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Winkler Mayor Martin Harder toured the Meridian Exhibition Centre construction site recently to check out the progress of the \$22 million project. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

MEC on track

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Meridian Exhibition Centre on schedule for fall opening

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A recent tour of the site has Martin Harder more excited than ever at the potential the Meridian Exhibition Centre holds for the community.

The Winkler mayor was joined recently by Portage-Lisgar MP Candice Bergen for a tour of the \$22 million arena expansion project, which is currently on track for a fall completion.

"I'm much more excited today than I was last week because I've never been up on the second floor to see it all," Harder said after getting the chance to check out the facility's upper floor overlooking both the arena and indoor soccer field.

The COVID-19 pandemic hasn't had much of an effect on the project's timeline.

"It's interesting because the construction was not halted," Harder said. "They were concerned about maybe having supply issues but that hasn't happened either. Right now it just looks like it's just coming together. All that concrete that's been poured, it's just phenomenal.

"In the wintertime it looked like there wasn't anything happening, but now you see what all goes on inside



The Meridian Exhibition Centre going up behind the Winkler Rec. Complex will provide a large turf area (above) for indoor soccer that can be transformed into a banquet hall with seating for 1,200.

and it just is an absolutely impressive facility."

The MEC will add a second, 372-seat arena to Winkler's Park St. recreation complex.

Also new is a massive exhibition hall

whose turf floor can be covered with hard top to serve as a convention centre or banquet room the likes of which the Pembina Valley has never had before.

"You could have banquets with seating for 1,200," Harder said, noting that will make it the largest banquet hall in the region by several hundred seats. "So this brings a whole new dynamic to the area. It will bring people from all over the place to come and host events here."

The hope from the get-go has been that this facility will be a hub not just for Winkler but all of Southern Manitoba.

"When we first started designing this thing it wasn't just a Winkler facility," Harder stressed. "We wanted this to be something that is unique to the region and, as a matter of fact, to all of rural Manitoba."

With new hotels going up in Mor-

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

den-Winkler to increase the area's capacity to host more large-scale events catering to out-of-town guests, "there's nothing stopping us from filling this thing five, six times a year, for sure," Harder said.

COMMUNITY INPUT

The city consulted with multiple user groups in the design phase of the project.

"When you look at the input that we've had from all the sports groups, the user groups, combined with the industries and companies who want to use it [for banquets and trade shows] ... this facility has what we need and what we want," Harder said.

The result is a facility with lots of windows for natural light, high ceilings (even in the change rooms—a

Continued on page 4



A look at the facility's main corridor, along which will be the rec. department's offices, trophy cases, a play area, and gathering spaces.



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Raising the Pride flag

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The rainbow flag is flying high at the Access Event Centre in honour of LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Supporters and members of the LGBTQ+ community gathered in Morden Saturday to hoist the flag in a small ceremony that, due to COVID-19, had to replace the large march originally planned to kick off the month.

Last year's Pride parade was the community's first.

"It was a day of love, celebration, defiance against those who seek to oppress and silence our voices, and strength and solidarity for all those who desperately needed this to exist," recounted Morden Pride rep. Shay Millar. "Yes, our first year was a resounding success."

While a march was not possible this year due to pandemic restrictions, organiz-

ers wanted to ensure Pride Month was still marked locally. "It can be really difficult in small towns when you don't see anyone who is like you," said Jason Dutchak, Morden Pride treasurer, who grew up in Dauphin but now calls Morden home. "It's amazing how two words, I'm gay,

ers wanted to ensure Pride Month was still marked locally.

"It can be really difficult in small towns when you don't see anyone who is like you," said Jason Dutchak, Morden Pride treasurer, who grew up in Dauphin but now calls Morden home. "It's amazing how two words, I'm gay,



can shatter your world. The relationships you had with people for years are now changed and the new people that come into your life view you with preconceptions."

The world has changed a great deal since Dutchak came out as a young adult, but it can still be an uphill battle for many in the LGBTQ+ community.

"People still live in fear of being themselves and how their families and communities will treat them if they come out," Dutchak said. "People are worried about being discriminated against at their workplace, about being harassed or bullied for

being honest about the person they really are inside.

"Gay rights are just human rights, and we need to be visible and be loud to be who we are. This isn't an agenda. We simply want to be loved, accepted, and respected.

"My hope is we continue to build Morden as a place of acceptance," Dutchak said. "Raising this flag is sign of that hope."

Also in the works to mark Pride Month is an art show, a written word showcase, and

an event to mark World Pride on June 27. Further details will be posted on the Morden Pride Facebook page as they become available.

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> EXHIBITION CENTRE, FROM PG. 2

huge improvement over the current arena), office space for the city's rec. department, meeting rooms, an indoor running track, multiple canteens, a professional kitchen, and an arena with modifiable boards to accommodate sledge hockey—a first in the province.

There's also plenty of room for the exhibition centre to grow in the future.

"We've done the best we could with the information we had and the funds that were available," Harder said. "But who knows? There might be things that come up that we wished we had done."

"The entire south wall is built so that it can be removed and the facility expanded," he said. "What that turns out to be probably will be something for future generations to look at and say, hey, we need a bigger indoor soccer field, or maybe that's where an indoor swimming pool goes."

That will be up to them."

CITY FOOTING THE BILL

The City of Winkler is paying for the exhibition centre entirely on its own. Neither the federal nor provincial governments have contributed.

"We had to make a decision to do this because the more we postponed it and the longer we waited for funding from other levels of government we simply would have run out of time and the price of the project would go up beyond where those funding levels would be," Harder explained. "So we said the community needs it, the region needs it, let's just do it, and we were able to put it together."

The city hopes to defray some of the costs by selling naming rights to various areas of the building. They're also optimistic they might receive some accessibility funding as a nod to the steps they've taking to make the centre as wheelchair-friendly as possible.

If everything continues to go according to schedule, the facility should officially open in November, though the ice rink may be ready for use as early as September.



Winkler's second ice space will feature special boards that can be swapped out with plexiglas to allow sledge hockey players to see the action on the ice from the bench.

City of Morden halting new development

Province lifts ban but city decides to take a cautious approach to avoid taxing lagoon

By Lorne Stelmach

Ongoing concerns about Morden's wastewater lagoon capacity has led the city to reverse course and maintain restrictions on new development for the time being, despite provincial approval to lift the ban.

The decision arises from there being continued issues around Morden's lagoons still having limited capacity to handle further growth beyond the short term, and the province insisting the city maintain stringent monitoring of that capacity.

The city has let local developers know it will continue to restrict new development, though any lots currently subdivided can be built on at approved densities.

There is room for some exceptions, including things like industrial subdivisions that are at low capacity.

"It's a city imposed thing, not a provincial imposed thing," explained Mayor Brandon Burley. "We know if we're not responsible in management we'll have it taken away again."

"One of the conditions that the province had on us was that we had to self monitor ... so we're not wanting to get the province involved again on this, which is why we're dealing with it in-

ternally," he continued.

"Right now, we're taking a look at our capacity based on our city engineer's recommendations. So it's our engineer at this point who's not approving based on our current capacity and volume."

Burley noted the concerns have become evident again with the lagoons reaching full capacity despite the spring discharge date still being a week away.

"Right now, until we can get certain monitoring conditions in place and a few other things rolled out for programs that will help reduce our consumption ... we don't see ourselves having the capacity," he said.

"Once we're able to discharge, we'll

have no volume problems for the summer months, but it's the winter months ... that is an issue," the mayor continued. "Right now we can't open the spray park, for example, because we can't add more volume."

"And in particular, what really hurts our system is when people don't divert their sump pumps," he added. "They're continuing to discharge into city sewer. That adds an incredible load, more so than other things we're doing combined."

"So we have to raise awareness of the fact that people are not permitted to pump once the thaw has happened. They have to divert their sump pumps outdoors."

Burley suggested the city may be at

the point where it will need to look at construction of an additional cell, which is a costly project they had hoped to avoid if federal and provincial support falls into place to move ahead with the regional wastewater treatment project instead.

"We know, even if it's announced this year, we're at least two years away from a solution," he said.

"There's a lot of other things we can do as well. But at this point I have a suspicion the recommendation from our engineer is going to be to increase our capacity," Burley said, adding they recognize stopping development is not a long-term solution "so we may have to bite the bullet on it if we think we can't make it work any other way."

Two men arrested in Winkler drug bust

Winkler Police wrapped up a three-month-long drug trafficking investigation last week with two arrests and the seizure of cocaine and cash.

Just after 4 p.m. on June 1, police pulled over a vehicle on the Walmart parking lot in Winkler.

With the assistance of police from

Morden, the two occupants of the vehicle were taken into custody.

A search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of a quantity of cash and approximately 38 grams of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$3,040.

The two men arrested, a 21-year-old

from Blumenort and a 16-year-old from rural Winkler, will be charged with possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking and possession of proceeds of crime.

Both were released on undertakings to appear in Morden Provincial Court later this year.

Berry farms gearing up to start the season

By Lorne Stelmach

Growers may be doing some things a little differently this year, but it will otherwise largely be business as usual for berry season.

Fruit farms are considered an essential service in the sense that they provide safe, local food to consumers, so farmers have been working toward having measures in place so that staff and customers can stay safe.

Practices will vary based on each farm's specific needs, so people should contact their local farm before heading out to pick.

"We wanted to set these guidelines up to reassure the public that we are doing everything we can to continue to provide safe food in a safe environment," said Angie Cormier, who operates Cormier's Berry Patch near La Salle and is executive director of the Prairie Fruit Growers Association. "Now, with these changes, you might

need to have an appointment, so we're just wanting the public to check with the farm before you go just so you are aware and you are prepared."

Representing 70 U-pick farms in Manitoba, the association has been working closely with Manitoba Agriculture and particularly fruit crops specialist Anthony Mintenko to develop COVID-19 guidelines.

The guidelines are available through the PFGA website at www.pfga.com, but many of them are by now familiar such as the need to wash your hands before entering and when leaving a farm, maintaining physical distancing, and not being in large groups.

"Each farm runs their operation a little bit differently, and the number of customers who would come at any one time would be different as well," said Cormier, adding that is why it is important for people to either contact the farms or find information online before they stop by.



PRAIRIE FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION PHOTO

Berry growers are putting COVID-19 safety practices into place to keep staff and customers safe.

In addition, the association has been setting up an appointment booking system on its website which will help farms manage the physical distancing requirements.

"It's another tool farmers can use if they are needing a way of trying to control the flow of people coming into their farm," said Cormier, who also noted they have been working on creating an online store for those farms that will need it.

"We're very hopeful the public will be very understanding of the fact that this is new for all of our growers," she said. "We're hoping everybody is very

patient and understanding that we're also trying to figure this all out too."

Berries such as haskap, saskatoons, strawberries, raspberries and sour cherries are expected to be ready for picking mid to late June.

"I think anywhere in Manitoba, especially this year, is going to be great for berry picking," Cormier said. "Everybody right now is wanting to get out. You can space yourself out when you are outside on a farm."

"And I think there is also more of a demand this year to buy local and to also know where your food is coming from."

Winkler, Morden farmers' markets to start soon

By Lorne Stelmach

The farmers' markets are gearing up for the start of another season in Morden and Winkler.

Morden is set to start its weekly Thursday market June 25 while Winkler is eyeing June 30 for the first of its weekly Tuesday markets.

Organizers of both are happy that conditions have cleared enough amidst the pandemic to open for business for another summer, though they will do so with some restrictions for health and safety.

"We have new vendors that are wanting to join and existing vendors that are wanting to come back, so we're looking forward to the season," said Janelle Friesen, one of the Winkler organizers and an owner-operator with vendor Heartwood Pastures, which offers grass fed beef, range fed pork and free range chicken and eggs.

The Winkler market will run every Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. through to Sept. 22, but exactly where is still being finalized.

Last year's market was held outside at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre, but it's unclear whether that space lends itself well to appropriate

physical distancing measures.

"That is something that we were still working on due to the restrictions with COVID-19," said Friesen, adding that understanding all the rules and restrictions has been a real learning curve for them.

Wherever they end up calling home, they anticipate having 15-20 vendors and a good variety of products ranging from meat and produce to local honey, baking, and ready-to-eat meals.

Friesen hopes to really get the word out about the market this year.

"We met a lot of people who didn't even know that Winkler had a farmers' market," she said, urging people to stay up-to-date with the market on social media like Facebook and Insta-

gram.

Meanwhile, Morden market organizers believe they are well situated to meet the restrictions and requirements the pandemic has created.

"We still have to plan exactly some of our social distancing measures," said Candace Olafson, executive director of the Morden chamber, which oversees the market in conjunction with a vendor committee. "The market will look a little different, but we're fortunate that we have a very big space, so we will be able to accommodate social distancing. And the clients will be able to space out as well, so we're fortunate that way."

She noted there will be the added benefit of Direct Farm Manitoba having received provincial funding for

an online platform for customers this year.

"We will also be working on an online order form that will allow people to pre-order and just come and pick up."

Olafson is expecting to see a similar number of vendors as in the past; the market routinely offers upwards of two dozen booths each week and draws countless shoppers.

"I think the market has a really strong customer base, and people are supporting these local growers and vendors," she said. "We knew it would really be missed if we didn't proceed with it."

The Morden Farmers' Market is also active on Facebook and Instagram.

Winkler Aquatic Centre to open July 6

Last one to the pool is a rotten egg! The Winkler Aquatic Centre will open its doors for the season on Monday, July 6, the City of Winkler announced last week.

COVID-19 forced the city to postpone the pool's usual May opening, and the virus will mean the facility will have to operate at a reduced ca-

capacity. Details on what exactly that will look like will be released in the weeks to come.

Swimming lessons are going ahead, though with some changes such as smaller classes sizes, no pre-school lessons, additional cleaning and sanitization efforts, and online or phone registration only. Registration for

Winkler residents took place on Tuesday. Non-residents were able to register on Wednesday.

Details about pool programs, rates, and swimming lesson registration is available online at winkler.ca/p/winkler-aquatic-centre.

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

> GUEST COMMENTARY

Time for Canada to take a look at our own race relations

One of the greatest privileges I have as mayor of Morden is to experience the wonderful diversity of culture and ethnicity that makes our community amazing. It's also my honour to be able to lead at moments of importance.

I've never been a person to take action unless I believe it is truly and honestly the right path forward for our community. I've also never cared about popularity, as I think that can be an impediment to a clear conscience and a good night's sleep.

So please hear me out. Give a couple days' thought to what I write, just as I have, and try to truly understand this perspective.

I believe that racism is wrong. Full stop. Systems or sentiments meant to divide us as a community cannot be tolerated if we intend to have the community we all want. I will continue to fight for the best community possible and that will include equal treatment for all of our brothers and sisters, regardless of the colour of their skin.

After watching the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, I took a step back.

I took a breath.

My moment of pondering led me to the realization that George Floyd has given Canada an opportunity for a watershed moment on race relations, and history will prove us fools if we do not take it.

Don't get me wrong: what I am about to write is not meant in any way to reduce attention of the systemic racism against blacks or the value of

the Black Lives Matter movement. It is to draw a full parallel to the foundation of race relations in Canada.

The U.S. has had a deplorable record of race relations (I'd argue relations is not the right word) with blacks. Slavery, Jim Crow, disproportionate police brutality, and inequality of sentencing and incarceration. From the birth of the country this has been the crack in the foundation of their democracy which threatens to undo the house. They are disparaged, their identity is made the subject of contempt, and, until the last two decades, broad use of pejoratives was made in their address.

Now look at Canada for a moment and consider how closely the problem of blacks in the U.S. parallels the historical treatment of First Nations People in Canada. Canada's birth was on the back of Indigenous communities and, point of historical fact, the survival of early settlers, both English and French, were directly attributable to their help.

Are you proud to be a Canadian? Good. Remember that the Ojibway, Odawa, Pottawatomi, Dakota, and Shawnee nations are the only reason we did not become part of America in 1812.

What thanks do our First Nations brothers and sisters get for their faithfulness, friendship, and alliance? Their cultures and livelihood destroyed, their children removed from their own care, their lands destroyed, their communities dismantled, and their very identities grotesquely dismembered in front of them.

What does that have to do with us? Surely we've built our futures on a better foundation than this!

Remember not long ago, when young children were pulled from the clutch of their crying mothers and fathers to be given a "proper upbringing" in residential schools?

But we ought to forgive ourselves after 50 or more years, no? Then let's talk about the gross suicide rates of their youth, lack of clean drinking water and absence of sewer systems (props to the City of Kenora for taking the initiative to bring clean water

to Rat Portage First Nation), disproportionate incarceration rates, police brutality, the appalling deaths of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and our failings to even provide appropriate framework to address this.

First Nations people in Canada face a steep uphill climb. The dice are loaded against them. This is what is meant by "racist systems." And to add one final insult, we choose the terms of their identity. I grew up only three decades ago, thinking it was completely all right to call them "Indians." Think of the apathy involved to continue to call First Nations people "Indians" for 300 years AFTER learning we hadn't discovered India as originally thought. Think of our guilt to have called them far worse! They already have identities: Cree, Ojibway, Dakota ... the list goes on.

But Canada can offer a solution right? Maybe not. We don't have a great track record. Maybe it's time to restore the dignity, rights and respect which are inalienable to human life, and pray that the dice roll just once in their favour.

Maybe what we ought to do is to extend our Indigenous brothers and sisters our hand in support, not because they need it, but if they need it.

So maybe what George Floyd offers Canada, in addition to supporting black people in Canada, is an examination of our own foundation. How long until our own broken foundation of relations with First Nations people in Canada is our own undoing? Forget apologies. Let's take real and meaningful action!

Despite the assurances we give our communities of being intolerant to racism and "having their back," why should they truly believe us until the hands we hold are those of our First Nations communities?

Maybe, just maybe, First Nations people will begin to again breathe the air of hope and equality because of George Floyd.

Brandon Burley is the mayor of the City of Morden.

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• VIEWPOINTS

Confronting the wrongness of Rex

“Loot entire continents, not Targets.” — White Proverb

That wonderful gem is from our satirical friends at the Winnipeg-based Walking Eagle News (@walkingeaglenews) and it bears considerable thought as the world once again is forced to consider hypocrisy and racism.

There was a fair amount of self-congratulating going on amongst Canadians after the outbreaks of protest throughout the United States and the world in response to the death of George Floyd.

For those of you living under a rock, George Floyd was an American black man living in Minneapolis who was murdered by an arresting police officer who knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes during an arrest (according to two coroners' reports that declared his death a homicide).

His was the latest in a string of African American deaths at the hands of authority that go back hundreds of years despite the Emancipation Proclamation, despite the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, despite the increased accountability of cameras literally everywhere.

And so, as we like to do here in Canada, we looked with pity on our neighbour to the south for all its backward racism and patted ourselves on the back for being a better place.

Generally we define “better” as meaning without riots, massive gun violence, and racism. Heck, even venerable Canadian talking head Rex Murphy, a man who by all accounts probably should have retired 10 years ago, has happily proclaimed in a recent column: “We are not a racist country.”

Whew! Finally. I expect we will get some sort of pin in the mail in celebration of our profound goodness.

Canada is not racist. Well, that sounds right to literally everyone who has not experienced racism. Far be it for me (a sort of old, white man) to

assume that old, white man Rex Murphy has not experienced racism—he is after all originally from Newfoundland, the butt of many newfie jokes in the '70s and '80s.

However, his statement has left many a Canadian scratching their heads in bewilderment. The relatives of Canada's more than 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women scratched their heads given that between 2001-2015 their homicide rate was six times higher than non-Indigenous women.

More than 30 per cent of inmates in Canadian prisons are Indigenous, even though our First Nations' people make up just five per cent of the country's population.

Some people would simply claim that this is a problem that originates within our Indigenous communities and thus they fail to hear their own blatant racism with such a claim and simply ignore the statistics.

We can go on and on about the outright and blatant racism that goes on in Canada and is supported by ancient and systemic government structures like the archaic 144-year-old Indian Act. That's the one that created the residential school system that separated 150,000 Indigenous children from their families and culture and was described by one representative of the Crown as a way to “kill the Indian in the child.”

This same wonderful act (which is still in force today) was studied by the white government of South Africa in the 1940s as it sought advice on how to structure what would come to be known as apartheid, a blatantly racist system designed to separate black citizens from white.

So as the United States riots and burns and protests due to racial tensions, let us not look down upon them with pity and pat ourselves on the back for being “not a racist country,” as Murphy puts it.

Heck, we cannot even sit comfortably in our own sublime and sunny region of the Pembina Valley as we continue to foster a local hockey team called the Redskins despite numerous calls by Indigenous peoples across North America to dump such names.

There are also plenty of stories from our own



By Peter Cantelon

immigrant communities of having to deal with racism in subtle and not so subtle ways, including comments such as “those Germans” or “those Russians.”

No, Canada is a long way from being able to call itself “not a racist country.”

I will give some credit to Murphy, who I think has confused momentum with reality and has simplified racism to something akin to name calling. Canada has been admirable in some of its actions—from the Charter of Rights and the increase in immigration to the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women—but these are baby steps compared to what yet needs to be done.

I am not suggesting we throw ourselves off a cliff of liberal white guilt either. We must be pragmatic, look at the facts, and find long-term ways of dealing with racism rooted in compassion and love instead of pretending it does not exist and victim blaming.

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Couples not letting the pandemic stop them from tying the knot



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Kleber Caxias and Vanessa Renz went ahead with their spring wedding despite the pandemic.

By Lorne Stelmach

Many people had their plans go awry or put on hold as things shut down in the pandemic fight.

For Kleber Caxias and Vanessa Renz, COVID-19 put a big question mark over their plans to wed this spring.

In a matter of weeks the couple went from planning for a large celebration to bracing for a cancellation.

Their special day was saved, however, at the 11th hour when Bellas Castle and owner/operator Lily Krushel in Morden came to their rescue.

"We went back and forth thinking of ideas, and then we met Lily. It was about a week before our wedding. She was an absolute lifesaver and made our day amazing. She helped us plan everything out in that week and everything turned out perfect," the couple said in an e-mail interview.

Caxias and Renz had originally planned for their wedding to be at a community hall with family and friends totalling about 100 people.

Then, when the pandemic hit, they thought they would just do it at one of their homes or perhaps at a park.

"We were planning on having a pretty small wedding at the beginning already, so we had everything planned out in about a month. But then the pandemic started and we had to cancel everything and weren't sure what we were going to do," they said, stressing one thing they didn't

want to do was postpone indefinitely. "We were very excited to get married though, and we had already planned for this day for awhile already. We weren't sure when the pandemic was going to be over and didn't want to wait any longer."

The couple had high praise for Krushel and her staff for the job they did in pulling it all together on short notice.

"We unfortunately could only have 10 people, so we had just invited our parents and family that we had in the area. Everything turned out perfect, though the only thing we would've changed if we could would be to invite all our family and friends."

And in another stroke of good fortune, there was a guest staying at Bella's Castle who was a photographer with Fusion Multimedia in Winnipeg. Wil Agossa offered to stay longer to take some pictures for the couple.

"That was very kind of him, and we appreciated that very much," they said. "So, yes, we were very happy about the results. It turned out better than we had planned it before. We had lots of people to help us make our day amazing."

For Krushel, preparing Bellas Castle to be able to safely welcome guests has involved a lot of attention to details, and although COVID-19 has forced people into having smaller gatherings, she suggested there had already been a trend toward more intimate weddings.

Continued on page 10



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CHAMBER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Getting Down to Business

Pharmasave: going the extra mile

Pharmasave is much more than just a pharmacy, although that remains at the core of the business.

The store in the heart of downtown Morden has been part of the community for decades, and it prides itself on the connections it has built with generations of customers in that time.

Its services have expanded over the years to include things like free delivery, pill packing, medication organization, injections, and even compression stocking fittings.

“We can line up people’s medications so that they all run out at the same time and they only have to make one trip into the pharmacy instead of multiple trips,” noted pharmacist Ray Buhr.

“We can also look over their medication profile and see if they need to be on certain medications and make recommendations to the doctor,” he added. “We can assess and prescribe for certain medications, over the counter medications, and some that were previously only prescribed by doctors ... and that might increase in the future.”

Buhr stressed it all comes back to having a strong relationship with customers.

“That’s always what we strive for is having a very good close relationship with our patients,” he said.

In addition to the array of drug store goods and services, an increasingly popular part of the business has been the addition of clothing, fashion accessories, and home decor products.

“We have a large decor and fashion section,” said front store manager Charlene Friesen, noting they saw a need for another option like this in Morden, and shoppers have certainly responded.

“We expanded just over a year ago, and it’s been received well,” she said, noting they have added a fitting room and continue to look to increase their product lines. “I think there’s a wide variety and selection ... and if we don’t have something and someone’s wanting something, we can always order something



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Morden Pharmasave front manager Charlene Friesen and pharmacist Ray Buhr say store staff pride themselves on getting to know their customers so they can serve them better.

in for people.

“It has become a big part of our business,” Friesen continued. “We have someone who is specifically in that section, so she’s very detailed and knowledgeable about that part of it and is always ready to help one on one.”

“We pride ourselves a lot on customer relations. We have a lot of older people come in, and we get to know them by name, and the staff are always willing to go the extra mile.”

For Pharmasave, being part of the community also means doing what it can so to support a range of local projects and organizations.

“We feel it’s very important to give back,” Friesen said.

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Katie Cares fall fashion show cancelled for 2020

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Katie Cares has announced that its popular fashion show fundraiser will not go ahead as planned this fall.

Katie's Cottage executive director Ruth Reimer said the decision to cancel did not come lightly, but organiz-

ers feel it is in the best interests of everyone involved.

"It's been on my mind for awhile," she said. "Let's face it, come September we have this big event with often 500 people in that room. Who's going to want to sit in that room this year?"

It's unlikely that COVID-19 restric-

tions will be relaxed enough to allow that many people to gather in one place in any case, Reimer added, so it didn't make sense to begin planning only to have to cancel or scale it down later on.

"This event takes an awful lot of time and preparation and a lot of planning to pull it off," she said. "We don't want to put out anything but a top-notch show ... and we wanted to be safe with our decision to proceed or not."

Reimer thanks the show's many supporters, sponsors, and volunteers and stresses that they plan to bring the event back "bigger and stronger next year."

The loss of the show will be a financial hit for Katie Cares. Last year it raised over \$50,000 for the charity and the respite home it operates near Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Still, Reimer is adamant they will not be organizing other fundraisers to replace the fashion show in 2020.

"We will not do any fundraising in terms of online fundraisers, on-

line auctions, anything like that," she said. "We're very conscious of what our business community is going through right now. They are trying to keep their heads above water and we want to be sensitive to that."

Katie Cares has always run a tight ship and so does have a bit of a nest egg to rely on until things start to get back to normal.

"We have always have worked on a very tight budget," Reimer said. "Wherever I can I try to get grants and will continue to do so."

"We may not do everything that we wanted to this year, but that's okay. The guests will not feel that because we will continue to give them the service that we always have. Never will I cut a corner there."

While they won't be hosting fundraising events, donations to the charity are, as always, gratefully accepted.

You can do so online at katiecares.ca or by sending a cheque payable to Katie Cares to 255 13th St., Winkler, MB, R6W 1S5.



Katie Cares will not host its popular fashion show this year due to the pandemic.

VOICE FILE PHOTO

City accidentally sends out widespread water shut off alert

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A glitch in the City of Winkler's mass notification system led to a lot of confused residents on Friday.

The city found itself having to shut down water to sections of 3rd St. and 4th St. Friday afternoon and evening after workers on the Mountain Ave. sewer replacement project discovered a problem the night before. Temporary precautionary boil water advisories were also issued for those streets once water was restored.

Affected homes received an in-person visit that morning to notify them of the impending water shut off to fix the issue (notices were left at the door of anyone who wasn't home) and then an automated call was supposed to go out to only those homeowners as another reminder right be-

fore the water was cut.

Instead, calls went out to homes throughout Winkler via the city's Connect alert program.

"A bunch of people that weren't affected got the phone call," said city manager Jody Penner, noting it led to some confusion and an influx of calls to City Hall to find out what was going on.

"As far as I know, this is the first time we've had that problem, and so we're talking to the company that created the system to find out what happened and how we can prevent it from happening again," Penner said.

The city usually gives more notice to homeowners before water is shut off, Penner said, but this time that wasn't possible.

"In this case we were actually not intending to turn off the water," he explained. "On Thursday the construction crew made good progress, but in the process they found an issue that required a temporary shut off of the water."

"On a normal basis you get one or two day's notice."

Friday also saw the city issue a precautionary boil water advisory for 8th St. between Pembina Ave. and Stanley Ave. Workers there were installing a new fire hydrant.

A similar warning was issued for 2nd St. between Stanley

and South Railway avenues in connection with the sewer replacement project, but was later cancelled.

Public notices and alerts are posted on the City of Winkler's website (cityofwinkler.ca) and social media pages.

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> WEDDINGS, FROM PG. 8

"Pre-COVID, a wedding of 30 people was considered a small wedding, but nowadays we've been getting many 10 people weddings," she said. "Every single person who is invited to the wedding is very special to the couple and most likely direct family members."

"Many newlyweds are booking a whole weekend wedding instead of just one day," added Krushel, who also suggested many couples are choosing to change their plans rather than delay their weddings.

"Most couples who wanted to get married in 2020 still want to get married this year. Only the weddings with a large international guest list are moving to 2021."

"Some couples are postponing to August and September just to be on the safe side," she added.

City launches 'Community Clips' online series

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is looking to build on the success of its two community gardens with a video how-to series.

The initiative called *Community Clips: Home and Garden* recently debuted with facility events co-ordinator Owen Klippenstein leading a short instructional video on making pico de gallo salsa.

The online project came about as city staff were looking for ways to engage the community while the Access Event Centre and some other city facilities are closed in response to the pandemic.

"With our continued building closure, we were thinking of other things we can do support and encourage the community," said recreation programmer Stephanie Dueck, who also noted the inspiration of the UK series *Gardener's World*, which started accepting community videos when regular programming was not possible due to COVID-19.

Since city staff such as Klippenstein and Cindy Sager are overseeing the community gardens this year, getting

"WE WANT TO CREATE A COMMUNITY AROUND GARDENING ..."

them to dip their toes into creating gardening videos seemed a perfect fit.

"Then it expanded into gardening and food and we opened it up to home and garden," Dueck said. "We've already had some interest from local greenhouses to submit videos, and then we're planning to do some regular features of recipes that you can put together with fresh produce from your garden.

"We're also looking for people in the community to submit videos of what's going on in their gardens or what recipes they're trying with fresh produce or even any DIY projects they're working on at home. We would love to share them."

Dueck suggested the popularity of the two community garden sites on 19th St. and Grant St. shows there is



CITY OF MORDEN

Owen Klippenstein provided instruction on how to make pico de gallo salsa. in Morden's first Community Clips: Home and Garden episode.

significant community interest.

"We have completely sold out all of the garden plots, so that's really positive thing," she said. "We know gardening has huge interest this year ... it seems to be on everyone's minds, so we want to create a community around gardening."

Dueck said they hope to do at least one clip a week, if not more, depend-

ing on the level of interest.

The only requirements for submitted videos is that they be shot in landscape format and no more than six minutes in length.

The city plans to post them on various social media including Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. You can also visit mymorden.ca/gardens or call 204-822-5431 for more information.

Spotlight on grads



MORDEN FIRE & RESCUE PHOTO

Morden Fire and Rescue firefighters took time out from their weekly training last week to hang banners along Thornhill St. to honour the graduating class of Morden Collegiate and the Morden Adult Education Centre.

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Zodiacs get moving

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley Collegiate students and staff knocked the school's physical education challenge out of the park last month.

Ninety students and 30 staff took on the P.E. department's challenge to walk or run 50 kilometres or bike

200 kilometres throughout the month of May. Together they travelled 23,271 kilometres—enough to make it across Canada three times.

"We wanted to do something to get the kids to continue moving," said teacher Morgan Mullin. "We wanted to pump them up in this weird time and get them out being active.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

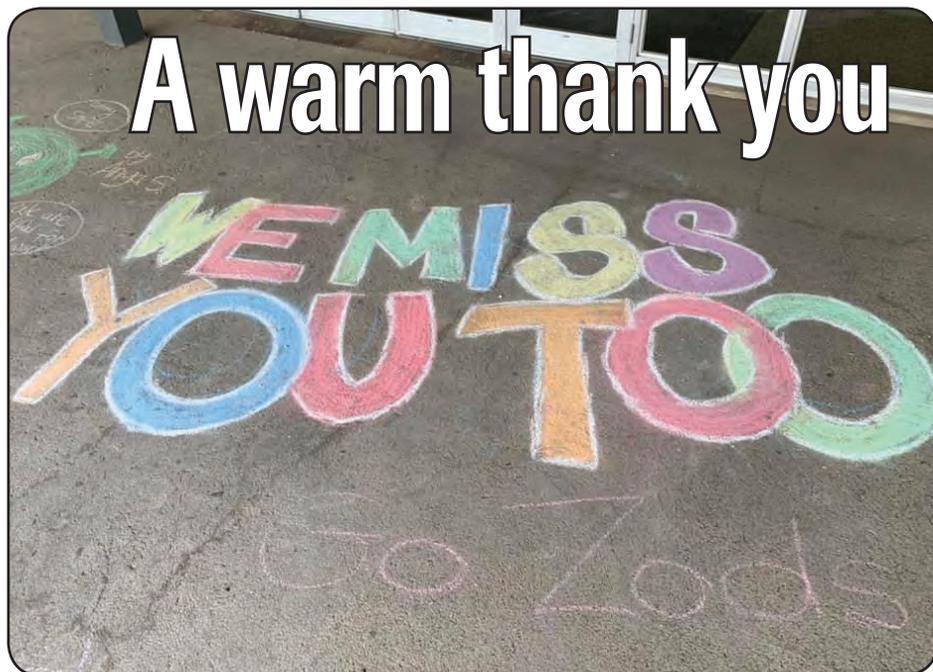
Left: Country Cycle's Peter Loewen presents Gavin Hoepfner with one of the grand prizes in GVC's May activity challenge. Above: Colin Hildebrand from Time-Out Sports handed over the second major prize to Kierra Martens.

"We were really encouraged by the kids," she added. "They've been fantastic through this whole thing and this was just a fun way we could reward them for all their hard work and give them something to strive for."

All the participants were entered into a draw for Time-Out Sports Ex-

cellence and Country Cycle gift cards. The grand prizes, also drawn at random, were a \$300 gift card to Time-Out Sports and a Garmin Vivomove smartwatch from Country Cycle, both donated by the businesses.

Continued on page 14



A day after parading through town to celebrate the class of 2020 by delivering yard signs to graduates' homes, Garden Valley Collegiate staff were welcomed to work by student messages left in chalk near the school's front entrance thanking them for their efforts.

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• AGRICULTURE

Got canola emergence issues?

By Autumn Barnes

We encourage canola growers and agronomists to start checking for emergence issues seven days after seeding and keep looking for two weeks or so, just to make sure those sensitive little plants are okay.

Canola plants are vulnerable to many different risk factors, including seedling diseases. Seed treatments are usually very good at managing the common seedling disease pathogens of canola, however seed, seedling, and root rots can flare up under the right circumstances.

Here are details about the three pathogens in the canola seedling disease complex:

Rhizoctonia solani

This pathogen causes the common symptom called “wirestem” when root tissue turns brown and collapses.

Rhizoctonia can be active at soil temperatures as low as 2°C, and it tends to be more severe when soils are moist.

Like root diseases in general, damage tends to be worse in heavy soils and compacted soils.

Fusarium species

Many different *Fusarium* species are active on canola seedlings.

“There is a high degree of variability among the species and within a species, but I would say that more of them have preferences for warmer temperatures and moist soils,” says Krista Anderson, agronomic solutions manager with Bayer Crop Science in Saskatoon. “Severity also tends to increase with wet/dry cycles, probably because these conditions stress the plant and make it more vulnerable.”

Pythium species

Pythium likes saturated soil and

is most active at soil temperatures of 5°C to 15°C. Once soil moisture drops below 75 per cent water holding capacity, infection potential really drops, Anderson says.

Pythium tends to be the first to infect, getting at the seed within three to five days after germination.

When scouting for the cause of poor emergence, check for the following symptoms of seed decay, stem rots and root rots that are all part of the seedling disease complex:

- Seeds fail to germinate and become soft and pulpy.
- Seeds germinate but the developing seedlings decay and fail to emerge.
- Seedlings emerge and appear normal above ground (for now), but the roots or young stem (hypocotyl) may be partially or completely girdled with decay.
- The hypocotyl appears constricted or shrivelled and may be discoloured reddish brown. Root hairs appear to be missing.

WHAT ELSE COULD CAUSE DAMAGED OR MISSING PLANTS?

While scouting for stunted, missing or damaged plants, also consider these other common causes:

- Insect damage. Cutworm feeding, for example, results in notched, wilted, dead or cut-off plants. Flea beetles, the most common pest this time of year, will congregate and feed in patches. Check for foliar leaf damage and stem feeding. For more on insects and thresholds, see the “Insects” section of canolaencyclopedia.ca.
- Weather-related stress. Excess moisture, drought, frost and wind can all kill or damage seedlings. Watch for patterns as frost and excess water will



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY KRISTA ANDERSON/BAYER CROPSCIENCE
An example of wirestem in canola caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*.

both tend to collect in low spots. Consider recent weather conditions when diagnosing establishment issues.

- Fertilizer toxicity. Seed-placed fertilizer beyond the starter rate of phosphate can increase mortality, especially in situations with low soil moisture and low seed bed utilization (SBU).

- Herbicide carryover. Hilltops are more susceptible to herbicide carryover since they can be lower in organic matter, which reduces the buffering capacity of those areas, and they remain drier, resulting in less opportunity for breakdown to occur.

Note that with herbicide carryover, plants need to be growing to take up herbicide, so it will usually be a case of damaged plants rather than missing plants.

- Seeder issues. Repeatable patterns in rows or groups of rows usually suggest a mechanical issue with the drill.

Causes can include single rows plugged, whole manifolds plugged,

some openers running too deep or too shallow, excessive seeding speed causing variable seeding depth and/or undesirable mixing of seed and fertilizer, high fan speed causing cracked seed, and a too-low seeding rate, resulting in lower than expected plant counts.

Finally, as a way to wrap up your three weeks of fairly intense scouting, take plant counts to see if the stand is in line with your target.

The plants that survived these first three weeks are those that will contribute to your final yield. Are they within the recommended range of five to eight plants per square foot? If not, why not?

Find out more about plant counts and how to do them at canolawatch.org.

Autumn Barnes is an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada. This canola management tip is brought to you by canolawatch.org.

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Recording the most kilometres in GVC's activity challenge this spring were Anna Gruen (walking/running) and Luke Wilson (biking).

Keeping kids active

From Pg. 12

Kierra Martens won the Time-Out Sports grand prize while Gavin Hoepfner took home the Country Cycle prize.

Meanwhile, fellow student Anna Gruen clocked in the most kilometres on foot, running or walking a whopping 603 km.

"I started off with just a little bit of

kilometres and then I gradually increased it every day," she said, noting she found the challenge quite motivating. "I set a new goal for myself each week."

Luke Wilson was the top cyclist, recording 906 km in four weeks.

"I was out about two hours a day," he said, adding that while he's an avid cyclist "at the start it was a challenge, but by the end it was easier."

"WE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO GET THE KIDS TO CONTINUE MOVING."

"I'm anticipating that our storm will come in fall"

Genesis House seeing lower than normal usage during pandemic ... for now

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The local women's shelter has been feeling the effects of COVID-19 in recent months, but perhaps not in the way you might expect.

Executive director Ang Braun says their numbers have actually been down since the pandemic started in March.

"You know, it's funny. We are prepared ... we've made contingency plans up the wazoo and gotten everything ready, but it's been pretty quiet," she said. "I'm anticipating that our storm will come in the fall. That's what I'm expecting. That's my worry."

The drop in numbers by no means indicates domestic violence is down in our area, Braun stressed, but rather that the advice from public health officials to stay home as much as possible has made it difficult for women living with abusive partners to reach out for help.

"There are a couple of scenarios. One, people are locked in and the isolation is such that they can't even be away from their partner long enough to call out for help," she said, noting the provincial government did recently launch a long overdue texting option for Manitoba's domestic violence crisis lines that should help bridge that accessibility gap.

But not being able to reach out isn't the only reason women are avoiding coming to the shelter.

"I think the other is that there is a lot of fear about COVID and being in a

communal living shelter," Braun said.

To that end, Genesis House has taken great strides to ensure the chance of virus transmission between women and children staying with them is as low as possible.

"It has changed the way we work here, which has been for us a bit of a grieving process as well because we are very, very homelike and some of the value of coming to the shelter often is that working alongside people in the kitchen," Braun said, stressing the importance of the camaraderie

and mentorship that can happen between clients and between clients and staff in the communal living spaces.

Thanks to COVID-19, they've had to limit access to those spaces to protect both staff and the families staying at the shelter.

"The staff right now are doing all of the cooking, which is very unusual, since clients can't be allowed in the kitchen," she said. "That's a huge loss."

"We've also tried to keep all of our non-residential stuff happening outside of the building," Braun added.

"We just cannot risk getting COVID in the building."

Whatever happens in the months ahead, Genesis House will do all it can to be ready.

"We have not had a true test of our contingency plans yet. I believe that will happen in fall," Braun reiterated. "We'll just have to stay on top of our game with that."

If you are victim of domestic violence who needs help, you call the toll-free, 24-hour crisis line at 1-877-977-0007 or text 204-792-5302.

Online auction raises \$6K for shelter

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The online auction organized by Red River College's local administrative assistant students raised a tidy sum for the regional women's shelter.

Irene Harder, who put on the auction with several classmates as part the practicum for their course, says they received a total of 2,937 bids for the 99 items on the auction block and raised \$6,164.54 for Genesis House.

"We are very proud to be part of a community that has come together, even during COVID-19, to support one another," she said. "A big thank you to all the people that placed a

bid. Whether you won an item or not, you helped to make this event a success."

Harder was impressed at how willing local artists and businesses were to donate their products and services in support of the work of Genesis House.

"Without them, this would not have been possible," she said.

The money will go a long way at the shelter, which was forced to cancel two major fundraising events this spring thanks to the pandemic.

"With COVID-19, many of our fundraisers have been cancelled, so these funds will support our 24-hour service crisis line ... and all the basic needs required by families

that stay with us," said executive director Ang Braun, thanking the students for their hard work and the community for the support.

"The business community matched the enthusiasm that the students had going into the project," she noted.

Braun is also grateful to the second group of RRC students who spent their practicum reformatting the shelter's policy, procedure, and training manuals to make them easier to access and update as needed.

"Both the auction and the administrative projects the students took on were successful beyond my expectations," she said.

Salem's "armchair fundraiser" brings in \$28K

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Salem Foundation had to shift gears this spring to transform its popular fellowship and song celebration into an "armchair fundraiser."

The physical distancing-friendly donation drive the foundation held throughout the month of May in lieu of their annual fropa was a big success, bringing in over \$28,000.

"We were very pleased, said executive coordinator Charmaine Harder. "When you do something new like this you're never quite sure how it will go or how well it will be received, but we were just blown away by the generosity of the community."

The funds are a good start on the approximately \$146,000 the Winkler care home needs to purchase new night stands and dressers for 56 rooms in their Evergreen and Maple South units.

"This gets us ten rooms," Harder

said. "So we're on our way."

The new furniture replaces items that have been in use at Salem for over 30 years and have certainly seen better days.

The updated pieces provide both a fresh, modern look and are also much more durable and easier to clean.

Salem Foundation's fundraising efforts for the project will continue with an event in October, COVID-19 restrictions allowing.

"We're monitoring the COVID-19 situation and the regulations very closely to see if we'll be able to still go forward with our plans," Harder said. "It remains to be seen."

If a large banquet is not possible, the foundation will come up with another way to raise the money, she noted.

"This is a time where everybody's is getting really creative with how they fundraise and do their different events," Harder said. "We'll figure something out."

Whatever they end up doing, Harder has faith the community will come through for Salem.

"Some people sent us notes of encouragement with their donations or if they called in with their donation

... the support people have for Salem Home is just great," she said. "We have an incredibly generous community and that support has been such an encouragement."



Salem Foundation's armchair fundraiser raised enough to outfit 10 resident rooms with new furniture. SALEM HOME PHOTO

Manitobans urged to keep up the good work in COVID-19 fight

By Lorne Stelmach

The message to Manitobans Monday remained the same as it has for weeks: to keep up the good work in fighting COVID-19.

As the province continues to relax restrictions, Manitobans still need to remain vigilant and take precautions, stressed chief public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin.

"We're still going to need to be dealing with this virus in one form or another for the foreseeable future," he said in his update.

"Our numbers have remained favourable, and we've been able to gradually and cautiously reopen our economy," Roussin continued, while again stressing that "it is certainly not a return to normal."

"Manitobans have learned to live with this virus, to take precautions, and each Manitoban needs to decide on their own their level of risk that they're willing to accept."

There were no new cases of COVID-19 identified over the weekend, so the total number of lab-confirmed and probable positive cases in Manitoba remains at 300.

At press time, there was no one in hospital with the illness and only nine active cases. A total of 284 individuals have recovered from COVID-19. Seven Manitobans have died.

Between June 5-7, 2,217 laboratory tests were processed, bringing the number of tests performed in the

province since February to 49,591.

Chief nursing officer Lanette Siragusa also provided an update at the briefing on the testing of health care workers and first responders. A total of 361 were tested over the past week.

"None came back positive, so it has been about a month since we've had a positive health care worker, which is really great news," Siragusa said, adding that 26 health care employees who had previously tested positive have all recovered and returned to work.

In addition, she noted Manitobans

in general continue to make use of services like Health Links, which received about 5,000 calls last week.

More than 2,100 people had viewed test results through the online portal in the past week, and nearly 900 received their results by calling the contact centre.

Roussin concluded his portion of the update by promoting June 8-14 as National Blood Donor Week.

Amidst the uncertainty of the pandemic, Canadian Blood Services has experienced a significant drop in do-

nations.

"That need does not go away during a pandemic," Roussin said in encouraging people to donate blood. "The blood supply is just as important now and even more important because of all the decrease in donations during this time."

There are blood clinics scheduled for our area in Morden June 22 and Winkler June 23. Go to blood.ca to register.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Manitoba, visit www.manitoba.ca/COVID19.

Somethin' in the Park radio dramas cancelled

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Flatlands Theatre Company is taking a break from the dramatics this summer.

The Winkler theatre troupe had been in the midst of rehearsals for its spring play, Jane Austen's *Emma*, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

While rehearsals continued online for a time in the hopes the show could

still go on, FTC recently announced it has officially pulled *Emma* off its schedule due to the continued closure of the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall, which is not expected to reopen before fall.

That closure also puts the kibosh on plans for the 2020 Somethin' in the Park radio dramas, which are usually performed weekly in Bethel Heritage Park through the summer.

"With all of our equipment, costumes, and rehearsals typically taking place at the hall, it makes moving forward very complicated," said FTC board president Janice Dyck Epp, adding they hope COVID-19 restriction will loosen enough in the fall to allow them to launch their 2020-2021 season. Show and audition details will be released in August.

Police arrest Winkler man, seize pellet gun

A 65-year-old Winkler man was taken into custody over the weekend after police received a tip that he was allegedly threatening to harm himself and others with a firearm.

Winkler Police received the report

Sunday afternoon around 2:30 p.m. and immediately began a search for the man that included a business in the city's industrial park, residences of people known to the man, and his former residence.

Through this investigation, officers learned where the man was currently residing. At 2:58 p.m., they took him into custody without incident at that address.

The long road for Cameron Dueck finding his Mennonite roots

By Patricia Barrett

If you're looking for insight on how Mennonites carved out a living in Latin American countries, Cameron Dueck's book *Menno Moto: A Journey Across the Americas in Search of My Mennonite Identity* hits all the right narrative chords.

The 46-year-old journalist and filmmaker, who grew up in the Interlake, set out several years ago on a 45,000-kilometre, eight-month motorcycle ride to visit Mennonite communities in Mexico, Belize, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina to discover how they live and to reflect on his own cultural roots. He released the book this year.

Dueck, who currently lives in Hong Kong, said by email that his journey, which began at the Mennonite Memorial Landing Site on the Red River near Niverville, made him proud of his Mennonite background and underscored how a person's heritage plays a role in who they become.

"Digging into one's cultural and historic identity can make you question many of your characteristics, and recognise ones you never knew you had," he said. "Identity is complicated and very subjective. You can still feel kinship with 'your' people even when you're all very different from one another."

Dueck grew up in Mennville, about 18 kilometres north of Riverton, on land his parents settled in the 1950s. After graduating from Riverton Collegiate, he eschewed farming for journalism and a life of perpetual motion that took him to New York, London, Hong Kong, and points in between.

That penchant to wander where he likes is evident throughout the book. In Chapter 2 he wrote: "The simplicity of me plus bike plus road equalled pure joy. I stopped when and where I liked and sought out dodgy small-

town bars if I was staying in a motel. I sat beside campfires, eating dinner straight from the cooking pot, the golden firelight glinting off my bike. I felt like a cowboy riding the range."

There's a certain cinematic ambience to the narrative, as though the reader is watching a film, a skill likely informed in part by Dueck's filmmaking background, which includes the documentaries *The New Northwest Passage* and *Dinosaur Ecosystems*.

"I think a journey brings great momentum to any story, and the rush of the road is something you can feel in this book. I sought out a variety of characters, and colourful, outspoken ones obviously make for easier stories," said Dueck. "I also enjoy describing physical scenes and features, and do quite a lot of it in my writing, which gives [it] a strong visual aspect."

Part travelogue, part history, part anthropological investigation, the book includes much to admire about Mennonites, including a strong work ethic, self-reliance, thriftiness that entailed using "every part of the pig but the squeal" and an almost born-in-the-blood talent for drainage and turning marginal land into flourishing agricultural fields.

Mennonites weren't always welcomed where they settled in Latin America. Some were even kidnapped by Guatemalan bandits, who made incursions into Belize and held them for ransom. But they persevered, building everything from the ground up wherever they landed—including Canada.

"Our forefathers were forever starting new farms, looking at new homes in foreign places like Prussia, Russia and Canada," Dueck said. "I come from some restless bloodlines, right to my own father, Leonard Dueck. He was an Interlake pioneer in the early 1950s, carving a turkey farm out of the forest north of Riverton.

"I don't think he saw himself as the newest link in a long chain of Mennonite homesteaders and colonisers. But in reality, he was. He helped create a new Mennonite community. I went on a motorcycle journey and wrote a book about it. I guess we're both staking out territory in our own ways."

At times, Dueck's dry humour—some Mennonites had poor fashion sense; others called house paint a form of vanity—segues into uncomfortable truths about some aspects of a particular group, notably rigid rules for females, less-than-friendly relations with non-Mennonites and environmental degradation.

In Mexico he found some Mennonites, who had formed colonies, out-



Cameron Dueck rode his motorcycle through Central and South America visiting various Mennonite communities.

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

competing Indigenous and Hispanic farmers for land and "intensive industrial farming practices," including illegally drilled wells and giant sprinkler systems that threatened the water table and "pushed their fragile land to its very limits."

Mennonites are fairly sustainable in many ways, Dueck noted, and really no different from other farmers. They have a "utilitarian view towards the environment, the earth, that it's there to serve us. That sometimes plays out well, but it can at times lead to exploitation.

"I did want to point out certain social issues because I think we have to be honest about our community, and the problems we face," he said. "Taking an honest look at my culture involved highlighting both the good and bad aspects of it."

In Bolivia, while investigating the infamous "ghost rapes" in a Mennonite community, Dueck came up against half-truths and a tendency to tamp down the crime by using euphemisms such as women and girls being "used" by "boys," as well as a sad realization that many denied a "larger problem" of incest.

He said he hasn't yet experienced any major pushback as a result his candid revelations.

"I've had people tell me they don't agree with my view of certain situations or communities within the Mennonite diaspora, which is fair enough.

I told some unflattering truths as I saw them, but I tried to be fair," said Dueck. "Any civil society, such as broader Mennonite society, should be able to accept uncomfortable facts presented in a measured way, with a level of respect. This is what writers do."

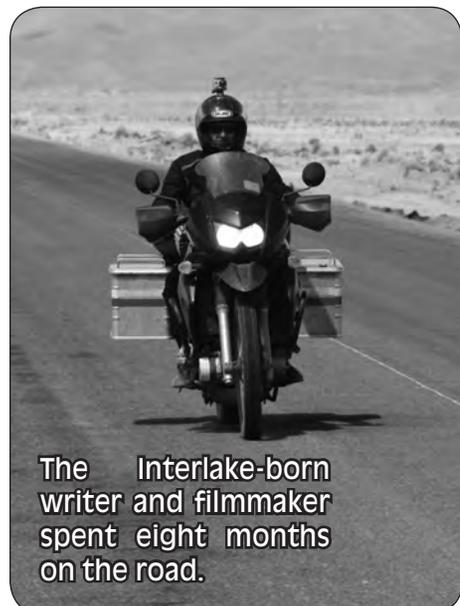
He said he wasn't treated unkindly wherever he pitched up and began firing off questions, as journalists are wont to do. But he did find some people to be "cautious" or even "suspicious" of his motives.

"I came barging into their lives, speaking our shared Germanic tongue [Plautdietsch] very poorly, asking awkward questions," he said. "Yet the Mennonites fed me, often gave me a place to sleep, and nearly all were enthusiastic about my mission once we'd broken the ice."

Being cooped up in his small apartment in Hong Kong because of COVID-19 has made Dueck think about Manitoba with its wide-open spaces and fresh air. Although he owns farmland near Mennville, he said he has no plans at the moment to return home. He added that he'd make a "lousy farmer."

"I'll have to come up with a different plan on what to do once I return," he said.

You can find *Menno Moto* online through McNally Robinson or visit Dueck's website at camerondueck.com.



The Interlake-born writer and filmmaker spent eight months on the road.

> POLICE, FROM PG. 15

The suspect denied making any threats. Police conducted a search of the residence as a safety precaution and located and seized a pellet gun.

The accused was later released on an undertaking with several conditions and is set to appear in Morden Provincial Court in August.

Police are seeking Crown Attorney approval to formally lay charges related to this incident.

Alcohol is believed to be a factor in this event.

Police said on Monday that they do not believe there is a risk to public safety from this incident.

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You are cordially invited to **Tabor Home's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on June 19 • 2:00 p.m.**
Due to the Pandemic, and in an effort to maintain physical distancing this meeting will be held virtually by conference call.
For more information please call 204-822-7711 or email info@taborhome.ca.

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The *Winkler Morden* Voice

OBITUARY



Anne Penner (nee Hiebert)
1924 – 2020

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Anne Penner formerly of Winkler, MB at age 96. She passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 31, 2020 at West Park Manor in Winnipeg.

Anne was predeceased by her husband, Peter in 2002 and 10 brothers and sisters. She is survived by her son, Don, and daughter, Peggy (Dave); daughter-in-law, Eileen; four grandsons, Lyndon, Sheldon, Trevor, Matthew (Carla); 10 great-grandchildren, Melissa, Hayley, Duncan, Jordan, Julie, Owen, Belle, Avery, Ethan, Jack; two great-great-grandchildren, Mason and Liam. She is also survived by two sisters, one brother and one sister-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

Private memorial service will be held with interment at Winkler Cemetery. We'd like to give special thanks to the wonderful caring staff at West Park Manor, especially during this challenging COVID-19 time.

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



OBITUARY



Katy Maryanna Dick
1930 – 2020

As one of God's creation Katy Maryanna Dick was born on June 13, 1930. Aunt Katy died in the morning of Tuesday, June 2, 2020 and went home to be with her Lord. She was baptized in 1964 in the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church in Winkler. Most recently she attended the Christian Faith Church. She has spent time volunteering in church, and it was easy to notice that attendance was always of importance. We know that she has spent some time working stores, on farms hoeing sugar beets and housekeeping both in Bethel Hospital and at Salem Home. She was known to be friendly and loved to serve fasma. Her delight in people was evident in that during a visit would ask about others to check how they were doing. Many pictures of children were found in the

apartment, one in particular that said something like this; 'Thank you Miss Dick for being a great neighbour', signed by Melissa. On a personal note, in the early 1970's when Helen and I moved to Winkler our next door neighbours were a brother and sister, Cornie and Katy Dick. Aunt Katy took much interest in the antics of our two little girls. May we glean the best attributes that she practiced and present them to the world about us. Lord God thank you for taking Aunt Katy home!

Private funeral service was held on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at the Christian Faith Church with interment at Rosenbach Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Katy's memory to the Salem Foundation Inc.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Join Winkler Family Resource Centre for our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** on Zoom at 7:45pm Monday June 22, 2020. If you would like to attend please contact the Winkler Family Resource Centre at winklerfrc@gmail to register for the Agm meeting.

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OBITUARY



Richard John Enns January 11, 1949 - May 31, 2020

On the evening of May 31st, our Richard left us ...in the last moments there was peace and no pain.

Richard was born in Winkler to Jacob and Agatha, the third of four children. He grew up fostering his love of farming, auctioneering, and crashing cars. The neighboring farm girls fought for his attention and in 1967 Bernice Kunzelman kept his focus. They were married in 1970 and began building their family of four children: Michael, Marci, Matthew and Morgan. Alongside his life-long addiction to farming, Richard was always very proud of his days working at Bethel Hospital and the Morden Research Station (where he worked over 35 years). All places from which he maintained lifelong friendships. He knew everything there was to

know about cattle, apples and roses (all you had to do was ask). In his retirement, Richard was most fond of his time fishing, getting together with friends, and spending as much time with his grandchildren as possible. Unfortunately, time ran out. We all would have liked more time with each other. However, he always made sure to love everybody with every cell of his body until the end. The last weeks were rough but you left us all feeling your love and we are glad you left in peace.

Richard was predeceased by his father, Jake; sister, Leona; and brother, Almer; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Philip and Olive Kunzelman. He is survived by his mother, Agatha (nee Fehr); brother, Irvin and family; in-laws, Barry Kunzelman (Nowell), Jim Penner and Bev Enns (nee Blumb) and families. Richard leaves behind wife, Bernice (nee Kunzelman); children, Michael (Maria Episcopo), Marci (Brian Miller), Matthew (Leanne Girard), and Morgan (Brent Lambert). The grandchildren he adored were Alli and Katie Miller, Dylan and Brooklyn Lambert, and Alisha and Darien Duclos.

Cremation has taken place and due to the COVID-19 pandemic a service will be held at a later date.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Richard's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to Palliative Care.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



Marie Peers (nee Klassen) 1927 - 2020

We are sad to announce the passing of our stepmother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Marie Peers who passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2020 at Boundary Trails Health Centre Winkler, MB at the age of 92.

Marie was born October 27, 1927 to John E.K. and Marie Klassen (nee Bergan) in Rosenfeld, MB. She was baptized February 18, 1944 at the age of 17. Marie grew up in the Wiedenfeld district of Horndean, MB where she went to school. She worked very hard on the farm and looked after many brothers and sisters. She also helped out and did work for other friends and neighbours in the area doing many jobs from cooking to cleaning to sewing. Marie moved to BC for a short time and then back home. In 1970, she took over the Four Winds Restaurant where she met Art Peers of Morden. They were married June 29, 1974 at the Mennonite Brethren Church in Winkler. She made her home in Morden and lived there the remainder of her life. Curling, bowling, gardening and travelling were among Marie's many interests. She travelled to Alaska, Branson, BC, Montreal and her favorite trip was to Cuba. Dad and Marie took many drives around the countryside. They never went very far without running into someone they knew. Marie worked with ACW (Anglican Church Women) where she put in many volunteer hours helping out making quilts and crafts. She also put in many volunteer hours at the Morden Thrift Shop.

Marie was predeceased by her husband, Art in 2004; her parents; five brothers and three sisters. She will be sadly missed by her surviving children, two daughters, Lorraine (Wes) Sawatzky, Judi (Ron) Adams; three sons, Arthur (Gwen) Peers, Rick (Daphne) Peers and Thomas Peers; five grandchildren, Derek (Crystal) Sawatzky, Jillian (Jeff) Driedger, Brent (Brigitte) Adams, Drew Peers and Tyler Peers (Stacey Derksen); four great-grandchildren, Emery and Brody Sawatzky, Finley Driedger and Finnagin Derksen. She is also survived by two brother, two sisters and many nieces and nephews.

Graveside service will take place at the Wiedenfeld Cemetery for her immediate children and grandchildren only.

Special thanks to Dr. Chatwin and the staff especially the nurses at Boundary Trails, all the home care workers and palliative care workers. Your compassion and friendship towards Marie was greatly appreciated.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Marie's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation, designated to Palliative Care or to the Tabor Home in Morden.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Boundary Trails Health Auxiliary
Thanks everyone who supported our

May Cash Calendar Fundraiser!

These funds will be used to purchase equipment at BTHC.

CASH CALENDAR WINNERS FOR MAY 2020

\$20 Winners	K. Lumgair	S. Funk
J. Dykman	B. Kelner	N. Hildebrand
G. Hildebrand	M. Hildebrand	J. Mikolasek
M. Brunn	B. Fehr	C. Unger
J. Dyck	P. Burak	L. Chuiipka
M. Olafson	G. Gilmour	\$150 Winner
S. White	J. Elias	B. & B. Currie
C. Hunter	S. Reimer	\$350 Winner
R. Frost	K. Olafson	K. Lumgair
M. Hildebrand	\$30 Winners	
L. Durston	A. Olafson	
I. Kube	D. Reichert	
S. Hamilton	M. Barron	

Remember Your Loved Ones with an Announcement in the **The Winkler Morden Voice**

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

AUCTION

DUECK DAVID AND COLLEEN RETIREMENT FARM AUCTION TIMED ONLINE WED, JUNE 24. CLOSING BEGINS AT 12 NOON, MONDAY JUNE 22, AND 23 VISITING DAYS TO THE FARM FOR INSPECTION. TWO MILE WEST OF LOWE FARM ON 23 ONE NORTH, 1/2 WEST.



This farm auction was in our spring auction catalog & now rescheduled due to C-19. Versatile 9682, Ford Genesis 8770, Massey Ferguson 2400 compact with loader only 196 hrs. John Deere 9600 Combine, MF 9220 swather, 30 ft new Cummins engine, 2004 Freightliner Classic, tandem grain truck, Bourgault air seeder, harrows etc. **See our www.billklassen.com** to check out the specs on this real clean farm equipment auction & register to bid online only, question on equipment call owners **204-746-8754 Bill Klassen auctioneers 204-325-4433 cell 204-325-6230**

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204 325 4433 or cell 204 325 6230

AUCTION

MCTAVISH BRIAN ESTATE FARM AUCTION TIMED ONLINE JUNE 20 CLOSING BEGINS 12 NOON ROSEBANK MB. FARM MAY BE VISTED FOR INSPECTION JUNE 18 & 19 9 AM -5PM.



From Jordan Corner Hwy 3 & 23 west on 23 and 1 1/4 south. From Miami 8 east on 23. This auction is in our spring catalog, this is just a reminder & up date. Auction will be timed online only, Monday June 22 will be payment & pickup day 9-5 pm please bring Cheques, cash, E transfer, wire transfer, etc all items must be paid for prior to pickup, John Deere 4440, 3pth, 4010 w loader, 3010, D.A. MF 255 utility w/ 124 loader real nice unit, 7720 combine, 2120 swather Massey Ferguson 860, V8 hydro combine. Lots of older machinery on this 3 generation farm, come check it out & bid online, register at www.billklassen.com **Questions call us 204-325-6230 or 204-325-4433. info on equipment Walter McTavish 204-435-2241**

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

AUCTION

HINK FARMS VINCE AND SHELLY JUNE 27 TIMED ONLINE ONLY FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION LOCATED 7 MILE SOUTH OF MIAMI, MB OR 6 NORTH OF MORDEN ON 432 & 7 WEST ON 18 N. YOU MAY VISIT THE FARM FOR INSPECTION JUNE 20, 9-6 AND JUNE 21, 1-6PM, OTHERWISE BY APPOINTMENT 204-435-2423 OR 204-750-0004



John Deere 9500 combine, 7720 Titan 11, never a night outside, Cockshutt 542 combine, Two JD 2360 swathers 21ft, grain truck Ford L9000 M11 Cummins 10 sp, 1.051.440 km, 91 chev 1/2 ton 105 km saftied. 830 case diesel tractor, older machinery, & farm hardware. This timed online auction begins closing at 12 noon June 27.

Payment and pickup day is June 29, 9 am to 5 pm. We did have a seeding equipment auction for Hink farm this spring.

We are now selling remaining harvest, collectors etc, take time to check out this well cared for equipment,

See our website for more details and registration
www.billklassen.com

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