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## **Colourful mosaic seating set up at downtown gallery**

#### By Lorne Stelmach

A public art project is bringing some colour to the Pembina Hills Gallery in downtown Morden.

In honour of Manitoba's 150th birthday this year, the gallery invited the community to help create several mosaic art pieces.

Those pieces were installed in front of the gallery last week to serve as both art and a unique form of public seating.

"Ever since we pulled them outside ... people were stopping, people were looking from their cars; they were wondering what is that and then they're so surprised when they find

## "THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL TREASURES. THESE ARE REALLY ARTWORKS ..."

out they're staying there," said Tricia Dyck, programs and outreach coordinator for the Pembina Hills Arts Council.

"They're beautiful treasures. These are really artworks, so they are meant to be special," she said. "We want the community members and visitors to take part in the functional seating. We want them to become part of the art installation. We also want to make the gallery exterior and facade really warm and welcoming ... hopefully it beckons people to come inside the doors."

Artist Sharon Loeppky headed up the creative side of the project, which started with a series of forms built by students at the Morden Collegiate welding shop.

Designed to look like tree trunks, each of the nine pieces were decorated to represent different flora and fauna in Manitoba.

They were originally to be unveiled as part of Manitoba Day celebrations in May, but those plans were yet another casualty of the pandemic, which



## >>>> Exploring Together

## Rooted in community, together in values.

The Board of Directors of Access Credit Union and Crosstown Civic Credit Union are pleased to announce that the previously postponed merger vote and Special Meeting of Members have been rescheduled. Voting will be done online or in branch with social distancing.

## MEMBER VOTE: JUNE 23, 24, 25

#### How to vote:

Online: www.accessvotes.ca 8:30 am CDT on June 23 to 6:00 pm CDT on June 25

At any Access Credit Union branch June 23, 24 and 25 during branch operating hours

Vote results announced on June 25 at 7:00 pm at a preregistered Meeting of Members Teleconference. Voting will end in advance of the meeting with results prior to adjournment. If you have **questions** or to **preregister** to attend the Meeting of Members Teleconference, connect with us:

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also cut short a public participation aspect of the project.

While community members were able to help with a portion of the tile mosaics at Winterfest, further public art events had to be cancelled this spring.

"We continued on with a group of artists working here in the gallery, and I got more involved as well," said Loeppky.

"I think it all worked out pretty well ... and it's nice to see it out there, and it was nice to see the public response to it already," she said. "It was a great project for Tricia and I. We did something that neither of us had really done before, so it was a fun experiment, and I think it was pretty successful."

# Winkler receiving nearly \$97K in Building Sustainable Communities funding

#### By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Winkler is getting a bit of funding after all for the Meridian Exhibition Centre.

The provincial government has committed \$75,000 from its Building Sustainable Communities program for the city to use on convention centre flooring at the MEC, which is being built behind the current Winkler Rec. Complex.

"Interesting enough, that is the first financial grant that we have received from the government for that project," noted Mayor Martin Harder at last week's city council meeting.

The Building Sustainable Communities program is also giving the city \$20,000 toward an ongoing review and update of the city's zoning bylaw and \$1,695 to assist with an extension of an accessible nature trail at the Discovery Nature Sanctuary.

"All three of them are very welcome," Harder said of the grants.

The funding connected to the review of the development plan and zoning bylaws is the second such support for that project.

"We're almost to the end of the secondary plan, which will then be going public within the next week or so," Harder said, adding that "it's important to know the direction the city is growing and how it will get there.

"Then, after you have the secondary plan, there will be a complete review of the zoning bylaws, which then indicate what goes into each of the areas.

"That's a very fundamental requirement that we have and we appreciate the help there," said Harder.

## New playground on the way for Winkler Elementary School

## By Ashleigh Viveiros

One of the city's most well-worn playgrounds is about to get a major facelift thanks to the generosity of the community.

Last week, Access Credit Union reps stopped by Winkler Elementary School to make a \$10,000 donation to the school's new playground project.

"This is such a special project because not only is it a school space but it is a true community space for this area of Winkler," said ACU regional manager Chris Hildebrand. "You see people young and old using the path, using the playground, using the swings.

"It's so exciting to see how this space is so meaningful for everybody in this area, so it was an easy choice."

Thanks to an outpouring of support from both the business community and the general public, the school now has enough to get started on an approximately \$100,000 new playground in its southeast corner, replacing a structure that has been in use there for over three decades.

"This is, I think, one of the oldest playground structures left in the city, and it has expired," said Jolene Hildebrand, volunteer coordinator for the WES parent advisory council. "So it needs to be replaced."

After several years of fundraising, the PAC had managed to raise about \$35,000 for the project, with more fundraisers planned for this spring.

COVID-19 put a stop to those events, but a silver lining came in the form of interim physical education teacher Rick Sawatzky stepping up to help bring the project across the finish line.

Sawatzky's successful appeals to local businesses and the City of Winkler for help rocketed the campaign past its goal in recent months and has put the potential to start construction this year within reach.

"I renewed the quotes, realized how much money we had to make, and then I started contacting this very generous business community," Sawatzky said. "They came out in support of us in a really big and generous way—the way we know the Winkler business



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Representatives from Access Credit Union stopped by Winkler Elementary School last week to present the school and its parent advisory council with \$10,000 towards a new playground. Over \$100,000 has been raised to replace the aging playground on the school's southeast corner.

community to respond to this worthy a project."

This playground is so much more than a school play area, Sawatzky stressed.

"The proposed name for this playground project is the WES Core Playground, because between 15th St. and 1st St. and Pembina Ave. and Mountain Ave., there are no green spaces where children can come play and families can come and recreate," he said. "It's really a community project. And the community, the business community ... recognized that and supported us in a big way."

"We're so, so grateful for all the support for this project," said Jolene Hildebrand after receiving the credit union's donation. "Thank you so much to Access Credit Union for investing in our community, investing in our school, investing in future generations."

Details of what the new playground will look like are being kept under wraps for now, but Hildebrand promises it will offer plenty of familiar and new features for kids of all ages.

"It will be a great playground structure," she said, noting the space is designated for the school's K-2 kids to play on, but "it will also appeal to older children as well.

"There will be some highlights, some things we haven't seen before in the city parks."









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# **Set Port** EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS Avoid the rearview mirror

ADMINISTRATION Lana Meier



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Nicole Kapusta

poet of the common person, The Boss, Bruce Springsteen, sings in "Glory Days," his seminal classic: "Yeah, just sitting back trying

reasons.

to recapture a little of the glory of, well time slips away and leaves you with nothing mister but boring stories of glory days."

> I've always been a person of the present. The past is a collection of folk-

lore and memory to draw on in times of decision or teaching but best left where it is, while the future ... well, the future is just the present waiting to happen.



So why do so many people look and seek to edit it to their benefit. backward instead of forward?

Sometimes the past is easier to deal with than the present. Take the political landscape. How often do politicians waste valuable time and money focusing on the decisions of previous administrations instead of looking forward and forging something bright and new? Too often, in my mind.

One thing you cannot do about the past is change it. You have absolutely zero power over the past. What has happened has happened.

Still, some attempt to erase history or warp it to their benefit. Vermin like Holocaust deniers are a great example of this. Cowardly people who seek to minimize or erase elements of history because they find them inconvenient.

Those who seek out bits and pieces of the past to be cobbled together into a handy, twisted narrative to justify their current circumstance and decisions-these are the truly vile who need to be watched.

So while we cannot change the past and we should not live there we should be vigilant to document our present well so that others who come after us do not abuse their authority

All the more reason to stay focused on the now so that you can challenge those that seek to take advantage should the time ever come.

I am not suggesting we forget the past. Rather, I am suggesting that we look at the past through windows.

We have loved ones who have gone from us we want to remember. There are old loves and lessons we need to remember and honour. But rather than immersing ourselves in the past as though it were a swimming pool in which we may drown let us instead treat it as the foundation for the present upon which we build.

The past is that thing which has been and so by its very nature it can move us to become bitter or resentful of the present-a truly unhealthy and selfdestructive place to be.

In order to be present—present to our friends, our family and ourselves—we must live in the present. It is the only time we truly have.

As Shakespeare wrote, "What's past is prologue."

The present is the play unfolding now.

## **Concerns about the proposed ACU merger**

As a member of Access CU, I feel the country? that I have not had a good rationale provided for moving ahead with a merger with Crosstown Civic CU.

The benefits listed on the Access website are vague at best and do not really lead me to believe that this is a slam dunk win.

As well, the proposal does not address a larger philosophical question: When is an organization large enough? If this merger is a good idea, why not merge all the credit unions in the province into one? Surely that would be a larger win. If that is good idea, why not all the credit unions in

Some of the benefits listed are dubious at best. Take for instance "better buying power from our suppliers." Translation: We intend to squeeze our suppliers of goods and services because we are now so much larger.

"Interest paid monthly, instead of annually" seems like a carrot being held out. This could have been done long ago. Caveat: nowhere does it say that the rates would not be adjusted to compensate.

At the present time I feel like Access CU has already become employee centric, rather than member

centric. The present operating hours are just a small sample of that. The inconvenience of the reduced hours do not provide for reduced risk for the member in any way. Why not increase the hours to spread out clients more to reduce the possibility of virus transmission?

The improved upward mobility of a few management staff in a new, larger merged organization is not high on my list of reasons to go forward. Larger businesses typically just mean another layer of management

All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Winkler Morden Voice.

## **By Peter** Cantelon

he past is not a

How often do we dwell on

the past to the point where

it becomes our present re-

place to live.

ality? Individuals, companies, groups,

politicians (especially politicians) love

to wallow in the past for all kinds of

The great and modern philosopher

Continued on page 5

# **Community invited to help NPC, GVC grads celebrate**

## Citywide grad parade taking place June 26

## By Ashleigh Viveiros

The community of Winkler is invited to come out to celebrate the graduating class of 2020 next week.

The Garden Valley Collegiate and Northlands Parkway Collegiate after grad committees are organizing a joint grad parade through the city the evening of Friday, June 26.

"We've been brainstorming ways that we can still celebrate the work that the kids have done, to make it the celebration that grad should be," said NPC after grad chair Val Harder. "With so many of the restrictions around COVID, many of the ideas we've done in the past won't work this year, and so we started thinking outside the box.

"No other grad class has ever had a grad parade in Winkler like this, so this is something that will be memorable for them."

Organizers hope people will line the streets (keeping a COVID-19 safe distance from one another, of course) armed with signs and noisemakers to congratulate the grads as they pass by.

"Let's show the grads that the community supports them and we're all behind them and proud of them," said Myra Peters, GVC after grad. "It's a huge accomplishment. They've worked so hard to get here."

The grad parade begins at 7 p.m. at 15th St. and Pembina Ave. It will travel north up 15th and then turn east down Mountain Ave., north up Park St., and then west down Grandeur Ave.

After the parade, the grads will return to their respective schools for photos.

"The hope is that our grads will get all decked out in their grad wear, their dresses and suits, because they really don't have another opportunity this year to do that, to show that off," said Harder.

Grads are asked to register for the parade in advance by sending an email to npcaftergrad2020@gmail. com or gvcgrad@gmail.com so organizers have an idea of what numbers



## Pie deliveries a hit in Coulee

Plum Coulee Foundation has been marking the spring Pay It Forward campaign by delivering homemade apple pies to businesses throughout the community. Here, June Letkeman (far left) and Nicole Guenther present Prairie Foods owner Nathan Hiebert with the tasty treat. Also on the pie delivery committee but missing from the photo is Lisa Wiebe.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

#### to expect.

If any community members with a vintage or custom vehicle would like to volunteer their time to drive a grad

in the parade, contact organizers at the emails above to be connected with a grad in need of wheels.

## Favourable COVID-19 numbers put Manitoba in a good spot for reopening

## By Ashleigh Viveiros

Three new cases over the weekend brought Manitoba's COVID-19 numbers to 304.

Public health officials announced on Monday that the province is dealing with five active cases of the illness, none of which currently require hospitalization.

## > LETTER, FROM PG. 6

with no accompanying benefit for the customer or member.

I do see a benefit for members who need banking services in Winnipeg which can not be satisfied via banking machine or online. That really is the single largest benefit. A more diverse portfolio would also be of some value, but to a large extent that is already happening in the region. Some of the other proposed benefits of merging could largely be realized by a shared services agreement between multiple credit unions.

Seven Manitobans have died.

"Our numbers have remained favourable, but certainly COVID-19 has not gone away," stressed Dr. Brent Roussin, chief public health officer. "We still need to deal with this virus moving forward.

"As we reopen it's likely that we will see and continue to see new cases identified," he said. "We will continue to identify them early, perform contact tracing and isolation to limit the chances of ongoing community-based transmission."

The restrictions that have been in place in recent months were created to protect those at most risk of severe outcomes with COVID-19 as well as to avoid overwhelming the health care system with cases.

Those efforts have been successful, allowing us to now look to the future, Roussin said.

"Manitobans have learned to live with this virus and we're going to need to continue to learn to live with this



A total of 292 people have recovered from COVID-19. virus," he said. "We can never be in a zero-risk situation, and so as we reopen our economy we have to continue to accept some level of risk.

> "We continue to follow a number of indicators daily, including case numbers, our test positivity rates, the com-

> > Continued on page 7



# New water park opens at Lake Minnewasta

## **By Lorne Stelmach**

An opportunity for kids of all ages to get active in a new way is the highlight as the summer gets underway at Lake Minnewasta.

Splish Splash Water Park opened for the season in Morden last weekend. The huge floating jungle gym is the company's second location after successfully debuting at Minnedosa Beach in 2019.

Owner Gerry Champagne was hap-

py to have it going, even with some restrictions in place due to the pandemic.

"Manitoba, luckily for us, was one of the least affected areas," said Champagne, noting the opening comes as people are anxious to get out and do things outdoors.

"The timing is just luck. We started this project in January, so there was no COVID-19 then ... then as it went on, and everything shut down, there was a point we thought we might

not open," he said. "So we're going to open at 50 per cent capacity and just go from there, and as regulations open up, we'll go from there."

Champagne sees each of his parks as drawing people from not only different but large market areas, citing how 25 per cent of the Minnedosa users came from over two hours away.

"For Morden, it brings southern Winnipeg into play, and it also brings Grand Forks into play," he said.

With a maximum capacity of 80 us-

The Splish Splash Water Park opened for business on the weekend at Lake Minnewasta. A popular feature includes jumping from the higher tower to launch someone into the air from the cushion below.

> PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

ers, the floating water park has a variety of interlocking modules including a slide tower, jumping pillow, column bridge, trampoline, a spin door, and more. Sections of the park are good for all ages and skill levels.

"If you're nine and under, you need to have an adult go with you," Champagne explained. "Everybody has to wear life jackets, so it's safe. If you fall off, you're falling into water. We had zero injuries last year other than a few nicks and bruises when kids run into each other."

Admission to the water park will be separate from your admission to the lake. There are hourly and day rates available.

Local officials see the city benefitting from the additional attraction.

"We're thinking we're going to get more camping and more day passes sold. I hope it helps with tourism and bringing people to Morden," said Clare Agnew, community events and services manager.

The rates for entry to the lake area remain at \$9 a day or \$42 for the season.

Continued on page 7



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# PTM still hoping to open for the season

#### **By Ashleigh Viveiros**

The Pembina Threshermen's Museum is still working out how to open its doors for a shortened season of living history this summer.

Board president Bill Fehr said they're currently firming up their plans for dealing with the pandemic restrictions handed down by the province to slow the spread of CO-VID-19.

"We do hope to open this summer," he said, adding the board will meet this week to make a decision on the matter."It will be a limited opening to start off with."

In addition to increased disinfecting measures in the PTM office and other spaces, Fehr expects they'll have to rope off certain areas of the heritage buildings to limit people from touching items inside.

They'll also be operating on a limited capacity as per provincial regulations, which puts a question mark over popular events like Reunion Days.

"We'll be discussing that and seeing what we can do," Fehr said.

The museum's opening date will be posted online and on their new digital billboard out in front of the facility on Hwy. 3.

## MANAGER POSITION ELIMINATED

The late start to the season and cancellation of various fundraisers this spring has taken a major toll on the mu-

seum's finances.

The biggest casualty as a result is the facility's general manager position, which has been filled since 2011 by Kim Striemer. The board last month decided to dissolve that role.

"The expenditures were just a little bit too much for the museum since we couldn't raise money," Fehr said. "We had to kind of do it in order to exist."

Funding from such sources as the City of Winkler and the RM of Stanley will help keep the doors open this year.

"That will keep us going for awhile," Fehr said, adding that the museum has a dedicated team of volunteers who will help keep things running. "We have a good group there right now and we hope to maybe increase those numbers if we can."

Striemer says she's enjoyed her time at the helm of this "incredible prairie gem of a museum.

"It's right in our backyard and I just wish more people knew about it."

Striemer, who started out as a yard volunteer before stepping into the manager's role, has spent the better part of the past decade leading the charge to improve the museum in a myriad of ways, not the least of which was the creation of an entire mid-20th century indoor village in time for the museum's 50th anniversary in 2018.

"I did everything I could to try and put that place on the map," she said, putting a lot of the credit on the countless volunteers who have stepped up over the years. She



#### SUPPLIED PHOTO er Kim Striemer de-

PTM manager Kim Striemer departs from the role this summer thanks to the financial strain CO-VID-19 has had on the museum.

## moving forward

hopes to remain

involved with the

museum in some

capacity as a vol-

herself

unteer

"I just want people to understand that it's so worth going to," Striemer said."The museum is going to continue. It will be under different leadership, but it's going to continue. It just deserves to be enjoyed."

## > COVID-19, FROM PG. 5

munity-based transmission rates, as well as the many demands on the health care system," Roussin continued. "There certainly won't be a single indicator there that would make us dial back our reopening strategy, but we'll look at a number of things over time to decide on whether we'll continue ... or implement measures to further restrict things if we saw much community-based transmission."

The province has spent several days gathering feedback on its plans for phase three of reopening.

The draft plan unveiled last Thursday scales back restrictions in numerous areas, including increasing public gathering limits indoors to 50 people and outdoor gathering limits to 100, doing away with the requirement to self-isolate for 14 days when entering Manitoba from Western Canada and Northwestern Ontario, allowing day cares to return to their maximum capacities, removing occupancy limits at retail businesses and all health professions, and increasing occupancy limits at restaurants to 75 per cent of total capacity.

"We're loosening a number of restrictions, but our numbers show us that this is a safe time, a prudent time to be doing this," Roussin said. "We'll continue to watch things very carefully."

The detailed phase three plan is available online at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/ phase-three.html. Implementation is tentatively planned for June 21. More information is expected this week.

Meanwhile, on Monday the Manitoba government extended the provincewide state of emergency another month to allow it to continue responding to the pandemic in a timely manner.

The state of emergency was first put into place under The Emergency Measures Act March 20 for 30 days. It was extended for another month in April and again in May.

## > MINNEWASTA, FROM PG. 6

Agnew noted they will be emphasizing all the rules and restrictions related to COVID-19 (wash your hands, stay home if you're sick, etc.), but the lake area at least makes things like social distancing easier.

"It's a big area," she said. "I'm extremely happy that it's open and that we are able to offer this recreational opportunity to people."

She also stressed the need specifically for all boat users to respect the lake's regulations.

"We're going to try to ensure that the people using the water are acting responsibly and safe and especially respect the canoe launch area is for non-motorized boats," Agnew said.

"It's not as much the number of boats that are on the water that's the problem as it is the lack co-operation of some of the boats," she suggested."It's the unsafe operation of some boats that's causing any problems."

## We're Open!





Local artists gathered in Confederation Park in downtown Morden recently for a time of creativity and encouragement as part of the Art Share - Art in the Park initiative of the Pembina Hills Arts Council. The group will meet outside every Thursday evening until June 25 to discuss art topics and share their work for feedback.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## "Thanks for Farming" tour plans to set out from Crystal City Monday

## By Lorne Stelmach

A Winkler company is putting on a mini travelling trade show that is not just about promotion but also giving back to farming communities across the Prairies.

Thunderstruck Ag Equipment has organized the Thanks for Farming Tour as a way to show their appreciation for farmers.

"Trade shows are all cancelled, but we still want to connect with farmers and, more importantly, we want to give back to agriculture and to farmers," said Thunderstruck's Jeremy Matuszewski.

The tour, made possible once some inter-provincial travel restrictions are lifted, is expected to include representatives from about 10 companies.

They plan to hit the road with a kick-off in Crystal City June 22 before moving on to stops in Brandon and Ste. Agathe this month and then heading to Alberta and Saskatchewan communities in July.

In addition to partnering with local restaurants and breweries to provide refreshments at each stop, Thunderstruck will also be making financial donations to 4H chap-

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ters along the way.

Matuszewski noted they have carefully planned the tour with public health in mind, including having a safety advisor to ensure they're being COVID-19 protocol compliant in every way possible. Measures include limiting the number of people at each event, regularly scheduled times for cleaning and sanitizing, proper handling and storage protocols, and physical distancing.

There will be a number of speakers to address topics like mental health as well as ag-related topics such as agronomy or market uncertainties.

The pandemic has been a blow to many in the ag industry and those living in rural communities, so Matuszewski looks forward to the opportunity to make a difference in whatever way they can.

"We want to give them some support and some knowledge," he said. "Our goal with this is to give back to agriculture. The reason Thunderstruck exists today is because of agriculture."

For more information on the tour, head to thunderstruckag.com/thanksforfarming.

## **Morden launching Community Fitness Challenge**

#### By Lorne Stelmach

The cancellation of a nationwide competition to get communities active has led the City of Morden to issue its own challenge.

Morden's Community Fitness Challenge is taking the place of the ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge, which had offered a chance to win \$150,000 as Canada's most active community.

"This year it was cancelled because of COVID-19," said Morden recreation programmer Stephanie Dueck. "We wanted to do something in its place, and we hope to get lots of people to join."

Physical inactivity is cited as the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality, with only 16 per cent of adults meeting the target of 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week.

"We have all those stats that physical activity is fairly low among adults, and most of us don't meet the physical

## JUNE IS TURKEY MONTH!

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activity guidelines, so we're trying to tackle that," said Dueck. "We hope it will help people become more active, have some friendly competition."

The Community Fitness Challenge runs from June 15 to August 9. Participants can sign up to take part for free anytime during the summer.

Once you've registered, you're asked to keep track of your steps, either using an app or digital tracker or by doing it manually.

Thanks to support from Southern Health-Santé Sud, there will be weekly prizes up for grabs.

You can earn extra entries in the prize draws by sharing a photo or video of yourself being active on social media. Share with #GetMoving and tag the Morden ParticipACTION Facebook page.

To sign up, head to mymorden.ca/ Participaction or email participaction@mymorden.ca.



"WE WANT TO GIVE BACK TO AGRICULTURE AND TO FARMERS."

## Morden chamber welcomes new chair

#### **By Lorne Stelmach**

A new chairperson is heading up an expanded board for the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce.

Scott Hoeppner of TDS Law recently took over as chair from Michelle Sawatzky, who remains on the board of 10 directors after serving as chair for the last three years.

"She has been a tireless advocate for the chamber's members and has set a high standard for both myself and everyone else who follows in the chair position," said Hoeppner.

He sees the chamber as continuing to play a vital role as local business and industry continue to recover from the impact of the pandemic and the resulting economic shutdown.

"I think everyone knows were in a bit of uncharted territory, not just as the chamber but as a business community," Hoeppner said.

"I think the impact of COVID-19 has probably been different on every business, perhaps in unforeseen ways. There are some that are doing much stronger than they would have thought. Everyone, to my knowledge, is managing and pulling together," he said. "I think the over-arching concern would be COVID-19 and how are we navigating it as a business community and how do we come out of it stronger than when we went into it."

As for priorities moving ahead, Hoeppner emphasized "continuing to be a source of information for our members. I've been quite proud of how the chamber has been a source of information during COVID-19.

"It's also just continue to be the voice for business, and we're continuing to seek status as an accredited chamber, which I think there's few in Manitoba who have reached that status."

Hoeppner heads up a board that now includes Sawatzky as well as Grant Nicholson, Rich Harries, Heather Francis, Brent Laverty, Jared Hildebrand, Derek Hamilton, Susan Lee, and Irma Maier.

"We have a good team, and we've expanded the board by a couple of extra members, so I'm looking forward to working with all of them," said Hoeppner.

Sawatzky welcomed having Hoeppner step into the role of chairperson.

"He is a proven leader, approachable and fair minded," she said. "Under Scott's leadership, the chamber will continue to grow in its role as the voice of business and the bridge that connects business, community and government."



SUPPLIED PHOTO Scott Hoeppner has stepped into the chairperson role for the Morden chamber of commerce.

# Southern Health communities doing their part

#### By Lorne Stelmach

The region's top health official offered both praise and gratitude to local residents last week as COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease up.

The leveling off of Manitoba's active caseload has only been possible because people have remained vigilant and committed to abiding by public health orders to limit the spread of COVID-19, said Jane Curtis, CEO of Southern Health-Santé Sud.

"We have had to significantly change the way we live ... and the residents of Southern Health-Santé Sud did these changes," she said. "They were tough, not seeing your family or attending religious services, cancelling special occasions.

"It was big sacrifices, but the communities came through, and because of that, it's made a huge difference in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and flattening that curve. Those efforts have been the whole difference in where we are today."

These uncertain times have brought out the best in people, Curtis said, pointing to the overwhelming show of support health care workers have received.

There have been endless gestures of encouragement ranging from snowmen built outside of residents' windows at a personal care home to donations of specialized bands to relieve the impact caused by extended wear of face masks.

Health care workers have also gratefully received donations of insoles to help soften their steps as they walk many kilometres throughout their work day, as well as numerous gifts of food and beverages.

These donations are multi-faceted and spread across the region, noted Curtis, and the simple acts of kindness have often served to brighten someone's day.

"It was incredible. Every week we many people are would have a whole list of things that still being very

communities were doing, whether it was just putting posters up of thanks or doing a car parade around our hospital or delivering some food," she said. "It was just incredible to see the community show their support ... they kept asking what can we do?"

The reward now is having the opportunity to start opening up facilities again to visitors.

"Our staff were really excited when we were able to change our visitor restrictions," said Curtis. "They saw how much it means to our patients and their families and friends ... it was great that over the last couple of weeks now we've been able to have visiting occur, but still in a safe way."

Even with that, though, Curtis reiterated that there cautious.

"We know that this virus has hit our elderly population particularly hard, and so we still have to be extra vigilant about that and ensure we're still protecting them as much as we can," she said. "It's a balance because visits from family and friends also contribute to their well-being, so we just have to find that healthy balance.

"We're kind of talking about a new normal ... we wash our hands more regularly; when we're not feeling well, we stay home ... and it's just being very conscious about the group sizes," Curtis said. "I see it all the time, and I really do see people being thoughtful about what they are doing in their communities."

Manitoba <sup>•</sup>

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## Notice of dust control program

Homeowners along gravel provincial roads and main market roads in unorganized territories may apply to have dust control applied in front of their homesites at a cost of \$200 for a single application.

The formal application is available from your local Manitoba Infrastructure office. The deadline for these applications will be **no later than July 3, 2020.** 

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| Boissevain | 204-534-2030 | The Pas            | 204-627-8272 |
|            |              |                    |              |



## By Ashleigh Viveiros

As COVID-19 restrictions begin to relax, Travel Manitoba is reminding people that "home is where the heart is."

The provincial travel association launched a tourism campaign last week encouraging Manitobans to rediscover what's available right in our own backyards.

"[Now is] the perfect opportunity for Manitobans to see what the province has to offer and at the same time support local businesses and local tourism operators by doing a bit of a staycation and seeing their own province," says Linda Whitfield, vice-president of marketing and communications.

Manitobans are certainly no strangers to exploring the province. Pre-pandemic, tourism contributed \$1.6 billion to Manitoba's economy, with 85 per cent of visitation and 58 per cent of

still needs to be

a degree of vigi-

lance, and she

appreciates that

## Fenn tapped to be WSD's new assistant superintendent

#### By Lorne Stelmach

Western School Division is promoting from within its own ranks to fill the position of assistant superinten-

## dent.

It announced last week that current Morden Collegiate Institute principal Marianne Fenn will take over the duties from retiring assistant superin-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden Collegiate principal Marianne Fenn, shown here at last year's grad ceremony, has been named the new interim assistant superintendent for Western School Division.

tendent Cyndy Kutzner.

The appointment is considered interim at the moment because any senior administrative positions are pending further provincial direction, particularly in relation to the proposed overall review of education in Manitoba.

"I have great admiration for Cyndy Kutzner. She has been a fantastic role model and a fantastic supporter of school administrators and parents and families here as well," said Fenn, who comes to the new role with 23 years of experience in education, including 15 as a school administrator and a consultant with Manitoba Education.

Having come to Morden in 2008, Fenn said she has not only appreciated the opportunity to work for Western School Division but also what it has provided to her own children, who are recent graduates.

"I could tell right away that Western School Division was the kind of division I was happy as a parent to have my children attend," she said. "There were lots of cool and interesting ways that I felt our division had worked to serve the needs of kids and families in our community. That was important to me."

Throughout her career, Fenn has valued the importance of strong relationships with students and their families, and she believes schools need to be spaces where students feel they belong and are able to learn and succeed.

As assistant superintendent, she sees herself as continuing to deal with many of the same issues, but on a much broader scale.

Fenn has spent the last nine years as an administrator within WSD, including as principal of Morden Collegiate. Prior to that she worked with the distance learning unit supporting schools and learners with the delivery of provincial options for distance education programming.

Earlier in her career, Fenn was an administrator at a school in Lac Brochet.

The division is now advertising the Morden Collegiate principal position in the hopes of having someone in place for the new school year this fall.

# Seniors are calling on seniors for sustainability

#### By Becca Myskiw

Seniors across the province are calling on each other for sustainability.

In a news release, Manitoba Seniors for Sustainability announced they have launched a fundraising campaign to support three environmental groups in the province.

The three groups, The Green Action Centre, Climate Change Connection, and the Manitoba Eco-Network, are receiving no provincial funding this year. That's a total loss of \$360,000 to the organizations.

Manitoba Seniors for Sustainability are calling on seniors to use the \$200 COVID-19 support cheque they received from the province as a donation to these organizations.

Three hundred and sixty thousand dollars is less than one per cent of the \$45 million Pallister is sending out to seniors, regardless of their need for it, the group notes.

Spokesperson Muriel Smith said the money should be going to people who need it—and not all seniors do. She's sending her cheque to one of the environmental organizations because they need it more than she does.

"Cutting funds for the environment during a climate crisis makes about as much sense as slashing health care during a pandemic," she said in a statement.

The pandemic is difficult, Smith added, but environmental issues don't go away when other problems arise. Allocating the funds the way the provincial government did was"blatantly wrong," she stressed. Smith understands some seniors do need the \$200 they'll receive. She said Manitoba Seniors for Sustainability are calling on the ones who don't to help out the organizations who spend their time helping the environment.

"Environmental issues are those if we don't pay attention to, we're going to find that our food lacks the nutrients that we need, that our air is not pure enough," Smith said. "There will be the warming of the climate, less things we can grow ... "

More information about the group and their cause is available on Facebook and Twitter @mbseniors4sust.

## > TOURISM, FROM PG. 9

expenditures coming from Manitobans.

"So we already do a pretty good job of that," says Whitfield, "but we really want to encourage Winnipeggers to get outside the city and we'd love to invite rural folks come to see something in Winnipeg."

Northern Manitoba is opening up again as well, Whitfield notes, and there are countless attractions and experiences sprinkled through the province to explore.

Those kind of cross-community trips have never been more important. Estimates indicate that tourism spending will decrease between 25-60 per cent in 2020, and between 6,800 to 11,600 jobs could be lost.

"People don't realize just what an economic driver tourism is in the

province," Whitfield says, pointing out the ripple effect a family's visit to a tourism destination can have in a community as they spend money on lodging, food, and other entertainment in the area. "Visitors bring dollars to all parts of a destination: to the restaurants, to the gas stations, to the things they buy retail. So it's a very important sector in Manitoba."

To further spur on local tourism, Travel Manitoba in partnership with Destination Canada has launched a contest that asks people to share how they're showing Manitoba some love.

Entrants are asked to detail where in the province they are travelling this summer and how they'll share their experiences on social media. Winners could receive up to \$500 to offset travel costs.

"One of the best sources of people's inspiration is often word of mouth and what they see other people doing," says Whitfield. "What we ask is what a lot of people are doing anyway, which is to share pictures, share your stories, share you enthusiasm ... and you may be rewarded for it."

The contest is open until June 26. Details are available at travelmanitoba.com.

Manitobans are reminded to explore their own province while being COVID careful: maintain physical distancing, stay home when sick, wash hands frequently, and opt for pick-up services when visiting local restaurants and businesses.



# Morden athlete showcased in new National Film Board movie

#### By Lorne Stelmach

It doesn't seem like a little bit of fame will be going to the head of a Morden boy who has a role in a National Film Board production making its debut this week.

Evan Hesom is part of a Winnipegbased sledge hockey team whose experiences at a major competition across the border have been documented in the short film *The Tournament*.

Director Sam Vint, whose son Isaac also plays on The Sledgehammers, and his film crew followed them on and off the ice over the course of a weekend tournament that pitted teams from the U.S. and Canada against one another.

"It was actually quite surprising," said Hesom, who joined his parents last week in seeing a screening of the film.

The Grade 7 student said he wasn't distracted by all the extra attention during the tournament.

"When we were on the ice and we were playing, and in the locker room and stuff, we didn't even notice the guys were there. We were just having fun and hanging out, doing what we do."

"He's just a very sports-minded, energetic young man. He loves sledge hockey, loves golf, loves baseball," said Connie, Evan's mom.

"He keeps going, no matter what's in his way; he keeps fighting through and keeps going with it," she said. "We're very proud of that, very proud of his determination and he's very blessed that he has the abilities that he does have to pursue his dreams."

An adaptation of ice hockey, sledge hockey is designed for players who have a physical challenge, but that's about the only difference. All the other fundamentals of the sport—passing, shooting, checking, teamwork are the same.

The sleds to kids use to get around on the ice have two blades on the bottom and their sticks include metal picks to help them steer.

In most respects though, it is just like regular hockey, with even some"crash and bash."

"They literally hit like crazy," said Evan."I got hit once and it hurt."

Vint set out to capture the end-toend action of the game, as well as the quieter moments with parents, coaches, and fellow players to provide a glimpse into this little-seen world.

Over the course of the weekend of competition (which took place in Minnesota in February 2018), the people with challenges outnumbered the able-bodied, and the kids got the chance to just be athletes.

"When you go to that tournament, the locker rooms are full of wheelchairs, crutches, prosthetic legs," observed Connie. "There, it is the normal."

"This isn't a film about disability but rather a film about adaptability, mindset, attitude, being resilient, using teamwork, competitive spirit and determination. It's a great example of diversity and inclusion," Vint said in an online discussion about the project.





Morden's Evan Hesom (left) and his team The Sledgehammers star in a new short film called The Tournament.

The spirit and determination on display is no surprise to Connie, who has seen it in her son right from the age of four when he was first diagnosed. Evan was born with spina bifida and hydracephalus and also has a chromosome disorder and epilepsy.

"We've had many, many surgeries in Winnipeg, and we started going to Montreal to the Shriners Hospital now," Connie said. "He really enjoys the care he gets there. The Shriner's Hospital only works with kids with disabilities.

"He missed his appointment in March because of the coronavirus, so he's desperately waiting to get back there."

Evan also can't wait to get back on the ice, which usually involves the family going into Winnipeg weekends from April to October. That is where the idea for the film took shape.

"They said we have to get something going so the world can see how kids with disabilities can be on a team, they can be part of something and be like any average normal child," said Connie.

Approximately three years in the making, the film covers all aspects of the experience, with Connie noting a camera operator on the ice was even outfitted on a sledge.

"They mic'd some parents just to get the reaction from that angle as well," she said. "So we've been very anxious to see it."

"In the stands, parents are helping each other with advice, we compare doctors, treatments, the services we receive as well as how to travel and so on," observed Vint.

"The kids are from all over the map," he noted. "Syrian refugees, families with money, others without, athletic kids, non-sports families, and they all need each other. They have an appreciation for every participant since there aren't many to choose from; they need each other to make this work."

Connie sees the film potentially doing a lot to help raise awareness in a number of ways.

"I hope it opens up a whole world of opportunities for kids with disabilities in any area," she suggested. "On Evan's hockey team now in Winnipeg, there's kids coming from Selkirk ... we come from Morden, and there's a young man who lives in Langdon, North Dakota.

"I just hope it helps open up so many more sports opportunities for kids in rural areas," she said. "They are fully capable of doing it; they just do it in a different way. They have the same passions for the sport as able bodied children do, so I'm hoping it will open people's eyes and they will see this can be done."

"What I have learned about para sports is that they live up to the ideal of sports more than able-bodied sports," said Vint. "I have coached and played sports for decades, and I was immediately impressed by the inclusive nature of para sports. No one is left behind. The athletes are pulling for their teammates with more severe challenges than them."

*The Tournament* is available online at NFB.ca.

# Pembina Valley Orioles start season June 28



#### By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Orioles are quickly gearing up for a new season now that the province has said, "Play ball."

The Manitoba Junior Baseball League team is practising in preparation for the delayed start of what will be a slightly shortened 2020 season.

"There was nothing really said for quite some time. We were all in on the hold mode," said manager Jim Odlum.

"Word came about two weeks ago that we were good to go. We couldn't start practising until last week ... and now we have two weeks to kind of get ready, then season starts June 28."

The league, which is back to eight teams this year with the return of Winnipeg South, is reducing the schedule from 24 to 21 games. The season is being packed into a six week period.

Directions are coming from the league about all of the necessary safety protocols, which will include ensuring players keep their distance from one another in the dugouts and fans do the same in the stands.

"It will be different. I'm still waiting for the final word on everything," said Odlum, who suggested they all have enough incentive to take care that everything is done right. "It's a privilege that's been given to us to be able to play."

The Orioles ended the 2019 regular season with a 10-14 record for a fifth place finish. They advanced with a two game sweep of the St. James As in the quarter-final and then fell to St. Boniface in the semis.

The Elmwood Giants ultimately won their second consecutive league title by downing St. Boniface in four. The defending champs are scheduled to host the Orioles for the season opening doubleheader on June 28.

Odlum sees the Orioles fielding a young team this year.

"There were some guys waiting until the end to decide whether they were going to come or not," he said. "We have three guys who could have played this year but decided to not come back due to jobs and other things. That leaves us hunting to replace them.

"We have a lot of young guys coming. It's going to be different this year. We lost three amazing pitchers from last year's team, and that's hard to replace.

"We'll be okay," Odlum said. "There will be some growing pains, but it'll all work out."

The Orioles are scheduled to make their home field debut July 1 with a doubleheader against the Carillon Sultans.

# Minor baseball, softball ready to take the field

## By Ashleigh Viveiros

The provincial government has given the go-ahead for sports to resume this summer, as long as proper CO-VID-19 precautions are taken.

That comes as good news for the Winkler and Morden minor ball associations, which are eager to get kids back out on the diamonds.

"We're good to go," Winkler Minor Ball president Matt Friesen said in the wake of Baseball Manitoba and Softball Manitoba's Return to Play documents receiving provincial approval."We're cleared to start practising anytime."

Morden Minor Baseball president Kristy Hildebrand said practices will run all through June, while games are slated to take place in July and August.

"We'll have the kids on the diamond practising next week," she said when reached for an interview last Thursday.

"This summer will be about having fun," Hildebrand said. "The kids haven't been in school with their friends, hockey was cancelled early, all these other sports and different activities were cancelled. Now we have an opportunity to play ball and so we want to give kids the chance to play. To miss a full season of ball, especially for the older kids, that's a pretty big hit."

"This is something to make us feel normal again," said Friesen. "This is the first normal thing, almost, we've been able to do since this whole thing started."

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, there is a litany of protocols teams must follow.

"There's distancing rules that we'll need to follow and different sanitization things," Friesen said. "It will definitely be a challenge. A lot of people are used to just playing the game and doing things how we normally would."

Chewing gum, sunflower seeds, and spitting are all out this summer, as is the sharing of water bottles, helmets, and any other equipment. Team huddles must be done with appropriate social distancing, which must also be observed in the dugouts.

Kids will be encouraged to tip their caps instead of high fiving or shaking hands to celebrate.

The number of spectators is also limited, and everyone must ensure they're keeping a safe distance from one another.

Teams will play against kids from other communities in our area in league play, but all the larger provincial tournaments have been cancelled this season.

"The rules of the game are not changing. That's a good thing. That's very exciting for us," noted Hildebrand. As to the rest, "it'll look different ... but we'll make it work."

Moving the baseball/softball season from spring to summer has led some families to opt out.

"We've definitely taken a hit in terms of registration," Friesen said, adding, however, that they still have enough teams in each age group for healthy competition. Likewise, Morden has seen a drop of about a team's worth of kids in each age group. They also decided to cancel the 7U program this year.

Organizers are calling on parents to help make this season work.

"We're just all really hoping people will follow the rules that have been put out, whether or not you agree with them or not, because it's for the kids," Hildebrand stressed. "It just comes down to that: it's for the kids so they can play ball."

# Trent Penner signs with Flyers

Seventeen-year-old forward Trent Penner has signed with the Winkler Flyers for the 2020-2021 season.

The Winklerite contributed 22 goals and 31 assists in 47 games with the AAA Pembina Valley Hawks last season. He also had three assists in six playoff games before the season wascancelled due to COVID-19.

Penner was auto-protected by the Flyers ahead of the 2018 Manitoba Junior Hockey League Draft.



WINKLER FLYERS PHOTO



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## RITUARY



## Mary Peters (nee Unrau) April 7, 1921 - June 12, 2020

Mom was born a fragile three pounder into a family of nine siblings in the village of Neuenberg not far from Winkler. Her parents had to put her on the oven door to keep her warm. But she did not remain fragile and became a force to be reckoned with. At age 16 she went to work, she met Abe at 19 and they were married soon after. Dad had worked the farm at Rosenbach and now Mom worked along with him. Soon the children were born and besides the farm work. Mom cared for the children, did the wash, and hung many diapers on the clothesline. She carried all the water she used from the creek because there was no running water those early days. Mom baked bread, made pickles, canned fruit, vegetables, meat and tilled the garden. All of us remember her garden and her

baking, especially her buns. Even her great-grandchildren today make bread, buns and cookies with her recipes. When Dad died, life on the farm became too much for Mom and she moved into town where she also had a big garden. Mom now became active in a church choir and began work at the Senior Centre which she enjoyed for 25 years. At the Senior Centre, she became the project coordinator for Waffle Thursdays and the Noodle Project which made mountains of noodles to sell. She retired at age 90. She also got the travel bug and twice visited family in England. While there, she explored England, Germany and Holland. Back in Winkler, she traveled with her church choir to different parts of Mexico and worked with a mission in Texas for several months. Mom was a woman of faith, and when any of us were in crisis, we would ask Grandma to pray for us because her prayers seemed always to be answered. Mom found it very hard to let go of her house and garden. After an assisted living experience did not work out for her, she moved into Salem where she died at the age of 99 years and two months. Mom was laid to rest beside Dad in the Winkler Cemetery.

She was predeceased by her husband, Abe Peters; daughter, Mary (Cliff); son, Abe. Those who continue to remember this amazing woman are her daughter, Jesse (Stephen) in Victoria, daughter-in-law, Justine, Steinbach, son, Fred (Helen) in Winkler, son, Jim (Karen) in Winnipeg, and the many grandchildren and great-grandchildren that Mom enjoyed so much.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Mary's memory to the Winkler Senior Centre.

OBITUARY

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



# place at a later date.

Linda Denise Maxwell (nee Kinsman) 1953 - 2020

It is with heavy hearts that we share the unexpected passing of Linda Maxwell, aged 66 years.

She leaves to mourn her passing one daughter, Marci and Graeme and grandchildren, Nadine and Julian; one son, Chris Maxwell; sister, Shirley McElroy and brother, Morris Kinsman as well as many other family members and dear friends. Mom was predeceased by our dad, Raymond Maxwell in 2009.

Mom had an extraordinary life that she lived to the fullest everyday. We are extremely blessed to have had her in our lives. Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will take

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Linda's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to Cancer Care.





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## Katharina Unruh (nee Dyck) 1933 - 2020

Katy Unruh passed away on Sunday, June 7, 2020 at Tabor Home in Morden, MB at 87 years of age.

She was born on March 7th, 1933 in a farmhouse in Silberfeld, MB, to John and Helena (Wiebe) Dyck, and her father walked six miles to Altona to register her birth. She grew up in Morris and Winnipeg, where she attended the MBCI high school. As a girl she came to a personal faith in Christ, and she was baptized and joined the North Kildonan Mennonite Brethren Church. After high school Katy worked for two years to earn money for nursing school at the Winnipeg General Hospital. There she lived in residence for three years. She often regaled her sisters with stories of residential life

to their great enjoyment. She worked for a short time as a public health nurse in Manitoba before marrying Cornel Unruh, a family physician. Corny and Katy were part of the North Kildonan church community, thus knew each other from their earliest years. There are no stories of "how they met " but their mutual involvement in the healthcare profession was what first drew them together. After their marriage in 1957, they left for a two year MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) medical assignment in Jordan in the Middle East. After returning to Manitoba in 1960, the family moved to a medical practice in Morden. She was a long-time member of Westside Community Church in Morden, with a living faith in Jesus, and she spent her life raising up, giving generously, and encouraging her family and the community around her. While her husband Corny set both a direction and pattern for the family life, she made sure that her family and the people around her enjoyed the trip. Before Katy and her three sisters were born in Canada, three young brothers died in early childhood on her parents' arduous journey from Soviet Russia. She was also predeceased by her husband, Corny in 2003, her beloved son, Ramsv in 2011 and her older sister. Agnes in 2019.

OBITUARY

She is survived by two sisters Ruth Wood and Elizabeth Dvck, both of Winniped: by her children and their families Phil (Diane) Unruh of Carman, MB, with Amanda, Stephan (Brigitte) and Blake (Amanda); Tim (Jeanette) Unruh of Whistler, BC, with Luke, Rachel, Abigail and Ben; daughter-inlaw Shannon (Paul) Kutcher of Winnipeg with Katy, Tom and Jane (Adam); Noni (Phil) Goertzen of Langley, BC, with Becky, Amy (Greg), Hannah and Andrew; and Christy (Evan) Jennings of North Vancouver, BC, with Adelaide and John William.

We'd like to thank the staff at Homestead and the Tabor Home for their wonderful care of our mom during the last years of her life and thank the communities of both Westside Church and Morden for being her good home.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service with ash interment at Chapel Cemetery will take place at a later date.







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