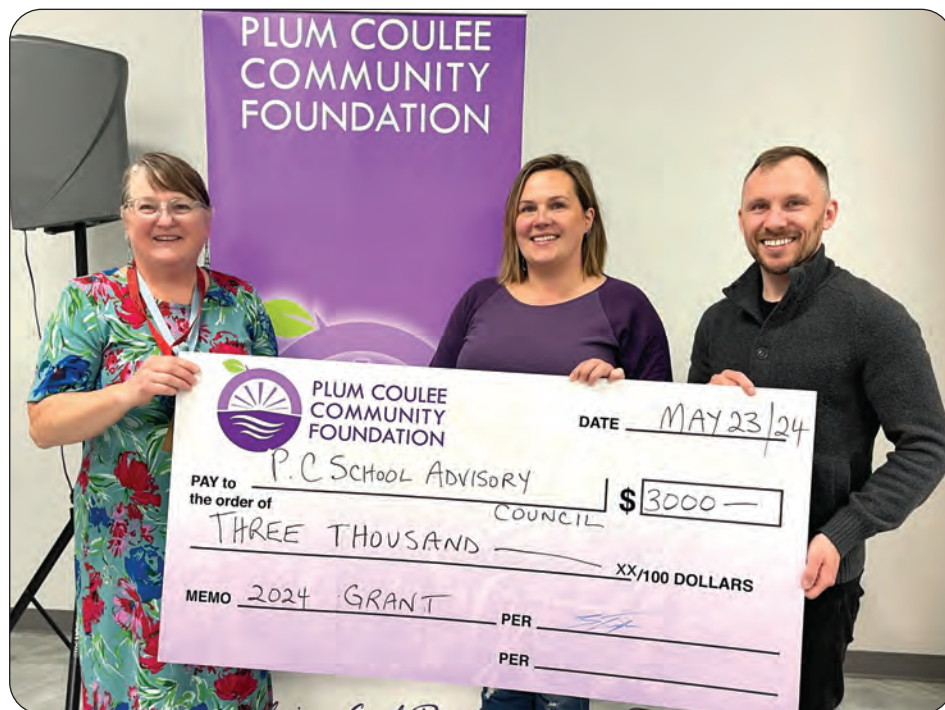
"We look at things that are true to the community. Whether it's innovative. Whether it meets a need in the community, along with how it aligns with the foundation's objectives and vision."

Taylor added that as the community grows, people need to become aware of what resources are out there and what the foundation does to support them.

"That's why one of the granting criteria is how is the foundation going to be recognized through this. We want to make sure that the donations we receive have a long-lasting impact in the community."

Taylor expressed gratitude to everyone in the community who contributed to the foundation.

"The foundation's vision is to help good people do great things. For many years, this board has success-



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Plum Coulee Community Foundation handed out grants to numerous community groups last week, including \$3,000 to the Plum Coulee School parent advisory council (above) and \$5,000 to the Plum Coulee Plum Fest (below). A total of \$23,166 in grants were distributed for 2024.

fully done that, by contributing to a number of non-profit organizations, and different initiatives in and around Plum Coulee. Our dedicated board has more than pulled its weight for the last year, after we lost a few board members. If anyone is interested in joining the board, please reach out to us."

He added, "I think the more the merrier. It allows us to spread the work, so we can accomplish more to allocate resources and to take on new initiatives. Plus, it adds a fresh perspective and a bounty of new ideas."

The foundation is also looking to add a part-time administrator to assist the board.

"We are currently exploring multiple options, to ensure the foundation remains intact for the foreseeable future," said Taylor.

Going forward, the board will be putting a strong focus on growing its newly established Administrative Fund, with the goal of eventually hir-

ing an administrator.

The position was formerly part of a shared work program, with Endow Manitoba paying half the salary of an administrator and the foundation making up the rest.

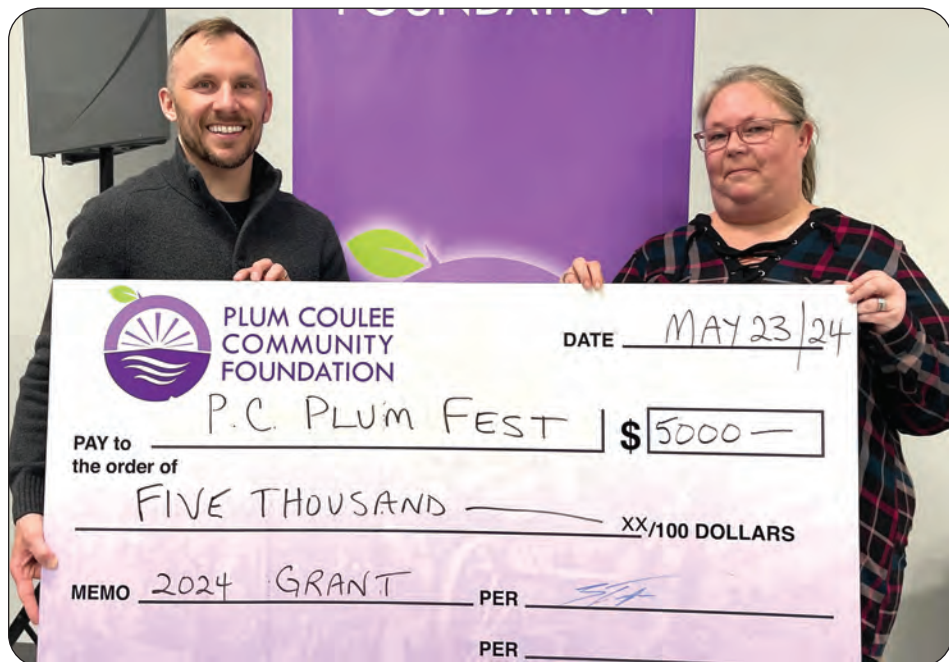
However, that arrangement has since shifted, and the Plum Coulee Foundation has begun relying on the Winkler Community Foundation's administrator.

Taylor says it's now necessary for the board to find a long-term solution.

"It's been more difficult to operate a charity or not-for-profit. That's why it's important to allocate certain resources to our Administrative Fund, so that somebody who is well-versed in those areas can take care of it."

Taylor expressed his gratitude for the board.

"You are extremely hard-working and dedicated. I want you to know you are valued. This foundation couldn't operate without you."



## > DRIVE FOR CANCER, FROM PG. 13

As a non-profit organization, SCCR relies on the support of community donors, volunteers and fundraising to provide transportation and accommodation assistance to those dealing with cancer, as well as a lymphedema program, wigs and head coverings, skin screening clinics, radon awareness testing, and wellness programs.

Raising funds for SCCR is a labour of love for the car club.

"I'd rather be the one who's asked to help instead of the one who is asking for help. It might be so hard for some

people to accept the fact that they need somebody else. But if you need to go to Winnipeg for a treatment, and you don't own a vehicle, somebody has to take you. It's a tough pill to swallow, but South Central Cancer Resource is there," Dunsmore said.

"Everybody that came for this event has at least five people they know who have had cancer or are dealing with it now. That's a big crowd when you put all those people together. This is a proactive way to do something about it."

# ÉMMS selling raffle tickets for cancer supports, new playground

By Lorne Stelmach

There is a double benefit to a raffle that will help the École Morden Middle School parent advisory council raise money for a new playground structure.

It is partnering up with organizers

of the Mike Pritchard Memorial Golf Tournament, so a portion of the sale of the \$20 tickets will support the school project, while the other \$15 will be shared by South Central Cancer Resource and CancerCare Manitoba.

“It’s a good fundraiser because it not only helps our kids, it helps our

families in this area and the greater community,” said Jeri Martens, chairperson of the advisory council.

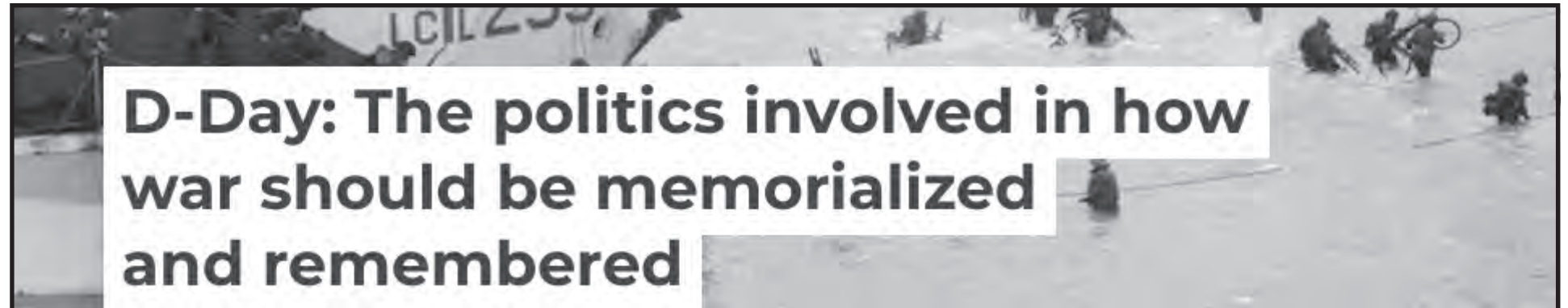
The top prize is a trip for two to any Winnipeg Jets game anywhere in North America, including accommodations and airfare.

Second prize is a Q Lake Lodge fish-

ing package for three nights for six people in a private cabin and use of two boats as well as an introductory guided tour.

The third place prize is a Thermea spa package worth \$1,000.

Continued on page 16



## D-Day: The politics involved in how war should be memorialized and remembered

By Geoffrey Bird

Villages and towns along the Normandy coast will fill with visitors this week to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6. Flags will fly to welcome and acknowledge those who fought in the Great Crusade. Over the summer, hundreds of commemorations will take place to mark 80 days of battle.

While not the only contribution by Canadian service men and women, D-Day takes a prominent place in Canada’s cultural memory of the Second World War.

As a researcher of war heritage, I have observed and participated in commemorations in Normandy over the years. My focus has been on how the region, as a memorialized landscape of war, is managed and interpreted. I am also interested in the meaning people draw from the histories and stories told at these sites of memory.

### The politics of remembrance

The politics of remembrance refers to the many voices

engaged in how war and the fallen should be memorialized and remembered — from the challenges and opportunities associated with memorial design, speeches by heads of state and war art, to the interpretation of a war heritage site.

Politics of remembrance evolve with new interpretations of the past to suit present-day ideological needs. While expected, the politics of remembrance illustrate how the past can unify or divide people in the present. And the forces at play seem to be changing — three issues point to a new politics of remembrance.

The passing of veterans: There is the inevitable passing of Second World War veterans. With less than 20,000 veterans remaining, in their passing we lose the voice of witnesses.

New generations will become entirely reliant on learning about the Second World War through various secondary means, like museums, schools, local commemorations and books

and films. More funding to support communities to remember and commemorate is important.

Canadian war heritage overseas under threat: In the early 2000s, the Juno Beach Centre was established in Normandy, but it is currently under threat due to condo development. The centre’s mandate was ambitious — to not only teach about what happened in Normandy and Canada’s wartime involvement, but of Canada as a nation.

Veterans realized the importance of a commemorative hub in Europe for Canada’s Second World War story. That vision, and the centre itself, warrants a national effort to protect and preserve this cornerstone of Canadian heritage overseas.

### A moral obligation to remember

Inherent in the politics of remembrance is the belief among many that there is a moral obligation to remember.

The meaning of remembrance is open to interpretation because each person’s experience with and connections to war, military and civilian, are different.

Remembrance for the post-veteran generations involves learning about history and trying to comprehend the what, how and why remembering is relevant today. Visiting sites of war memory, such as Normandy, assist in gaining new perspectives while acknowledging that remembrance is also a journey to imagine the past and its context.

Standing in the footsteps of soldiers triggers many reflections, including on the violence of war, responsibility, camaraderie, sacrifice, liberation and freedom. People often think about what they would do, as hard as it is to imagine.

*Geoffrey Bird is a Professor of war heritage, memory and culture, Royal Roads University*

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PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A plant sale and barbecue Thursday at Boundary Trails Health Centre raised money to support the volunteer effort spearheaded by Judy Stambuski to plant the flower gardens at the hospital. "I would think we are a bit better than last year," said Stambuski, who did not have a final tally as of press time. "All in all, I would say my guess we may be up a few dollars or be even with last year when all the dust settles. I'm hoping to have a bit of money left over to buy a new garden tiller."

# BTHC plant sale, BBQ supports flower gardens



> RAFFLE, FROM PG. 16

For every ticket sold, buyers can use it for a buy one/get one free green fee at the Minnewasta and Carman golf courses.

There are incentives for the students as well. Each student has been given a ticket book to sell with incentives to earn more ballots to put into a draw to win a school hoodie or T-shirt, and the top three selling classrooms get pizza parties.

Martens said a new playground structure is really important for the school, as the existing wooden structure needs to be replaced with something safer and more accessible.

"There's an old wooden play structure that's been there for quite a long time. It needs to come down because it's starting to get dangerous," said Martens. "We're concerned a little bit about the structure of it."

It has been estimated a basic play structure starts at a cost of about \$80,000, depending on the features.

"We've succeeded in raising \$55,000 so far just through grants," shared Martens, noting they anticipate the raffle being able to earn them another \$17,000. "Now our goal is just to get some of the families in the community to help us fundraise

further."

They have been encouraged with support also coming from a number of other sources including the Morden Area Foundation, Morden Thrift Store, and Western School Division.

"Either way, the structure is coming down, I believe, this summer, so we hope we can get a good start on it," said Martens. "Right now, there are only two other play structures, so it definitely does not handle the numbers ... so we need to get something up. It's not just for the school.

"It is for the community," she added. "The community has access to use these play structures."

If you are interesting in supporting the project, you can contact any ÉMMS family or the school itself. Raffle tickets are on sale until June 13, and the draw will be made July 6.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Joe Wilson was the headliner as the Crocus Suncatch Sounds concert series kicked off last Friday in Morden. His country sounds were complemented by opener Bill Dowling for the show, which had to be moved indoors because of the weather. The series of six shows in the heart of downtown Morden, beneath the clocktower, continues June 14 with Seven Pines.

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*The* **Voice**



# getinformed

## Salem BBQ raises \$20K

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Salem Foundation and the Salem Ladies Auxiliary's annual spring barbecue fed hundreds of people and raised an estimated \$20,000 for the Winkler personal care last week.

"Thanks to being blessed with great weather and the community coming out, we had around 500 people come through, and the number of volunteers we had to make everything run smoothly was just amazing," shared foundation executive coordinator Susan Hildebrand. "Everyone gave their time to serve the community and to help make this event a success."

"We had volunteers helping with traffic, parking, welcoming, barbecuing, serving the food, running around replenishing the food, helping people find a place to sit, taking out garbage, setting up tables and chairs (and taking down), receiving donations, etc. To see the attitude of serving and the willingness to do whatever was asked is a blessing."

The evening also included a musical performance from The Quonset Brothers, who had people up on their feet dancing.

"We thank everyone for coming out to enjoy this special event with us," Hildebrand said, noting they're still crunching the numbers but expect the day brought in upwards of \$20,000.

That money will be used to create a dedicated sitting area for families with a loved one in palliative care at Salem.

Salem CEO Karin Oliveira thanks everyone who came out and supported this cause.

"I was so pleased to see the number of residents that came out with their family or friends. We saw many of our staff bringing their families," she said. "This is truly an event that brings the community of Winkler to Salem Home and where we can all enjoy a time together. I look forward to next year and what we can do even better."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Salem Foundation and the Salem Ladies Auxiliary served up 500 meals and raised an estimated \$20,000 at their spring barbecue last week.



## Air cadets on parade



PHOTOS BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

The 179 Morden Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron held their annual Ceremonial Review on Sunday at the Morden Access Event Centre. Following a general inspection and March Past, awards were given to deserving cadets. Reviewing Officer Major Lethbridge spoke briefly, encouraging the cadets "when things are getting tough and you have to make a hard decision, do the right thing."

The **Voice**

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# sports & recreation



## Border Baseball begins

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Morden's Pearce McDonald beats the throw to Winkler's Bill Fehr, stealing second base in the two teams' season opener at Arctic Field last week, which the Mud Hens won 5-3.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After a few rained-out games, the Border Baseball League season finally got underway for the teams from Winkler, Morden, and Altona last

week.

The Morden Mud Hens kicked things off with a 5-3 win over the Whips in Winkler last Tuesday night, while the Altona Bisons opened their season with a trio of wins.

On Tuesday, the Bisons ran roughshod over the Carman Cardinals 7-0. They followed that up with wins of 10-4 and 3-0 against Clearwater Sunday afternoon.

This week, Morden was in Altona

Tuesday night while the Whips headed to Carman. Over the weekend, Winkler is in Pilot Mound Friday evening and Altona plays a double-header in Cartwright Sunday afternoon.

## U17 Central Energy win twice to stay in first place

By Ty Dilello

The U17 Central Energy team continued its winning ways with a pair of victories on Sunday afternoon against the Manitoba Angels. With the wins, Central Energy holds top spot in the MPSL standings with a record of 7-2.

In the first game of the doubleheader, U17 Central Energy was victorious against Manitoba Angels by a 5-3 score. Central Energy's Brooklyn Friesen hit a home run, while a critical double by Nelia Fehr gave Central Energy the lead, which they held onto for the win.

Maddy Friesen led things off in the circle for U17 Central Energy. The starting pitcher gave up three hits and one run (zero earned) over four innings, striking out five and walking one. Karli Toews appeared in relief for U17 Central Energy.

In the second game of the doubleheader, Brooklyn Friesen hit two home runs and drove in five runs as Central Energy defeated the Manitoba Angels by a 10-0 score.

Central Energy scored seven runs in the second inning on the way to victory. That inning, Molly Cowan singled, scoring one run, Maddy Friesen

doubled, scoring one run, Brooklyn Friesen homered to center field, scoring two runs, and Christina VanDeVelde doubled, scoring three runs.

Cowan stepped in the circle first for U17 Central Energy. She gave up two hits and zero runs over four innings, striking out two and walking none.

"We had a first close first game with some great pitching from Maddie Friesen and Karli Toews," said U17 Central Energy head coach Cam Zacharias. "We started out slow with our hitting, but then started to get going towards the end of the game. In the second game, we also had great pitch-

ing from Molly Cowan, shutting out the Angels. Molly also had two hits in the game, and then the two home runs from Brooklyn Friesen were big. Solid defence from our squad in both games kept the Angels scoring quite low."

U17 Central Energy is back in action with a doubleheader on June 1 against the Manitoba Thunder at Optimist Park (Gardewine Field) at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

The U15 Central Energy squad split its doubleheader with a win and a loss

Continued on page 20

# Orioles win doubleheader, Bisons fall to Sultans

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Orioles and Altona Bisons were at opposite ends of doubleheader sweeps in MJBL action Sunday.

The Orioles halted their season-opening three-game losing streak with 7-2 and 5-3 wins over the Interlake Blue Jays, while the Bisons are now in a four-game slide after falling 5-4 and 6-2 to the Carillon Sultans

Earlier last week, the Orioles fell 5-3 to the Winnipeg South Wolves.

Johnny Martens allowed five hits and four runs over four and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking three, while Karsten Peters went two for four at the plate. Winnipeg out-hit Pembina Valley 7-5 ... Orioles had tied it at 3-3 in the top of the fifth.

Jason Penner went three for four at the plate to help pace Pembina Valley to the win in game one with Interlake.

Orioles' pitchers Owen Goertzen and Sam Blatz combined to allow two runs on six hits, while Pembina Valley spread out 13 hits.

Karsten Peters went two for four and collected three RBIs in game two, while Johnny Martens gave up six hits and three runs over six and one third innings.

A walk-off left the Bisons on the short end of a 5-4 defeat in game one against Carillon, which scored the winning run in the bottom of the ninth. Maddux Mateychuk allowed five hits and four runs over five and one-third innings, striking out seven.

Game details for the second half of the doubleheader were not available at press time.

This week, the Bisons were scheduled to host Interlake Friday then visit St. James for a doubleheader Sunday.

After welcoming St. Boniface Wednesday, the Orioles were to host Elmwood for a Sunday doubleheader.

Orioles Mike Heppner gets the out at second base and then completes the throw to first to record the double play in Sunday's game against Interlake. The Orioles won the doubleheader with scores of 7-2 and 5-3.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



# Beernaerts named MMJHL Coach of the Year



SUBMITTED IMAGE

Pembina Valley Twisters head coach Braeden Beernaerts, middle, was named the MMJHL Coach of the Year for the 2023-24 season at the recent league awards banquet.

By Ty Dilello

On the evening of May 23, Braeden Beernaerts from the Pembina Valley Twisters received the MMJHL Coach of the Year title as the league presented its awards.

Under Beernaerts' coaching, the Twisters delivered a remarkable performance this season, securing second place in the regular standings before narrowly falling in the championship final after a grueling five-game series.

"It's a good feeling being only two years into this position that the work we are putting in is pointing in the right direction," said Beernaerts.

He noted that his award that he received at the recent league banquet is not just a reflection on his job, but of his players, coaches and everyone else involved in the Twisters organization.

"Every year we are motivated to do better each year, award or not, as it's our job as coaches to learn and process each year in order to be better

and more prepared for the next year," said Beernaerts. "This award is really won by the players who play the game for us, as without those 25 players, my assistant coaches, our equipment managers, and trainers, this award isn't possible."

Additionally, Twisters forward Derek Wiebe received recognition at the league banquet for his outstanding performance this season, earning him a spot on the MMJHL First Team All-Star. Throughout the 2023-24 campaign, Wiebe tallied an impressive 20 goals and 47 assists.

For next season, the Twisters will be looking to fill eight spots of graduating players. However, Beernaerts fully believes that they can rebuild and reload for a competitive 2024-2025 season.

"We're excited to build our team again and hopefully have an even stronger year than we just had."

The **Voice**

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What's *Your* story?

# Storm 1 down Lucania

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm 1 are getting a winning momentum going in the early part of their season in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's Division 1.

The team followed up on their 2-1 season-opening win earlier this month with a second victory last week.

Tuesday saw the Storm down Lucania United FC 2 5-2. Ehtha Moon and Santi Bergen both contributed a pair of goals to that tally, alongside a single from Emil Rode.

On Monday, the team battled Grant Park SC to a 2-2 tie. Matheus Ruffini and Cornelius Siemens scored for Winkler.

Winkler Storm 2, meanwhile, playing in Division 2, found themselves on the losing end of their match against the Richmond Kings last Thursday night. The Kings took it 3-2, with Winkler's goals coming from George Siemens and Kris Roberts.

On Sunday, the Storm battled the visiting Scorpions FC to a 1-1 tie. Nico Nickel got Winkler on the board.

The team is 1-1-1 for the season thus far.

Coming up, Storm 1 plays at home against AK Academy Sunday at 7:30 p.m. while Storm 2 hits the road to play UDM in Winnipeg next Monday night.

## > CENTRAL ENERGY, FROM PG. 18

against the Westman Magic on Sunday afternoon. Central Energy won the first game 5-4 before losing 9-8 in a close rubber match. They are now in second place in the MPSL standings with a record of 4-2.

"It was a great day for us," said U15 Central Energy head coach Kevin Perrin. "In the first game, Shyanne Goertzen pitched a great game, and Taylor Wall came in for the close. Wall's home run in the bottom of six for the winning run was a timely big hit. Our defence was bulletproof both games. In the second game, we turned a double play which is huge in women's fastball. Unfortunately, we left a

few runners stranded and fell short, losing by one run. We led the second game until the last inning."

U15 Central Energy is back in action with a doubleheader on June 15 against the Smitty's Terminators and Interlake Phillies at Stonewall's Quarry Park. The game times are 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The U13 Central Energy squad had the weekend off due to rain, but will be back in action with a doubleheader on June 1 against the Smitty's Terminators and Interlake Phillies at Stonewall's Quarry Park. The game times are scheduled for 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.



FACEBOOK/NORTHLANDS PARKWAY COLLEGIATE

The Northlands Parkway Collegiate Nighthawks girls fastpitch team won the Zone 4 banner in Portage la Prairie May 22. Teams from Garden Valley Collegiate, Morden Collegiate, W.C. Miller Collegiate, Sanford, and Portage were also in the running for the title, but the Nighthawks came out on top, downing the Aces 13-3 to advance to play Morden in the final, which they won 11-4. The ladies now head to provincials, also in Portage, this weekend. On the boys' side of things, the Morden Thunder clinched the Zone 4 title by downing the GVC Zodiacs 7-4 in the championship game last week.

## Mateychuk's Warriors still in contention

By Kieran Reimer

The 104th Memorial Cup is underway in Saginaw, MI.

This year's tournament includes the Moose Jaw Warriors, London Knights, and Drummondville Voltigeurs as champions of their respective junior leagues along with hosts Saginaw Spirit of the Ontario Hockey League.

The tournament began Friday night from DOW Event Center with Saginaw taking on Moose Jaw in front of a crowd of 4,893.

The host team got off to a hot start in the first two periods, scoring four unanswered goals from Nic Sima, Owen Beck, Zayne Parekh, and Jorian Donovan.

The Warriors then stormed back late in the second with three goals of their own. Brayden Yager scored two in the period for the Warriors while Dominion City's Denton Mateychuk had the other goal for the Warriors and added an assist on Yager's second.

The comeback eventually came up short as Saginaw restored their two-goal lead in the third period with a goal from Josh Bloom which proved to be the game-winner.

Mateychuk did add another assist late in the period to cap off a three-point night, but the Warriors ultimately lost 5-4 and fell to 0-1 in the tournament.

Moose Jaw plays their second of three round-robin games Monday night against the OHL champion Lon-

don Knights at 6:30 p.m. central. No score was available at press time.

The Knights will enter the game 1-0 in the tournament as they took down the QMJHL's Drummondville Voltigeurs 4-0 Saturday afternoon.

Philadelphia first-rounder Oliver Bonk led the way for the Knights with a goal, assist, and three rating, and was named player of the game.

The Voltigeur's struggles didn't end there as the QMJHL champs dropped their second game of the tournament the following evening against Saginaw.

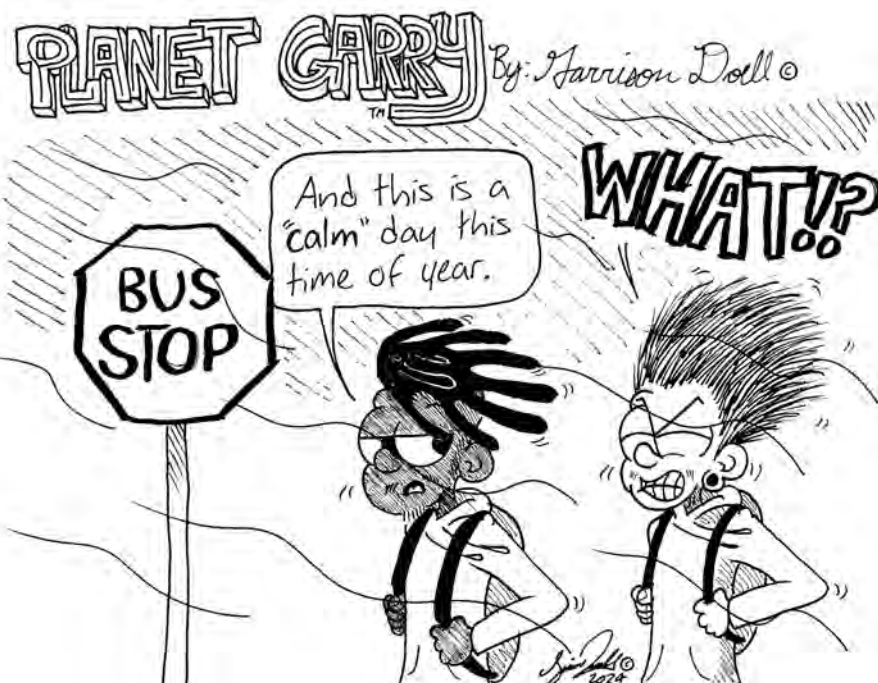
The Voltigeurs were in the driver's seat for over half the game, holding a 2-0 lead midway through the second period before Saginaw eventually broke through to goaltender Riley Mercer, scoring two goals in the late second period, and two more in the third.

The Spirit's offence was led by 2025 projected first-rounder Michael Misa who had three assists and was named player of the game as the Spirit downed the Voltigeurs 4-3.

With the first four games done and over, Saginaw sits atop the standings with a 2-0 record and with a win over London on Wednesday night they can clinch a berth in the finals.

Moose Jaw will look to jump into second place with a win over London on Monday night. They then play again Tuesday night against Drummondville at 6:30 p.m. central with a chance to eliminate the Voltigeurs from semi-final contention.

# The Funnies





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**OBITUARY**



**Edith Margaret Link (Sagert) (nee Klatt)**  
August 25, 1927 – May 22, 2024

On May 22, 2024 Edith Margaret Link (Sagert) (nee Klatt) passed away at the Tabor Home in Morden at the age of 96 years. Edith was born on August 25, 1927 on the family farm in the 1-6 district south of Morden.

Edith is survived by her children Arthur (Helen) Sagert, Bob (Shirley) Sagert, Beverly (Jerry) Nelson, Wayne Link, Sally (Don) Peters, and Connie (Timothy) Kwiatkowski; daughter-in-law Mary (Peter) Giesbrecht; her eight grandchildren Norman, Bradley (Joann), Lori (Brent), Bonnie (Dan), Kayla, Kelsey (Nathan), Tyler, and Chanler; her six great-grandchildren Taelynn, Trinity, Tyson, Quinton, Jaxx, and Torren; her sisters Martha Hildebrand, Betty (Ed) Pulver, Diane (Ike) Hoepfner, and Vicki Resch and sister-in-law Gladys Klatt; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Edith was predeceased by her parents, August and Bertha (Bloch) Klatt; her first husband Arnold Sagert; her sons Karl Link and Larry Sagert; her grandson Darrel Sagert; her sisters and brothers-in-law Grace (Laverne) Rach, Dorothy (Albert) Rietze, Samuel Hildebrand, Gary Kilmury, and Bob Resch; and brother Arnold Klatt.

The family wishes to thank all the caring staff at Tabor Home for the excellent care Edith received over the years she resided there.

Memorial Service was held May 26th at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden followed with interment of ashes at Hillside Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Edith's memory to Tabor Home Inc.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**



### Canadian Navigable Waters Act

The Municipality of Rhineland hereby gives notice that a Submission has been added to the Common Project Search (online registry) pursuant to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act described herein and its description.

Pursuant to paragraph 4.1 and 9.1 of the said Act, The Municipality of Rhineland has deposited with the Minister of Transport,

On the on-line Common Project Search Registry (<http://cps.canada.ca/>) and

Under registry number **10736**, a description of the following work, its site, and plans:

o Culvert

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Michael Rempel  
Chief Administrative Officer

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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# A lifetime of music

By Lorne Stelmach

It's would be hard for Bob McMillan to imagine not being at the organ in church on any given Sunday.

That's where he has been pretty much every Sunday since taking on that role at the Miami United Church 55 years ago, but his tenure there is coming to an end.

The church will be closing as of the end of June, so McMillan will have to look for another gig somewhere else.

"I'm not sure where I'm going to go ... I'm sure I'll find a job somewhere if they need an organist," said McMillan. "If they need help, I'll play ... I've got to keep going ... until I can't anymore, I guess.

"I've always sat right at the front of a church ... I'm always at the front ... it would seem weird sitting in the congregation."

McMillan came into playing early on in his life, which saw him growing up in Rosebank before later moving to Miami.

"I was taking piano lessons from a lady in Miami here, the minister's wife, in about 1953," he recalled. "In 1957, I started playing church in Rosebank. There were two organists at that time, so we took turns.

"Back in the '50s, I went to Sunday school in Rosebank all the time, and then I got to playing music in church and never even got to Sunday school; I was playing in church every Sunday since then."

He got married in 1969 and moved to Miami and has been playing organ there ever since then without missing very many services.

"It used to bug me, on a long weekend, we always had church, and I couldn't go anywhere. I had to stay in church and play," he noted. "Or at lot of times there was something on Sunday afternoon, and you had to scurry home and get back to the function in the afternoon ... it did take a lot of your time.

"I haven't regretted it, though. I never regretted it at all."

McMillan, of course, has a lots of memories and stories from over a half century of playing organ not only in church but at many other special events.

There was the time in 1974 when he was playing for a wedding at a threshermen's reunion and a strap on the bellows of the pump organ suddenly broke, making it hard to pump with only one bellows working.

There was also a wedding at Crystal City where he didn't realize it was a pipe organ.

"I had to learn to play a pipe organ and try to turn it on and everything, but that was fun," said McMillan.

"I've played at so many weddings and funerals in the past," he continued. "I don't know how many funerals I've played at ... there's lots of them. I can't count them. Even when my dad passed away, I played at his funeral, right here in this church.

"I remember one time, I played at a funeral, and I had a hard time playing because I couldn't read the music with tears in my eyes. That was my first funeral, a guy in Rosebank who passed away in 1962. That was hard, but thank God that I knew the song from memory.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Bob McMillan has been playing the organ at the Miami United Church for over 50 years. That tenure comes to an end as the church closes next month.

"I've played at so many different places," he said, remembering being at a conference in Philadelphia when he came across a nice Steinway in the building and sat down to play.

"Of course there was a sign there, 'Don't play the piano,'" he recalled. "I ignored that, and a guy comes up and says, 'You know you're not supposed to play the piano' ... I said, 'Well, at least let me finish the song.'

"I've played the wrong hymn some days. I remember one hymn I was playing, and I ran out of music. I had the wrong tune," McMillan said with a chuckle. "So I've made mistakes, and you continue making mistakes. If you're doing something in the limelight all the time, you're always gonna make mistakes, but you still do it, and you just laugh it off."

He has always been ready and willing to step in and help whenever needed, and he attributes a lot of it to just having a good ear for music as

well as a good memory.

"I've always just liked music ... and I was always good at sight reading," he noted. "Thank God I've got a good memory for songs. I've got a lot of songs in my head that I don't need music for. I've memorized a lot of songs, and my memory, I think, is still pretty good yet for 78 years old.

"People just appreciate the music. They like listening to the music, and I think it just became a way of life for me. I just keep doing it," said McMillan, who noted he has a son who lives in Carman now but was an organist in a church in Elgin.

No matter where he may or may not end up, McMillan said music will continue to be a big part of his life until his final days.

"Just imagine in the world if there was no such thing as music. What a dead world it would be," he said. "It's a big part of my life."

## Miami United Church to close, building transformed into arts centre

By Lorne Stelmach

A centre for faith in Miami is getting a second lease on life as a home for the arts.

The Miami United Church shuts down at the end of June, but the Miami Arts Association takes possession of the historic building as of July 1.

While it is unfortunate to see an end to worship there, the arts association is glad to be able to step in, as it had been searching for a place to call home.

"We're just happy that these two things coincided ... it seemed like it was meant to be," said arts association chairperson Heather Imrie. "It is an absolutely perfect fit for us."

"It's good to acknowledge that there will be new life in the building

because it's been really rather sad ... but we just knew it was time to gracefully let go," said Audrey Douglas, a church member and volunteer.

The Miami United church was built in 1889 originally as Chalmers Presbyterian Church. In 1924, its congregation amalgamated with that of the local Methodist church to form Miami United Church, using the former Presbyterian building.

In recent years, the congregation had been declining, and a retired minister who had been providing services was no longer going to be available, so the time had come.

"It's been a gathering place for community functions for about a hundred years. It's been a gathering place for not only members of the church but also members of the community who

have shared events with us," said Douglas.

"It's been a place that has brought people together for worship, for community functions, for celebrations ... so it's the close of an era," she said. "But we are thrilled that the arts association is hopefully going to keep it as a vibrant part of our community.

"We were all very, very excited when we were facing the possibility of closure, and this group approached us," said Douglas. "They said we're really sad this may be happening for you, but we are very interested in purchasing this building."

It is an exciting step for the arts association, which only formed in January 2023. It had actually been renting space in the church for its programming, so to some degree it already felt

like home, said Imrie.

"It's kind of sad now that our church is going to close because it's been a part of the community life for a hundred years," she said. "We do feel it's a great opportunity for our association. We're a new association, but this is absolutely everything we've ever conceived of doing one day. We could do it all there, and in fact it's the only building in town that really would be able to host everything.

"Another tremendous advantage is the fact that it's still going to remain a public building in town that people can still go to ... we won't really have lost that," she added. "It's going to continue to be maintained, and we're not going to lose that beautiful facility."

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# BTHC expansion on track

By Lorne Stelmach

There should be even more progress becoming visible this summer with the \$100 million expansion of the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Providing an update on the project this spring, Kyle MacNair, implementation lead for Southern Health-Santé Sud, said construction of the expansion in phases is moving along well.

"It's very exciting for us to see this starting to come to life. Lots is going to happen," said MacNair, who noted the main thing people will see will be the new community services building taking shape.

"It's a large two-storey building that's going to be going up right next to the parking lot ... once you see that building going up, visually it's going to be a realization of how large this project is," he said. "It's quite a substantial increase in the square footage of the hospital."

The expansion will include 24 additional acute care inpatient beds, an expanded emergency department, a new state-of-the-art operating room, expansion of the cancer care unit, dedicated space for palliative care services, and a level two nursery designed to provide services to premature newborns with complex feeding needs.

The new community services building will enable existing community services to be relocated from the current spaces in the hospital. Those services in the new building will include public health, midwifery, home care services, children and youth rehabilitation services and a centre for hope

healing garden and healing courtyard.

Then, once all of that has been accomplished, work begins on renovation of the existing hospital building, so it is a complex project overall.

"The complexity is such that these are just the first phases of the project," said MacNair.

"We're going to move substantial portions of the hospital services into that community services building, and then we start the renovation phase of the hospital itself," he said. "We'll start on the main floor. That's where we're basically moving all of public health, home care and administration out of the main floor of the hospital into that community services building."

Where the most progress has been made so far is the in-patient building to the northwest corner of the property.

"That one is progressing along quite rapidly ... the structure is up, the steel cladding is up and the mechanical electrical penthouse is up," said MacNair. "What you're eventually going to see is cutting the holes to insert the windows ... those will be coming in within the next several weeks so that we can fully close off the envelope."

"Over the summer the exterior will get more and more finished as they complete those steps," he added. "On the interior side, right now they're doing the early mechanical and electrical rough-ins."

The foundation for what will be the new community services building closest to the main parking lot is what will be seen happening next.



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The expansion of the Boundary Trails Health Centre is moving along nicely, shares Southern Health-Santé Sud's Kyle MacNair. The new in-patient building is slated to open in fall of 2025.

"The steel for this building is coming in the end of May, so the structure for that building is going to be going up in June," said MacNair. "You will see that building taking shape over the summer."

The third new building going up to the southwest corner from the hospital is where the core mechanical and electrical equipment will be relocated. The main steel framework is going up already and will be more complete in another two or three months.

"So we're majorly into construction ... many components of it are being worked on," said MacNair.

He then offered an update on the timelines for the project.

"Construction of all this is going to extend essentially into 2027. We're going to be at this for approximately three more years," he said. "We're in this for quite a bit of time to get all of the phases done."

"Once we start renovating the hos-

pital, we have to keep a functioning hospital going," he stressed. "We have to stagger these construction projects so we can keep services operating as best as possible. There's going to be some disruptions, there's no two ways about it, but we're going to try to minimize the disruptions."

"We're going to be starting in the next two months to start on the design of the renovations, and that's going to be a bit more complicated just because of the whole sequencing piece," MacNair concluded.

"Our goal is to have the in-patient building to be taking patients by October of 2025. That's kind of our first milestone. Then the community services building, the one where the structure is going up ... the first on site activity is January, 2026. Those are the first real set of milestones ... we're not starting the renovations until early 2026."

## > UNITED CHURCH, FROM PG. 23

Imrie added a section of the space will be dedicated to the history and legacy of the church.

"Part of our gallery will be committed to a permanent exhibition to honour the United Church in Miami," she said. "It's a way we can preserve all of the pictures and preserve the life of the church in our community."

Once they take possession of the building, they will be able to continue holding meetings and hosting classes there. Imrie anticipates they will do a grand opening sometime this summer or early fall.

"We feel really good about it," she said. "They really made it possible for us to run with this, and we are just really grateful to the church board for the faith that they've shown in us and

allowing us to take over the building."

"Some of these old buildings, they just sit in decline and ruin, and somebody buys them and they have a plan but maybe it doesn't come to fruition," said Douglas. "We're happy that this is still going to be a productive part of the community."

The Miami United Church was built in 1889 as Chalmers Presbyterian Church. It became a United congregation in 1924. Next month that congregation disbands and the building will become the new home of the Miami Arts Association.

MANITOBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO

