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The Winkler Morden Voice

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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Local fire departments have welcomed a new crop of firefighters to the team. For the full story, see Pg. 3.

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Local docs answer your questions about the COVID vaccines

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Doctors Manitoba hosted an online town hall Monday night so Morden-Winkler area residents could get the facts about the COVID-19 vaccination from some familiar and trusted faces.

Joining provincial vaccine lead and Winkler native Dr. Joss Reimer on the virtual stage were family doctors Dr. Don Klassen (Winkler), Dr. Kevin Convery (Morden), and Dr. Kathryn Martin (Morden).

With retired local pastor John Klassen playing host, the doctors spent over an hour fielding questions about the development and efficacy of the vaccines.

"I'm here tonight because I've had a lot of fears and concerns expressed to me from my patients and I'm just hoping to provide some more information to have people make informed decisions for themselves," noted Martin in her opening remarks—a sentiment echoed by the other doctors.

Introductions done, Klassen was asked to weigh in on how well the vaccines work and why doctors recommend them.

"In a nutshell, the three vaccines that have been utilized in Manitoba have all been proven to be very effective," he responded, pointing as evidence to the plummeting case counts in the province's personal care homes



Doctors Manitoba kicked off its weeklong series of virtual town hall events Monday with one featuring doctors from Morden-Winkler.

once residents were able to get fully vaccinated. "Why do we recommend them? We recommend them because they appear to be working and they are keeping people out of hospital, they are keeping people from getting severe illness."

Asked whether the vaccines approved for use in Canada are considered experimental, Convery stressed that they are not.

"They did complete all three stages of clinical trials, which vaccines have to do," he pointed out. "Now, this happened quicker than it would for previous vaccinations and there's lots of reasons for that ..."

Those reasons include the fact the mRNA technology used to create the

vaccines had been in use for years, giving scientists a head start of sorts. A great deal of collaboration around the world and the funding and motivation to get it done quickly but safely also helped speed the process.

"But the extra speed didn't cut any corner in terms of safety," Convery stressed, explaining the "emergency use" orders simply helped cut down on bureaucratic red tape. "They still had to meet all the safety requirements. And since they've been authorized for use there's ongoing studies [on their efficacy and safety]."

Asked how many people contract COVID-19 even after vaccination, Martin noted most of those cases have been found to be in people with only

one dose or less than two weeks after their second dose—the time it takes for the vaccine to take full effect.

Convery fielded a question about the death rate in young people from COVID in comparison to the risks of the vaccine.

"We know, still, for young, healthy people the benefits of getting vaccinated outweigh the risks of getting COVID and developing a seriously complication from the illness," he said, noting recent waves of the pandemic have seen an increasing number of young people getting severely ill. "Some young people have died from COVID ... and so the risk of a serious illness in a younger person is low, but it's not zero."

"If you look at the benefits of the vaccination ... the vaccines have been shown to be exceedingly safe and they offer good protection from ... hospitalization, serious illness, and death."

Convery noted that there have been about 28 million doses of the vaccine administered in Canada thus far and only around 1,500 serious adverse reactions. While blood clots have been reported with the AstraZeneca vaccine, they're still extremely rare, he added.

PROTECTING YOURSELF, OTHERS

Getting vaccinated is about protecting yourself, your loved ones, and your community, Convery observed.

Along those same lines, Reimer pointed out that when you're dealing with a highly communicable virus like this, even one with a high rate of survival for most people, that still translates into a lot of people dying if steps are not taken to slow the spread.

"So maybe you're young and healthy, but you might have a grandparent around you or ... maybe someone you spread it to can spread it to someone else who experiences a re-

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Local fire departments welcome new recruits

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been a long journey for the 2020 recruits to become members of their local fire departments.

There have been pandemic related delays along the way, but the students also just had to push hard through about six months and over 1,000 hours of in-class and practical training to complete their firefighter Level 1 program.

The time and effort was all worth it for Jordan Cameron, Zane Strydom, Jacynn Wolfe, Jeff Guenter and Ryan Addison of Morden as well as Chad Orchard of Miami, Rod Halabicki of Darlingford, and Alex Damphousse of Letellier.

"There's a lot more that goes into it than you think to become a level one firefighter," observed Strydom.

"It's a lot of work, a lot more work than people realize it's going to be," said Guenter. "There's a lot of studying ... it's a volunteer profession, right, but there's a lot of schooling involved, a lot of work involved."

There were some commonalities among the recruits in terms of what attracted them to the role.

"It's always just been something in the back of my mind ... then seeing the guys go out on calls and helping people was the biggest thing for me ... and being able to help the community," said Strydom.

"It's a lot harder than it appears," he said of the training process. "There's a lot of information you have to learn."

"That was the challenge, being able to know what to do at the right time ... and we had good instructors."

It was also memorable when they had their first opportunities to go out on a number of different fire calls.

"The first couple of times, your heart's racing. You don't know what you're expecting, and there's also the adrenaline of being on the fire truck," Strydom said. "That just gets everything going."

"It's always something I wanted to do as a kid," said Wolfe.

"It's been a lot of fun. Our classes were really good. We have a good group of guys, and our instructors were really good," he said in thinking back about the training. "The biggest thing is it was definitely more challenging than I expected it to be, but in a good way."

"First time inside a building with live fire would have been we had a burn outside of town with a house," noted Wolfe, who also recalled being on the scene of a Christmas eve house fire that claimed the lives of two Mordenites. "We were on the sidelines watching and helping out ... that was pretty eye-opening."

"I've contemplated it actually the last two times they've had tryouts," said Guenter, who had a personal mo-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A new crop of firefighters is on the job this summer. They spent the last several months learning through a mix of in-class sessions and training exercises to earn their Level 1 certification.

tivation to finally sign up.

"The thing that made me officially take the leap was a house fire on Mason Crescent that affected a childhood friend of my wife, and seeing

her reaction and how it affected my wife personally was one of the things that really made me decide I want to do this," he explained.

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> FIRE RECRUITS, FROM PG. 3

"What stands out now is you have to come here once a week every week. You meet the guys here, and you realize how supportive everyone is in this house," Guenter said. "Everyone here is very supportive and very encouraging, and I think that just helped push us along the way."

Guenter, like the others, also recalled the impact of experiencing a practise burn at a house south of Morden.

"Being in the smoke and being in the live fire, it just

gives you at least a glimpse of what these guys are doing every time they're going into a building," he said.

Cameron as well had a personal connection that drove him to become a firefighter.

"My dad was a firefighter, so I grew up around it and always had an appreciation for it," he said.

"It's been a challenge ... everything you're learning as you go through the process just feels beneficial ... then it's putting the theory into practice. That's where it all starts to make sense and come together."

"With the broad variety of training we've had, even the things that we haven't necessarily been called to, we've been doing a good job of trying to touch base on it all."

"It's one of those things that had always been a childhood dream," said Addison, who has a brother who is a firefighter and also just had a desire to help

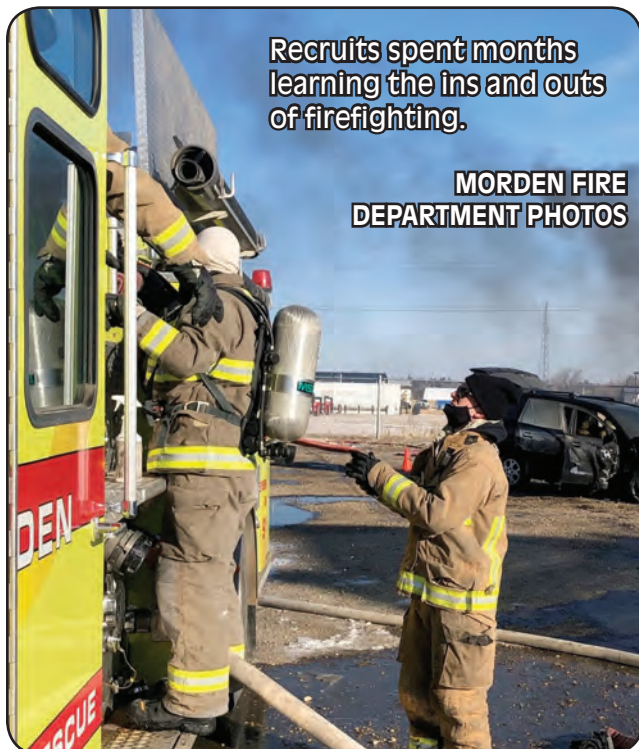
out in the community.

"There's been a lot to learn. It takes a lot of time, but it's going to be well worth it in the end," he continued, adding that a big part of it as well is the camaraderie. "I think we all trust each other here."

Morden Fire Department lead instructor Terry Nelson noted that aspect of it will be a very key part for them now moving forward.

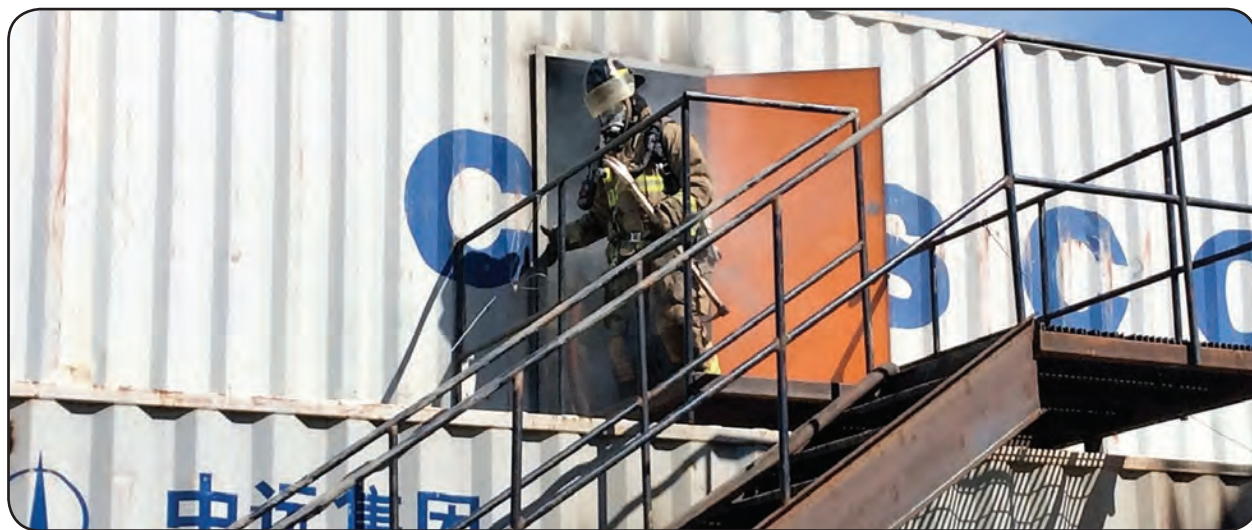
"It's a brotherhood ... when you start, you learn pretty fast that we're all in this together ... same as you want someone to have your back, you learn to have the next guy's back. We go in as a team, work as a team and come out as a team."

"They are a very energetic group. They do everything they're asked to do, no hesitation," he observed. "It didn't take very long for you to feel comfortable with them backing you up, whether it's a practice run or some actual calls ... so we're more than happy to have them here."



Recruits spent months learning the ins and outs of firefighting.

MORDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTOS



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Tabor Home looking forward to better days

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been a year of so many challenges for Tabor Home, but directors, staff, and residents alike have persevered and all look forward to better days.

That was the common sentiment following the Morden personal care facility's annual meeting held remotely last Friday.

When the COVID-19 pandemic was declared March 11, 2020, no one would have imagined that facility would continue to be experiencing the challenges 15 months later in such a profound way, chief executive officer Carolyn Fenny observed.

Every department and every person has been asked to do different things and create new processes, she said, and each and every member of the Tabor Home team has stepped up to the challenge at every opportunity.

"The change is constant; at the same time, there's been a lot of silver linings," Fenny said, citing such examples as the many gifts and greetings that came in from the community as well as the benefits of the increased use of technology.

"All of a sudden, we're really transforming and really changing, and I



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

It was a challenging year for Tabor Home and everyone at the Morden personal care home is looking forward to a return to some measure of normalcy in the months ahead.

think a lot of those changes we hope will last long after the pandemic. I think the way we provide recreation, the way we provide spiritual care and other programming like that is also be in the forefront of quality of life.

"We've seen lots of change in how things are delivered, and we've seen positive benefits to residents in ways that we maybe wouldn't have seen had this not happened."

Tabor Home experienced two COVID-19 outbreaks over the past year,

the most recent one ending June 16, but the impact in both instances was very limited.

"We've been very fortunate ... we've had minimal cases, nothing really blew up," noted board chair Helena Goerz.

Fenny noted how almost every aspect of their operations had to be al-

tered or adjusted, but they were fortunate to be in such a functional new building with many new features that have served them well.

"Staff have been incredibly diligent with their own self screening of their health before coming to work," she added. "We all want to make sure that

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- 1/2 tsp (5 ml) cayenne pepper
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- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried oregano
- 1 tsp (5 ml) brown sugar

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New thrift store opening in Morden this week

By Lorne Stelmach

A new thrift store open for business in Morden this week is aiming to be a blessing to both the local community as well as the faith-based orphanages it is supporting in Mexico.

Hope Thrift Store is a not-for-profit organization that exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet the needs of children and families in Mexico, and to be a transforming influence in their lives.

It is supporting orphanages through Children of Hope, which is a non-profit Christian organization committed to serving by caring for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children in Mexico, but manager Anne Hamm sees it as equally important for them to be supporting Morden and area as well.

"We don't want to just work in Mexico; we want to work right here in Morden too and be a ministry right here as well," Hamm said last week as work continued behind the scenes in getting the store set up.

They have been busy preparing for the better part of two months to get ready to open the doors.

"It was an empty shell when I first got here, so to see it like this now is kind of mind blowing," Hamm said in advance of the planned opening this Tuesday.

"We have been blessed greatly by the community in Morden and the people who have brought us things ... even the conversations we have been able to have along with the donations has shown us exactly that, that there is need here in the community."

The store will be offering a wide array of gently used items for a fraction



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden bargain hunters have a new thrift shop to check out starting this week. Hope Thrift Store manager Anne Hamm is eager to welcome customers through the doors. The store held a ribbon cutting Monday (below)

of the cost of buying new.

"If it fits into somebody's budget ... right now, with everything that's going on in the world, there might be something that we don't even know is a need for some family, so we think it's a good time to have a second thrift store in Morden," Hamm said.

"We know that thrifting is becoming more of a trend in the last few years, and we felt Morden could use another one as well," she said. "We can be a place where people can drop off their items that they feel are still valuable enough to be useful to somebody else."

Hamm also noted that they very much want to complement the other

thrift stores in the Morden-Winkler area.

"We're not in competition with other thrift stores," she stressed. "We want to work with all of the thrift stores. As a matter of fact, the Morden Thrift Store has reached out to us and offered us some things."

"We all communicate ... and all of the thrift stores are doing great things. Our store is just a little different, but everyone has a mission that they want to do," Hamm added. "There's wonderful things coming from all of the thrift stores, so we're not in competition."

"I think we'll be expanding our reach maybe by having more in the area," she further suggested. "Often that's what happens in business, when there's more than one of any one kind of business, it can attract people from

other places.

"I've already had some people stop in from Portage already and Winnipeg, and they're saying, 'There's another one coming to Morden? Perfect. We'll add that into our circuit and go to all the thrift stores.'"

Hope Thrift Store will be open Monday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 900 Thornhill St. (the former Home Hardware building). You can connect with them on social media or by calling 204-822-HOPE.

Anyone is welcome to get involved as a volunteer, Hamm noted, including groups or teams of people.

"We've had great volunteers, but we're still looking for more volunteers to make this successful long term."



Winkler Police make cocaine arrest

By Voice staff

A Winkler man was arrested last week on cocaine trafficking charges.

On Friday, June 18, a Winkler Police officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle believed to be operated by an unlicensed driver.

While interacting with the driver, police noticed him to be using a cellular phone—something the police database confirmed he was on a court undertaking not to be in possession of as he awaits the outcome of several criminal charges.

Police arrested the man for this breach of undertaking and in a subsequent search of his person and vehicle found a quantity of cocaine as well as cash believed to be proceeds of drug trafficking.

The 19-year-old will be charged with possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking, possession of proceeds obtained by crime, and two counts of failing to comply with an undertaking. He will also be charged with driving a vehicle without a licence.

He will appear in Morden Provincial Court in August.

> TOWN HALL, FROM PG. 2

ally severe outcome," she said. "We don't want to see any more of these people in hospital. We don't want to see any more deaths. We don't want it to be you or anyone in your community and that's why we recommend you get vaccinated whether or not you are at a high risk of dying."

Asked whether COVID case numbers are inflated due to faulty testing, Klassen stressed that simply isn't the case.

"Cases are, to my mind and from what I've read, not wildly overstated. In fact, I think they tend to be somewhat understated," he said, noting many people are not getting tested despite showing clear symptoms of the virus.

The doctors also addressed questions about why Ivermectin—an anti-parasitic—isn't being used to treat COVID in Manitoba.

"There are studies ongoing about Ivermectin, including one in Canada," said Martin, noting there have also been small studies or observations in other countries about whether this drug is beneficial, but "to date we haven't seen a lot of robust data and real-world use to ... make sure that it's

safe.

"Realistically, I would be more than happy to see a study that tells me that Ivermectin helps treat COVID and I would be more than happy to start prescribing it once I have that evidence because I would like something else to help us treat this illness," Martin added. But researchers need to first determine whether the drug is effective and safe before it can be approved for use—benchmarks that have not yet been met.

"We do try and be evidence-based in our recommendations," noted Klassen, adding that with Ivermectin the jury is still out.

Asked whether medical professionals are being muzzled against speaking out against vaccines or being paid to promote them, the assembled doctors were clear their opinions are their own based on their medical expertise and that they are not receiving financial compensation for voicing them (including, despite rumours to the contrary, for appearing at the town hall that evening).

"If I appear to be pushing or promoting them [vaccines] it's because I am convinced by the evidence," stressed

"THE DECISION TO GET VACCINATED IS AN IMPORTANT ONE. YOU SHOULD HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION THAT YOU CAN POSSIBLY HAVE TO MAKE THAT DECISION."

Klassen. "And I see it as our way out of the pandemic."

"We actually don't get paid for prescriptions at all," noted Reimer. "We don't get paid for recommending vaccines. In fact, we probably lose money when we give vaccines because we get paid a lot less for a vaccine visit than almost anything else we could do in the clinic."

"So if your doctor has vaccinated you at the clinic, they're doing it at a potential financial loss ... and they're doing it because they believe in it and they want what's best for you."

"I think this vaccination is an amazing opportunity to treat a global pandemic, a virus that has changed our lives so much," said Convery. "So I will promote the vaccination, but I don't push anything on anybody. I will have a discussion about the risks and benefits, but at the end of the day it's up to the individual to make the choice they feel most comfortable with."

"I know there's a lot of information circulating on the internet, in the community at the coffee shops, and lots of

it's scary," Convery acknowledged.

People are urged to speak to their family doctor about any questions or concerns they may have to make sure they're making an informed decision using valid information.

"The decision to get vaccinated is an important one," said Klassen. "You should have all the information that you can possibly have to make that decision, but then you will have to make it."

That decision is also a personal one and if you feel uncomfortable getting vaccinated in such a public place as the local super site, Klassen encourages you to reach out to your local clinic to set up a private appointment.

If you missed it, similar town hall events are scheduled to take place all this week and the videos of them will be available online after the fact.

Details are available at the Doctors Manitoba website ManitobaVaccine.ca, which also includes answers to common vaccine questions.

COVID case counts heading in the right direction

By Lorne Stelmach

The more positive trend in COVID case counts continued at the start of a week.

The daily update Monday also offered the good news that the outbreak at Boundary Trails Health Centre has been declared over.

"It's been us working together all along that's been able to bring down these case numbers and help bring an end to the third wave," said chief provincial public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin. "It continues to be up to Manitobans to take the steps needed to protect each other. Everyone needs to get vaccinated as soon as they become eligible."

An announcement of coming changes in the current public health order were anticipated Wednesday, and the data offered Monday continued to move in the right direction to support a further loosening of restrictions.

There was just one new death of a female in her 80s from the Winnipeg health region linked to the B.1.1.7 variant of concern and to the outbreak at Seven Oaks General Hospital. It brought the total number of deaths in

"IT'S BEEN US WORKING TOGETHER ALL ALONG THAT'S BEEN ABLE TO BRING DOWN THESE CASE NUMBERS .."

people with COVID-19 to 1,125.

The current five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate was eight per cent provincially with 74 new cases, which brought the total number of lab-confirmed cases in Manitoba to 55,405.

The new cases reported Monday included 15 in the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region, and the local active case count included 31 in Winkler, eight in Morden, two in the RM of Stanley, 10 in Lorne/Louise/ Pembina, one each in Roland/Thompson and Grey, three in Morris, 13 in the Altona area, six in Carman, and 45 in Red River South.

The data also showed 2,075 active

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Genocide.

What is genocide? The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum says the following:

"Genocide is an internationally recognized crime where acts are committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. These acts fall into five categories:

- Killing members of the group.
- Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group.
- Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.
- Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.



By Peter Cantelon

- Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

There are a number of other serious, violent crimes that do not fall under the specific definition of genocide. They include crimes against humanity, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and mass killing."

Oxford defines it as: "The deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular race or nation. The term is recorded from the 1940s, in relation to Nazi rule in occupied Europe."

I am thinking about the word because of the news earlier this month of a mass grave containing 215 Indigenous children at a residential school site in British Columbia.

Canada's government has been studiously avoiding using the term in relation to what has occurred and continues to occur to First Nations. The admission of genocide comes with responsibilities that no government up to this day wants to usher in despite increasing calls and evidence supporting its existence.

GENOCIDE.

This is what happened and continues to happen to the Indigenous peoples of Canada. Every single point from the Holocaust museum AND the Oxford dictionary applies to their circumstance past and present. The genocidal structures and systems are

so rooted and endemic to our nation that they actually go shockingly unnoticed by those who have not and are not experiencing it.

From the moment of colonization Indigenous peoples have been killed and injured. They have suffered generational mental harm. There has been deliberate inflictions on the conditions of life calculated to bring about physical and cultural destruction, or, as former deputy superintendent of the Department of Indian Affairs Duncan Campbell Scott once said in relation to an amendment to the Indian Act:

"I want to get rid of the Indian problem. ... Our object is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic, and there is no Indian question, and no Indian department, that is the whole object of this Bill."

Scott, who knowingly ignored a report from Canada's Chief Medical Officer warning of deadly conditions in residential schools that were killing children, changed the Indian Act requiring Indigenous children between the ages of 5-15 to attend them.

There has been forced sterilization of First Nation's women intended to prevent births; and children were and still are forcibly transferred out of the

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• GUEST COMMENTARY

Standing shoulder to shoulder

Manitobans have always demonstrated a tremendous ability to work together in times of looming disaster.

When flood waters are rising, hundreds of volunteers will work passionately and cooperatively to construct a sand bag barrier to protect their fellow Manitobans' homes or communities.

What's especially inspiring is that in times like these they don't worry about political or other differences they may have; the goal is simply to avert a disaster. People of different stripes, different faiths, different team sport team loyalties and numerous other differences will line up together to pass sand bags to each. Building a protective dike is what matters most. We even allow misguided Manito-



By John Klassen

bans who cheer for the Saskatchewan Roughriders to help.

This is what is happening now as Manitobans are uniting to stop the severe damage that will occur if our Manitoba government passes Bill 64. We are standing shoulder to shoulder trying to protect our children and our communities.

While I totally affirm the idea of improving education in our K-12 schools, Bill 64 is not focused on addressing real issues (like poverty, class sizes, numeracy, etc.); rather it is focused on centralizing control. It appears to

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> KLASSEN, FROM PG. 8

be premised on a belief that a small handful of political appointees on Broadway have a better understanding of needs of local schools and communities than people who actually live and work in these communities.

As Manitobans watch the flood waters rise and envision the impending disaster, they are uniting their voices to say "No to Bill 64."

How is the government responding? Education Minister Cliff Cullen calls a news conference on June 14 to tell us that thousands of educators and parents who have concerns about Bill 64 are wrong ("the water isn't rising").

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 8

culture and the hands of parents and family.

I hesitate to say that the history of what has and is occurring to Indigenous people in Canada could not get closer to the various definitions of genocide because I know how terribly creative people can be with their horrors.

It is well beyond the time for Canada's government and people to admit the obvious: genocide has and continues to occur in Canada.

One cannot move to end a thing if one denies that thing's existence in the first place. Institutions complicit in the effort such as churches also need to admit their role and use the word. Genocide.

We must confront this horror so we

He accuses the varying groups coordinating the sand bagging efforts of lying and raising false fears. He says they are "teaming up" in unhealthy ways to stop the Bill (isn't that what caring Manitobans always do when the flood waters are rising?).

Further, he suggests those building sand bag dikes are a "vocal minority." Yet when asked who actually supports Bill 64, he is at a loss for words and unable to name any groups; he suggests that those who aren't watching the water levels rising must/may be in favor of this Bill.

If Minister Cullen is so convinced

can work to heal and end it.

It doesn't matter if you don't think you were involved. It doesn't matter that my grandparents didn't come to Canada until 1910. It doesn't matter that I feel bad. What matters is acknowledging the reality of genocide.

People are worried about the cost of such admissions. People are worried about saddling their children with debt and bankrupting the future.

I can tell you this: I would rather leave my children with a financially bankrupt nation because we had to work to build infrastructure and heal wounds than a morally bankrupt nation because we are afraid of admitting genocide and owning up to the horrors perpetrated on our fellow citizens ... the horrors of genocide.

> COVID-19, FROM PG. 7

cases and 52,205 individuals who have recovered from COVID-19. There were 246 Manitobans hospitalized with COVID-19 in Manitoba and neighbouring provinces including 141 people in hospital with active COVID-19 as well as 90 in hospital who are no longer infectious. There were 73 Manitoba patients receiving intensive care for COVID-19 including 37 people in intensive care units in Manitoba with active COVID-19 as well as 21 people who are no longer infectious but continue to require critical care.

In addition to the 58 ICU patients in Manitoba, another 15 Manitoba patients were in intensive care units

outside the province with 14 in Ontario and one in Alberta. Another 33 patients previously receiving care in an out-of-province ICU have now been returned to Manitoba hospitals.

WSD HEADS BACK TO CLASS

In-person classes resumed in Morden's Western School Division this week after a few weeks of remote learning at the direction of public health officials.

Staff and students were allowed back at the schools on Monday to finish out the school year.

Garden Valley School Division in the Winkler area remains in remote learning.

that it is only a "vocal minority" (his words) that opposes this bill, I challenge him to put his words to the test. Let Manitobans vote "yes" or "no" to Bill 64.

Since I know that the Conservative government will never take this sort of risk, I'll keep showing up on the sand bag line and passing bags. I'll work with members of the NDP (as Cullen is accusing me) if they are beside me (even though I've never voted NDP) and I'll pass bags to PCs because I know many Progressive Conservatives who are as concerned about this bill as I am. I'll pass them to anyone willing to join me in saying "no."

By myself I can't stop the rising waters of Bill 64 that will severely damage the quality of education in Manitoba, but standing shoulder to shoulder with others I'll do what Manitobans always do. We work together, as hard

as we can, to avert potential disaster.

If you wish to join this group, I invite you to see the great resources in the Bill 64 Tool Kit on the GVSD website or see the Manitoba Teachers' Society Tool Kit on their website, or review the Manitoba School Board Association website and click on "Local Voices, Local Choices."

On one level it is surprising to observe how these groups which have been on opposite sides of bargaining tables for many years are uniting against Bill 64. Yet when I think about it, that's what Manitobans always do. When the flood waters are rising, we put aside differences and stand together to avert potential disaster.

John P. Klassen has been a trustee of the Garden Valley School Division board for seven years.

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

Send your letters to us by e-mail at news@winklermordenvoice.ca.



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Poppy Fund benefits Boundary Trails Health Centre

By Lorne Stelmach

Boundary Trails Health Centre is the beneficiary of proceeds from the Poppy Fund through the Morden branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Local Legion representatives pre-

sented a \$4,000 donation last week to Shannon Samatte-Folkett, executive director of the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

"We're really thankful, and we're greatly appreciative of their support," said Samatte-Folkett, who explained

the funds will go towards pulse oximeters, which are small devices placed on fingers to indicate the blood oxygen saturation level of a patient.

The devices will get a lot of use at BTHC in light of the ongoing pandemic.

"COVID has struck our hospital hard in this third wave. We are seeing many COVID positive or COVID suspect patients coming through our doors," noted Lorraine Cassan, BTHC director of health services. "One of the first signs that a patient may be deteriorating with COVID is a change in the oxygen saturation.

"The addition of extra pulse oximeters means that staff will not have to spend as much time tracking down a unit when doing assessments on their

patients," she explained.

"With the increased busyness of the hospital, these saved steps and time will greatly benefit the nurses as well as the patients," Cassan said. "Additional units will also mean that these devices can be assigned to one patient for the duration of their stay, ensuring availability when needed."

"We wanted to help out during this time that is so hard for everyone, and we thought of the hospital to help them," said Legion president Tammy Petkau.

"Our poppy chair and the whole committee worked so hard to sell the poppies, and our community supports us so well. We wanted to in turn give back to our community."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Legion rep Sharon Deveson (left) and president Tammy Petkau (right) presents BTHC Foundation executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett with a \$4,000 donation from the Poppy Fund.

CODE ADAM

"Your prescription will be ready in 20 minutes," said the Walmart pharmacist, and so I had time to kill. I grabbed a cart and started walking the aisle, when out of the children's clothing section marched a young girl, about 9, crying and looking very distressed. I called out to see if everything was ok, but was ignored as she ran off. After raising 8 children there's enough parent left in me to recognize that this was not an emergency, but a little girl who was just denied a clothing item. As I made my way around the store, I noticed this girl intentionally hiding in lower shelves, first near the toys, then hardware, then pillows, then dog food, making her way around the perimeter of the store. It wasn't long before we heard the store intercom making the announcement that every one of us has heard.

CODE ADAM- THERE IS A LITTLE GIRL LOST IN THE STORE. Having noticed her movements, I calculated where she would likely be and sure enough, there she was hiding in a corner. I called to the manager of the store and paused to watch the family reunion in the main aisle. Code Adam originated from a 1981 abduction of Adam Walsh in a Sears store in Florida. This incident began the Missing Children's Safety Program by Walmart in 1994. I never knew that, for our English language incorporates many expressions and short phrases taken from the Bible. I always assumed Code Adam came from the first search for a lost person in the Bible when in Genesis 3:9 God called out "Adam, where are thou?" Adam and Eve, in disobedience to God's one command, had brought about separation from God. God's heart was broken as this curse of sin, now to run down like a polluted river to all future generations, was brought down to all man. The result was 1 Cor 15:22 where it says, "For as in Adam, all Die". That is man's dilemma - Eternal separation from God, but that verse is not ended, for the last half tell us that "even so in Christ, all shall be made alive". Matt 18:11 says that Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost, and we're reminded in 1 John 4:14, "the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." Jesus Christ came to this world to provide the remedy for our inherited sinful nature. His miracles and His gracious life were proof of His divine power and merit, but these were not the solution. Our sin required death, and so He intentionally went to a Roman cross, and there willingly died. As He suffered there, we learn from the Bible that God was punishing Him for our sins. "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Jesus never sinned but took our place to endure the judgment we deserve. He died; He was buried; He rose from the dead. "Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord." This gift is wonderful news, and you can receive it today. **Ron and Nancy Burley** www.sermon4u.com

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> TABOR HOME, FROM PG. 5

we do everything that we can to prevent the spread."

There was also the challenge of volunteer support being restricted due to the pandemic, although volunteers were able to provide limited support in adherence to provincial guidelines. To that end, Fenny noted volunteers were integral to the success of outdoor and later indoor visits last summer.

One of the biggest challenges continues to be around the ongoing visitor restrictions, noted both Fenny and Goerz, who added that it was challenging as a board not even being able to be in the building.

"It really is hard to, in some ways, get a sense of what's happening. You can't talk to residents in the same way, so it's difficult," said Goerz.

"Not being able to see family is a very, very difficult thing for the residents, so having designated family caregivers was a real blessing," she said. "It's hard for them to not be able to see their loved ones.

"For the staff, I really feel for them because there's been so many changes, and they're constant. We do what we think is best at a given point in time, and two days later, it may change ... it constantly feels like you're in a new job."

Despite the many challenges, work of course had to continue on at Tabor Home.

Goerz noted they continue to work on things like standards and accreditation requirements and maintenance issues. The shared garden courtyard was completed with only minor warranty work needed, and

the Aspen Garden was completed in the fall of 2020.

The facility over the year welcomed 26 new residents and has remained at or near 100 resident capacity.

Financially, the facility showed a surplus of just over \$120,000 on an overall budget of over \$8 million.

Fenny expressed her thanks for Tabor Home's supporting churches and the board, which is headed up Goerz as chairperson and also includes Ian Affleck, Larry Falk, Helena Goerz, Carol Worms, Dennis Hoepfner, Vicky Hoepfner, George Wielerr, Hank Hildebrand, and Ron Westfall. The directors represent several local churches and Morden city council.

While restrictions remain, both Goerz and Fenny said they now look forward to not only welcoming designated family caregivers but also family, friends, and volunteers back to Tabor as soon as possible.

"There's obviously lots of work that we're going to have to do to operationalize some of the new changes that are happening, but we're excited that this means we're moving back to the way that things were before," said Fenny.

"My first wish is just that people will have the freedom to use the shared garden and gazebo space at their free will ... that people can just take a deep breath and enjoy those things because that actually was only completed during the pandemic," noted Goerz.

"Otherwise, it's just to get through this and then maybe we can start dreaming after that."

COPP provide local police a helping hand

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Police Service presented the community's Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP) with its annual operating grant last week.

Chief Ryan Hunt handed the \$4,500 cheque over to COPP coordinator Dustin Brown at City Hall last Wednesday.

The money helps the volunteer-run program cover its administrative and equipment costs.

It's a small price to pay for a welcome helping hand, said Hunt.

"Obviously our officers can't be everywhere," he said. "And also, driving around in a marked police car, people notice that so easily, so it's just so beneficial to have citizens that are willing to go out at night and just cruise around the streets and look for crime that we're maybe not seeing."

When they spot suspicious activity, COPP volunteers radio it in to the on-duty officers to respond to—they do not engage with the suspects themselves.

Over the past years they've helped

police foil break-ins, catch mischief-makers, and get drunk drivers off the streets.

That last crime is one of the most common calls police get from the volunteers, Hunt noted.

"Often when they're driving around they'll see drivers that are weaving in their lane or have other reasons to believe that they're impaired and so we'll go and just check it out," he said. "That's a big one, to get impaired drivers off the street."

The past year has been a difficult one for the program, whose volunteers normally go out in pairs to patrol the streets.

"Right now it is a challenge because it's only people from the same households that can go out together," Brown said. "We do have some couples, but it's definitely been a challenge getting people out there compared to other years."

COPP currently has eight active volunteers and while Brown would love to see that number grow, he's holding off on any kind of a recruitment push until restrictions ease.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler Police Chief Ryan Hunt presented Citizens on Patrol coordinator Dustin Brown with the program's annual operating grant last week.

"When people can go out again with their friends or relatives we will definitely be amping up our recruitment efforts," he said, noting "the sky's the limit" when it comes to this program. "The more people there are the more hours we'll get in. The more the merrier."

If the program sounds like something you'd like to get involved with, you can visit the Winkler Chamber of Commerce office in City Hall for an application or head to winklerpolice.ca for more details.

Volunteers must be 18 years old and have a clear criminal record.

For Brown, who has been involved for nearly 20 years, it's a small way of doing his part to protect his friends and neighbours.

"I enjoy being out, driving around the community," he said. "It's just a nice way to give back a little bit to the community as well."

Challenging year for Winkler Senior Centre

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The year that was 2020 brought with it some unique roadblocks for the Winkler Senior Centre (WSC), but they came out of it in pretty good shape, the board reported at its annual general meeting held virtually June 17.

Board chair Peter Wieler was quick to laud WSC's workers for finding ways to adapt to ever-changing pandemic restrictions and stay engaged with members.

"It's been a challenging year for a lot of us and I think the staff and the volunteers came through with flying colours," he said in opening the meeting.

Executive director Nettie Dyck echoed that praise.

"With so many changes this past year, everyone has had to adapt and pitch in wherever they are needed," she said in her report to directors. "Although it's been a very trying year, I am very proud of how our staff has gone above and beyond the call of

duty to ensure that the needs were met."

While in-person programming was on hold for much of the year, the centre found new ways to reach out virtually and also kept busy behind-the-scenes in preparation for the day regular operations can resume.

"As difficult a year as it's been, we still had many successes and milestones that we can be grateful for," Dyck said, pointing to such improvement efforts as a new treadmill in the gym and new computers in the offices as well as the Safe at Home project that saw them deliver activity bags to dozens of local seniors.

The centre's meal program has also thrived and, in fact, grown to meet the needs of the past year.

Increased funding in support specifically of the Cedar Estates program allowed them to expand it to five days a week.

"The staff and the volunteers have stepped up and done a wonderful job of making this happen," said

Dyck, noting the meal requests at the Buhler Active Living Centre also jumped dramatically as restaurants shut down due to COVID and seniors found themselves unable to go out for a hot meal. "With majority of meals being delivered it has stretched our staff and volunteers to the limit to ensure everyone got their meals, which I am so grateful for."

The senior centre currently has 185 members—a number that is down from previous years owing to COVID lockdowns and lack of programming.

"We expected that and we expect to see an increase again in the coming year when programs start up again," Dyck noted.

Financially, the centre saw revenues take a hit as programs, fundraising events, and facility rentals were all postponed and finally cancelled outright for much of 2020.

The hugely popular waffle breakfast and tea room events the year before brought in nearly \$19,000. In contrast, 2020's handful of gatherings brought

in just \$3,400. Floor curling also saw a big revenue dip—from \$3,535 the year before to just \$1,425 in 2020.

These shortfalls would have seen the centre post a deficit of nearly \$11,000 had it not been for nearly \$94,000 in support from other sources, including federal and provincial COVID-19 assistance programs.

"We were extremely grateful for the many local and government grants, operating grants, and special grants that supported our centre in the past year," Dyck said, noting their operating grants from the regional health authority were also expanded.

As a result, WSC ended the year in the black in a big way, with a surplus of over \$83,000 (compared to the \$15,000 surplus of the year before).

Dyck sends her thanks out to the community for their continued support of the centre.

"Thanks to all who supported our fundraisers and made donations throughout the year."

Check out the Winkler Morden Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca

Grieving son calls for care and understanding amidst pandemic

As of press time, COVID-19 has claimed the lives of 22 people in Morden-Winkler. This is one family's story.

By Lorne Stelmach

Above all else, Larry Reimer urges people to act out of compassion and understanding in the face of the pandemic.

Following the death of his father Abe due to COVID-19, the spiritual care co-ordinator at Boundary Trails Health Centre laments the divisive debate around the virus and the further toll that is taking on families and communities.

"I'm trying to promote a message of care and understanding ... we don't build a relationship when we polarize," Reimer said last week.

"How do we operate with grace and truth if we don't have a relationship with people? If you're polarized and you're at odds with people, you already have no beginning point, no starting point.

"How will we navigate after COVID? How are we going to operate in our relationships after COVID? Will we be able to mend these relationships? Will they ever be the same again? Will we be able to have a relationship with someone who has an opposite view?"

Reimer's family has faced a difficult few months that began with his mother having a stroke in early March.

After being treated at BTHC, she then went to Riverview Health Centre in Winnipeg for rehab.

"Upon her return, my dad came down with COVID the day after and went into the hospital," Reimer said.

After a week, Abe's symptoms seemed to stabilize, so he was sent home to recover, opening up a much-needed bed as the hospital coped with the third wave of the virus.

"It was a crisis time in the hospital, so they were trying to do their best to stabilize patients and then send them home once they were confident they could recover at home," recalled Reimer. "He went home, but that recovery did not happen; he struggled and got sicker at home."

Abe had had several bouts of pneumonia over the years that left his lungs compromised.

"When he contracted COVID, I think that just kind of put it over the top and set him on a different course in his health journey," said Reimer.

After being initially sent to St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg as his condition worsened, Abe was then transferred to Thunder Bay on May 25. He died there June 6.

"It was a pretty intense journey for us there for a short period of time," said Reimer.

"I didn't think that my dad was going to go that quickly because he was notorious for bouncing back. I can't even count how many times he's been on death's door, where we've been told he might die, and then he bounces back.

"It wasn't one of those times ... I knew that was happening when I had a phone call with him on Saturday, the last phone call I had with him ... when I talked to him at that moment, I could hardly hear his character in his voice.

"I asked him, 'How are you doing?' and he says, 'The doctor said there's no hope for me,'" Reimer said, noting that the only thing keeping his dad alive at that point was the oxygen he was on—once that was removed, they knew he would pass pretty quickly.

"My dad said in the hospital, he told me, 'Larry, I never thought I would get COVID.' He said, 'I'm going to get the vaccine when I get

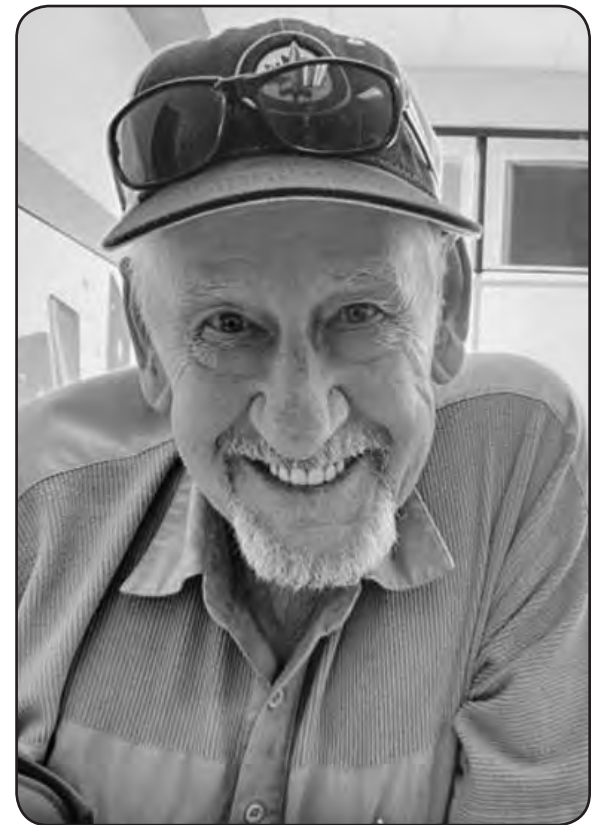
well,'" Reimer recalled.

Describing himself as a wait and see kind of person, Reimer himself has only recently made the decision to get vaccinated, but he stresses it is very much a personal decision and he wishes that would be respected more by people on both sides of the debate.

"When we have these sides, the anti-vaxxer and the pro-vaxxer arguments, the polarization between those two things, it's not productive at all," he suggested. "It's a personal decision to get vaccinated, and we need to respect those decisions and respect the process the person has engaged to come to that conclusion."

Even in light of his father's death, Reimer said he struggled with the decision.

"I'm still on the fence as to whether this is going to be a good decision for me to make to take the vac-



Abe Reimer lost his battle with COVID-19 earlier this month. Reimer was an active community member and a lifelong supporter of the Winkler Flyers junior hockey team. He was 79.

cine," he said.

"But we have no second thought about getting a vaccine if we're going away to do missions," Reimer pointed out, "and I feel like maybe I need to take the vaccine in order to be part of my mission field here."

Ultimately, more understanding releases more grace, Reimer emphasized, in concluding with what he hoped people might take away from his family's story and experience with COVID-19:

"It's really important to have a caring, compassionate mindset and also heart space for people, especially being followers of Jesus," he said. "If I'm to be like Christ, I'm to see all people and to love all people but also in the mix be able to speak truth and also to have grace and mercy for somebody."

"WE DON'T BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WHEN WE POLARIZE. HOW DO WE OPERATE WITH GRACE AND TRUTH IF WE DON'T HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE?"

Take care at rail crossings: CN Police

By Voice staff

CN Police are urging users of mobility devices to take care when crossing railway tracks.

Last year in North America, there were over 3,400 collisions with trains, resulting in over 2,200 serious injuries or fatalities.

Whether you're getting around town in a wheelchair, walker, or scooter, police reminder mobility device users to stick to designated railway crossings

and to keep an eye out for multiple trains—some people struck by trains at crossings are hit not by the first train approaching but by a second train that may be hidden behind the first.

"Safety is a core value at CN and we want to take every opportunity to raise awareness on safe behaviour around rail," said Cst. Michael Reid, a member of the CN Police's Prairie Division.

"It is our job to make sure that the citizens of Manitoba know the risks associated with the use of mobility devices at railway crossings," he continued. "We want everyone to 'Be Rail Smart: Stop. Look. Listen. Live.'"

Here are a few more tips from CN Police on rail crossing safety:

- Only cross railway tracks at designated crossings where the tracks are most level with the ground.

- Cross the tracks at a 90-degree an-

gle, or as close to it as possible.

- If your mobility device is stuck, move to a safe distance away from the tracks.

- Remember that trains are wider than the tracks. They can extend on both sides of the track by as much as one metre, so keep your distance.

For additional safety tips or other information regarding rail safety or CN Police, head to www.cn.ca/en/safety/cn-police-service/

getinformed

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“We’ve really worked to keep clients at the centre of what we’re doing”

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The past year has been one of adaptation for Regional Connections Immigrant Services, its staff and board of directors reported at its annual general meeting earlier this month.

“It’s been a challenging year for everybody,” observed executive director Steve Reynolds at the virtual meeting June 10. “COVID started just before our financial year started on April 1 [2020] and lots of our plans that went into 2020-21 kind of went out the window as soon as the year started and we had to start making adaptation and adjustments immediately.

“The staff have been really fantastic,” he added, sending out thanks to them for being “flexible and willing to change on the fly and learn lots of new things and new ways of doing things.”

While how they did things was affected by ever-changing pandemic restrictions, the why never wavered.

“We’ve really worked throughout to keep clients at the centre of what we’re doing,” Reynolds said, “and just make the changes and adjustments we need to make so that clients can keep getting supported however that worked best for them this year—for some by phone and video conference, some where we were able, under health orders, to still meet with people in person.”

It was a busy year for the agency on a lot of fronts.

For one, it marked the first full year of operations for its new Dauphin site. The facility is the organization’s first foray beyond the Pembina and Red River Valley region.

“That was a shift for us,” Reynolds said, noting the staff at the former Dauphin and Region Immigrant Services proved to be a good fit for

Regional Connections. “Now we’re working not just in a whole new community but in a whole new, to us, region in the Parkland region ... so lots of learning on both sides, but it’s been really positive.”

The Dauphin site was able to move into a new office a few months ago that gives them more space for the various programs they’re now offering the community’s newcomers.

Back in our area, the agency was able to roll out a number of new or expanded programs last fall to better meet the needs, including introducing HIPPY (Home Instruction to Parents of Preschool Youngsters), adding additional Settlement Workers in Schools staff to expand that program into Garden Valley School Division, and launching the Professional Skills Bridging Program.

“These new programs and increased staff capacity have helped us to better meet client and community needs from a more holistic perspective, supporting newcomer parents, families, children and youth, internationally educated professionals, and better facilitating coordination between community stakeholders and partners,” Reynolds noted in his report.

And they’re not done expanding their scope of service yet—at the start of 2021 the agency teamed up with like-minded organizations across the Prairies in the TFW Hub project designed to support seasonal and temporary workers in agriculture and food processing.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Regional Connections expanded its services beyond the Pembina Valley in 2020. In addition to offices in Winkler (above), Morden, and Altona, they now have a presence in Dauphin as well.

“That’s been great. There’s lots of seasonal farm workers in the region who work six days a week and long hours and can’t access normal settlement services,” Reynolds said. “It’s been really good to support those newcomers and the employers during this time, especially during COVID.”

All in all, Reynolds is pleased with what the agency was able to accomplish in spite of the many curve balls sent their way by the pandemic.

“It was a really successful year given the challenges we were dealing with,” he said, thanking staff once again but also the board, community partners, supporters, and volunteers. “We’re continuing to work at building community together.

“Looking ahead to the next year, it’s

a challenging year to look ahead and try to predict what’s coming,” Reynolds reflected. “We’re hopeful for this next year. Hopeful that we’ll see restrictions start to ease soon, that during the next year we’ll be able to be together in person a bit more again with clients and staff and start at least in steps to resume some more normal service delivery.”

Regional Connection has been doing a strategic planning review in recent months, consulting with staff, clients, and the community at large to determine how best it can serve moving forward.

“That’s a process that’s going to carry well into this year to develop a multi-year strategic plan for the organization,” Reynolds said.

“WE’RE CONTINUING TO WORK AT BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER.”

Regional Connections: by the numbers

- Over the past year, the agency was able to provide over 8,000 settlement services to clients. These include one-on-one, family, and group-based programs.
- The top 10 countries of origin for 2020-2021 were: Philippines, Kazakhstan, Germany, Ukraine, Russia, India, Mexico, Paraguay, Syria, and Brazil
- The top 10 languages spoken by clients in 2020-2021 were: Tagalog, Low German, Russian, German, English, Ukrainian, Punjabi, Arabic, Spanish, and Portuguese
- The Settlement Workers in School program, working with the Border Land, Garden Valley, Mountain View,

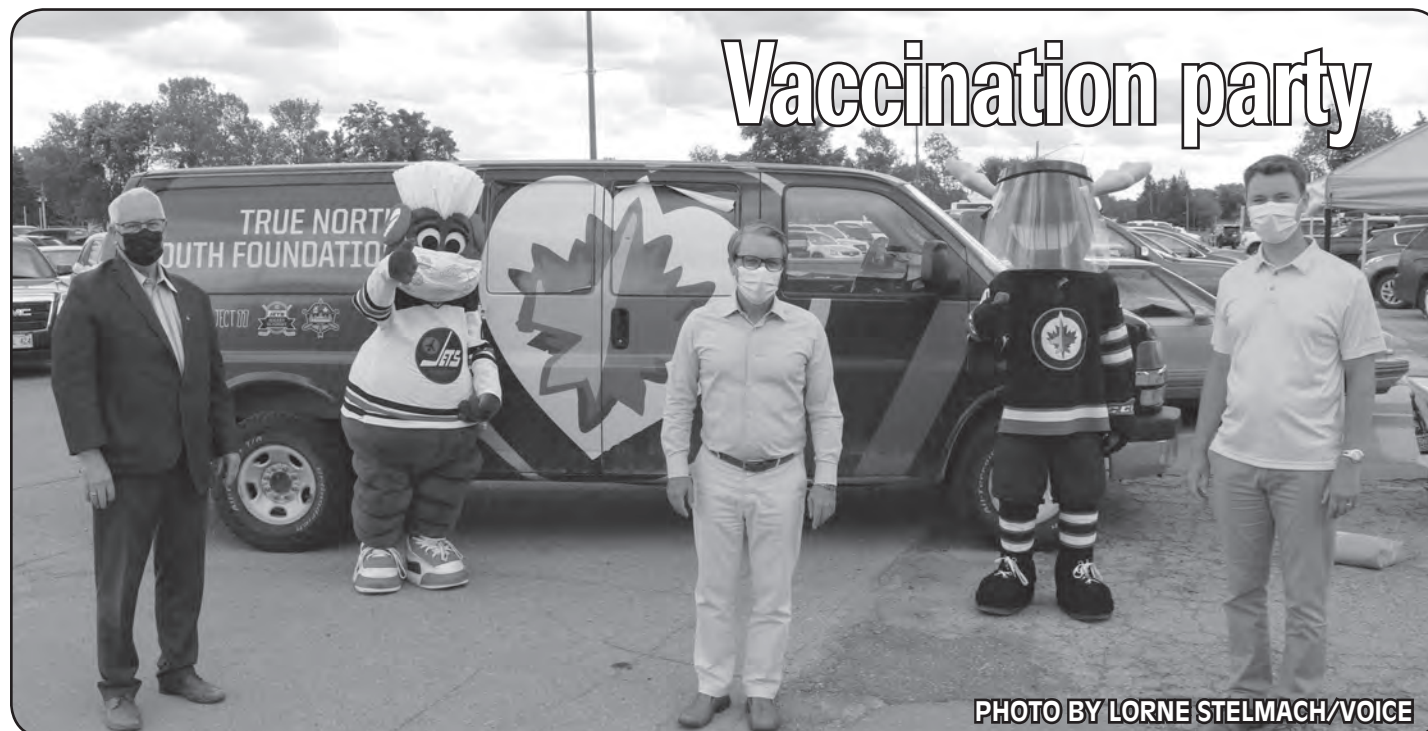
and Western school divisions, provided support to 271 children representing 19 different countries of origin.

- The Professional Skills Bridging project had over 64 internationally educated professional clients registered. Twelve people were participating in the mentorship program and 10 are the process of getting licensed to practice in regulated professions.

- The Language Program had 618 unique clients, including 193 involved in the English at Work program and 121 in the literacy classes.

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True North Sports and Entertainment provided a boost to the Morden vaccination super site Friday with appearances by mascots Bennie and Mick E Moose, seen here with local MLAs Josh Guenter and Cameron Friesen (centre) and Winkler Mayor Martin Harder (far left). There were prize giveaways to the first 150 people and an additional 100 walk-in vaccinations for first doses. Friesen saluted the efforts of the Morden super site, which hit a milestone this past week in having administered over 30,000 doses of vaccine. It also achieved a new daily record last Wednesday with a total of 1,079 shots. People were lined up around the building that day as the site began accomodating walk-ups.

Explore Morden Winkler hopes to see more electric charging stations

By Lorne Stelmach

The local tourism agency is hoping to see the region get on the electric vehicle bandwagon.

At its June board meeting, Explore Morden Winkler expressed its support for developing electric vehicle charging stations in the region as one more way to encourage tourism.

"It can not only strengthen our area but strengthen the position of the whole electric vehicle in general," suggested executive director Shane Neufeld. "I think in the next five to 10 years you'll see a ton of them popping up around here."

Neufeld said the board recognizes that the rapid growth of the electric and hybrid vehicle industry represents not only a positive development for the environment but also for tourism growth as an increasing number of travelers take to the roads in these vehicles. As such, Explore Morden Winkler wants to advocate for the development of electric charging stations within the region.

"This is our small way of saying that if there are local businesses or organizations wanting to implement EV stations, we support and encourage you," said Neufeld. "We are not talking about financial support, but we will do anything that we can in our

power to help them get to where they need to be.

"The number of electric and hybrid car owners continues to grow, and we want to give them another reason to visit our beautiful region. It helps our local economy and demonstrates our leadership."

The province has a long way to go with electric vehicle infrastructure, but the federal government earlier this year announced 31 electric vehicle charging stations would be rolled out in a number of southern Manitoba communities. The plan included eight stations in Winnipeg, four each in Stonewall and Niverville, and one or two chargers in the communities of Matlock, RM of Tache, Pinawa, St-Georges, Ile-des-Chenes, Grande Pointe, Ste. Agathe, St. Adolphe and St. Pierre-Jolys.

The funding partnership between municipalities and the federal government involved \$155,000 from Natural Resources Canada's Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program, with the funding split 50-50 up to a maximum of \$5,000 per charger.

The program is a five-year \$280 million program ending in 2024 and its objective is to address the lack of charging and refuelling stations,—one of the key barriers to ZEV adoption—by increasing the availability of



MANITOBA HYDRO PHOTO

Explore Morden Winkler has expressed its support to bring more charging stations for electric vehicles to the Pembina Valley. Currently, there are very few stations outside of Manitoba's larger urban centres.

localized charging and hydrogen refuelling opportunities.

The federal government overall set a target of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) reaching 10 per cent of light-duty vehicles sales by 2025, 30 per cent by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2040 and invested over \$600 million to help make ZEVs more affordable and in-

frastructure more accessible.

The 2020 fall economic statement announced an additional \$150 million over three years to support more charging and hydrogen refuelling stations across Canada and an additional \$287 million for vehicle purchase incentives.

Survey says: Family Feud is looking for contestants

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Family Feud Canada returns for its third season this fall and your family could be part of the fun.

The Canadian version of the long running American game show has put out a casting call for its upcoming season.

"Part of what makes this show so unique and so special and what really resonates with the audience is the variety of families that we see on the show," says supervising casting producer Donia Aly. "There's so many regions of this country, and along with regional representation there's cultural representation as well."

"So it's really nice to see families from all walks of life come together on this show in the spirit of fun for the chance to win \$30,000. That's what the show is all about."

The show is open to any and all applications from families of five people—that could include immediate, extended, or even chosen family members.

The first step is to head to cbc.ca/familyfeud for full eligibility criteria and details on submitting an application video.

Aly advises you to keep it real in your submission, which should be 3-5 minutes in length.

"Just be your true, authentic self and show us how fun you can be," she says. "Think about how your family would conduct themselves at a family reunion or family game night. That's what we want to see."

Energy and enthusiasm are a big part of being selected, Aly notes. Family Feud Canada receives thousands of applications every year and it's the ones who really make themselves stand out who are selected to be one of the few hundred families who make it to a taping.

Due to pandemic restrictions, there won't be any in-person auditions this year. If your family is chosen to move on to the next round of the applica-

tion process, producers will contact you to book a virtual audition (phone or Zoom), which will include a few questions and a mock game of Family Feud. This means that even families whose members are spread out across the country can still audition together easily.

Pandemic restrictions allowing, Family Feud Canada is planning to begin filming season three in Toronto this fall. Selected families will be flown out to take part.

If you don't make the cut this season, there's still a chance you might in the future.

"We like to tell families who apply

for this season that if you don't hear from us you're still in the running for future seasons," Aly says.

You have nothing to lose from throwing your hat in the ring, she adds.

"Sometimes when you think about applying to be on a game show or on

television it can kind of seem intimidating or maybe out of arm's reach, but we want families to know ... we're looking for real families, real people, and as long as you like to have fun, we want you on the show."

"WE'RE LOOKING FOR REAL FAMILIES, REAL PEOPLE, AND AS LONG AS YOU LIKE TO HAVE FUN, WE WANT YOU ON THE SHOW."

A look back: Building Parkview Gardens

The Winkler Horticulture Society has been beautifying our city for over two decades. This summer we'll be chatting with some of its longtime volunteers about a few of the major projects they've managed to complete in that time, forever changing the landscape of Winkler. First up, Parkview Gardens:

By Ashleigh Viveiros

This is the park that bake sales built.

Bake sales and perennial sales and generous donations from local businesses—all played a role in making Parkview Gardens on Grandeur Ave. a reality as the Winkler Horticulture Society's first major beautification project.

"We had a couple of very good bakers in our group and we put good prices on our goods and they all went," recalls Meg Suderman, who has been with the society since the early years and was one of the garden's project leaders alongside Margaret Penner.

The society had formed a few years earlier in 2000 and after a few smaller flower-planting efforts—including beds at the corner of 15th St. and Grandeur Ave. where the gazebo now sits—they turned their sights to something bigger: the empty patch of grass at the other end of Grandeur across from Winkler Park.

"I just remember it was a field of dandelions and weeds," recalls Penner. Though a bit wider than it is today, the stretch of land wasn't big enough for a new housing development, nor was a playground needed with the park right across the street.

What it was perfect for was something new to Winkler: a winding public walking path surrounded by nature's beauty and a few manmade landmarks—a fountain, a

"IT WAS A FIELD OF DANDELIONS AND WEEDS."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Margaret Penner (left) and Meg Suderman take a stroll through Parkview Gardens—a project they were instrumental in bringing to fruition back when the Winkler Horticulture Society was still finding its feet in the community.

gazebo, a bridge.

"We said let's brainstorm about where we could make something creative and of course our minds ran wild about all the potential of where we could do something," Penner says. "We had no money and we had no experience in doing something like this on a large scale."

After getting the City on board with the idea and offering the adjacent homeowners the chance to extend their backyards before plans were finalized, the society set to work transforming the remaining space.

The design process included the efforts of numerous people—society volunteers, local greenhouse staff, professional landscapers—all contributing their expertise to the project.

Eventually, the current form emerged and volunteers began bringing those drawings to life.

"It was more daunting than anything," observes Suderman when asked what it was like to carve out a new park for the community. "It was overwhelming, honestly."

It was also a bit of a rocky road, especially when the three giant concrete flower planters first went in.

"Those high planters, they're a mistake. A concrete mistake," shares Penner. "They were supposed to be at least a foot lower, if not more. They were supposed to be just a little bit of a concrete planter."

"It happened real quick. They were up there before we even knew it, all three of them. The concrete had been poured and it looked really awful because there was nothing else here yet, just these big empty structures."

"I just thought, oh, how awful they looked," Suderman recalls with a grimace.

It was about then that the community started to wonder if this new horticulture society knew what they were doing.

"I remember having questions about what we were trying to do, especially when those planters turned out the way they did, standing there empty," says Penner. "People just thought here's a bunch of women who don't know what they're doing. They joked about them being hot tubs and I don't know what all else. Nobody liked them."

Continued on page 17

These huge flower planters in Parkview Gardens weren't originally supposed to be quite so big. When they first went in, people joked about them being hot tubs, recalls society president Margaret Penner.



"YOU SPEND WEEKS AND MONTHS ON THIS. IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT."

> PARKVIEW GARDENS,
FROM PG. 16

"But we couldn't do anything about it," adds Suderman. And so they soldiered on, intent to prove naysayers wrong.

Over the course of 2003, following on the heels of the unexpectedly large planters, the garden's other features slowly went in, including other flower beds, and people finally started to get a sense for the society's vision.

The following spring, the first flowers were planted.

"I remember the first time we planted this up," says Suderman. "It

was in June, graduation time, and we were quite late with it.

"The water sprinklers were going and the grads came, carried their partners across the wet, and took pictures while we were planting. They couldn't wait 'till this was finished to take pictures. I thought that was really something."

In the years since, shrubs and decorative trees have gone in, floral schemes fine-tuned, and even a couple decorative art pieces—a wire woman with a watering can and some chickens—installed.

What hasn't changed is the community's love for the space. Countless family, wedding, and graduation photos have been snapped there and it remains a popular walking path through the seasons.

"People have taken thousands of pictures here," says Suderman, adding that each year volunteers not only plant hundreds of flowers in the gardens but spend a great deal of time through the fall and winter planning everything out for the following spring. "You spend weeks and months on this. It

"PEOPLE
HAVE TAKEN
THOUSANDS
OF PICTURES
HERE."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Planting at Parkview Gardens is complete and the Winkler Horticulture Society is eagerly awaiting summer bloom.

just doesn't happen overnight."

Even with all that work, even after the gardens having been part of the community for decades now, Suderman and Penner still get a thrill of excitement when they walk its path.

"Even now, when it hasn't fully grown yet, I can see it emerging," says Penner during a stroll there earlier

this month. "I can see how things are going to grow and look nice together."

Next up, we'll chat with the masterminds behind Bethel Heritage Park. Look for that story in a July edition of the Voice.

Full Gloss
Section Feature

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Church's rain barrels sell like hot cakes



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Pembina Fellowship's rain barrel sale was a huge success, with over 300 barrels sold as the area deals with drought conditions.

By Lorne Stelmach

Rain barrels have become a hot commodity with the region in the midst of a severe drought, and a local church had a strong response to their fundraising effort that offered them in support of a worthwhile cause.

Last Friday was pickup day, and the Pembina Fellowship was pleased to have sold 310 rain barrels overall.

"The response is marvelous," said Earl Dyck, who recalled being uncertain about how many they might be able to move. "I'm the eternal optimist. I asked what's a truckload, and I was told 300 barrels. So I thought, well, we'll sell 300 barrels, just off the top of my head."

"People have just lapped it up," he said, noting a number of organizations have also taken this project on now as well. "There's another group starting now, and they've already sold 200 barrels, so there's a real rush on barrels."

The project became a timely one because of the drought conditions in the region and particularly in Morden, where the city has enacted substantial water conservation measures.

The bonus with the rain barrel sale is that proceeds will go to a very good cause as the funds support Water First, which is a non-profit organization that addresses water challenges

in First Nation communities in Canada.

"It has a close connection with First Nations," explained Dyck.

"They're teaching kids how to take care of water; they're certifying people in taking care of water purification systems ... there's a lot of good spinoffs," he said. "They're teaching kids from kindergarten on about our water, so I'm thinking how critical is that for our survival."

Dyck noted his hope is that new attention to the importance of water conservation will continue even after conditions return more to normal.

"As soon as the crunch is over, we often forget ... I hope that we, as a community, will learn from this," he suggested. "People have been collecting water for a long time. It's not a new invention."

"People are really concerned right now. Our lake is so low ... critically low ... it's so dry," said Dyck. "But the water is there. It doesn't take much to fill up three or four barrels."

RainBarrel.ca reclaims food grade barrels and repurposes them as rain barrels. Partnering with various non-profit organizations, it helps stage truckload fundraisers in communities across Canada with new communities added each week.

More information on Water First can be found online at waterfirst.ngo.

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Economic Development Officer
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Regional library launches summer reading program

By Lorne Stelmach

The South Central Regional Library is prepared for all possibilities as its kicks off the TD Summer Reading Club program for 2021.

It is ready to go with a virtual option with the experience of last year under its belt, but they're also holding out hope to be able to have at least some limited in-person capacity at the branch libraries in Winkler, Morden,

Altona, Manitou, and Miami.

"We got really good at doing things virtually last year, so we're hoping we could run a combination. We'll be doing lots of videos and posting them on our YouTube channel," said Cathy Ching, director of library services, noting that they're also hoping to reopen the branches to the public in July, public health orders allowing.

Continued on page 27



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Your FARM



Grain farmers battling numerous seeding obstacles

By Becca Myskiw

It hasn't been an easy start to the year for the agriculture industry.

Dry, hot, windy weather preceded by lower-than-normal temperatures and a May frost paired with flea beetles have prompted many farmers to reseed their fields. One of those farmers is Curtis McRae.

McRae seeds approximately 1,700 acres stretching between Balmoral and Clandeboye. He grows canola, wheat, soybeans, oats, and corn. McRae purposely waited until May 22 to seed his canola, which was later than usual trying to avoid a repeat of the previous year. McRae reseeded 1,200 acres of the yellow crop last year after losing the battle to flea beetles.

However, in spite of waiting, McRae had to reseed his canola last weekend.

"If we would have had moisture, the crop would've grown faster," he said. "You're trying to outgrow how fast the flea beetles can eat."

Though the flea beetle is very small, large groups of them can be detrimental to canola. Once on the plant, the tiny bugs chew on the seedlings and create a feeding pit. When there's an abundance of them, the canola plant will start to shrivel up and die in the worst-case scenario. Canola yield is reduced most when the plants are damaged during the seedling to second true leaf stage. Once it reaches the three to four leaf stage, the canola plant should be able to withstand damage.

In most cases, the dry conditions left the plants sitting dormant and unable to germinate.

Agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada Justine Cornelsen said the flea beetles and lack of rain were only part of the problem this year. Most of May's overnight lows brought down the soil temperature.

"With canola, survivability is challenging to begin with a small, seeded crop like that," she said. "If you put 10 seeds in ground, the average farm would have six come up, so you're already at a disadvantage that way."

On top of the survivability rate of the plant, there's the flea beetles, the cool soil temperatures, the lack of moisture, and then the lost efficacy of the treatment on the seeds, which needs



PHOTO BY CANOLA COUNCIL

Flea beetles are eating canola crops faster than they can grow with the abnormally cold, dry conditions this spring.

water to activate it. Cornelsen said once the plants finally did emerge in late May, the seed treatment was likely gone, leaving nothing to kill the flea beetles.

Then there was the late frost in early June. When that happens, any moisture in the plant freezes up.

Causing many farmers to have to reseed, she said. Because of this: the optimal plant stand in canola is five

to eight plants per square foot — that gives more likelihood of 100 per cent yield potential.

Once all these factors start killing off plants and stunting growth, farmers start to see only three to four plants per square foot, that full yield potential decreases and they'll have to "babysit" the canola for the rest of the season.

So, they have two choices: reseed or

babysit the crop.

"It's all about how much risk they're willing to take," said Cornelsen. "Do you risk starting over with dry ground, hoping the plants come up?"

Bob Elliot, a farmer from the Stonewall area, decided not to reseed his canola crop this year. It's going slow and it's weak, he said, but he's sure he'd run into the same problems only later with reseeding.

"I thought with the amount of moisture left in the ground and the wind and the other things that are against us, I felt that we should just go with what's left," said Elliot. "It's not a banner crop for sure."

By June 16, Elliot was already seeing flag leaf, which means the plants are tillering out and dying off due to the lack of water. Once those go, so does 30 per cent of his yield.

Most businesses in Canada work on an eight to 15 per cent profit margin. Elliot said this likely won't affect his farm in the grand scheme of things, but not making a profit is always a concern.

McRae said the same thing. He had to reseed 100 acres this year — 1,100 less than last year — and though it's a big improvement from then, it's still an additional cost and it still hurts.



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your FARM



Agriculture, environment, and animal care

By Cam Dahl, General Manager, Manitoba Pork Council

Legislation brought forward by the provincial government has sparked debate about agriculture in Manitoba. The Animal Diseases Amendment Act has drawn comments about environmental impact and animal care.

In the past, farmers produced a little

of everything. A few animals, a bit of grain, produced with minimal inputs. Some nostalgically view this bygone era as the ideal form of agricultural production. However, that was not the case from either an environmental point of view or the experience of the family on the farm. Past production practices depleted soil nutrients and



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Manitoba hog farmers are today's leaders in protecting their animals and the environment.

left the land vulnerable to erosion. Farmers of the past did not have the tools and production practices that allow modern farmers to protect our water. They did not have advanced veterinary treatments to ensure healthy animals. What is another key aspect of Old McDonald's farm that should never be forgotten? The family who lived on it existed in poverty. Old McDonald has retired from farming. We should not invite him back to

work.

Beginning in the last half of the twentieth century, agriculture began to modernize. Today, farmers have transformed agricultural production to keep up with the world demand for safe, high quality food that is produced in an environmentally sustainable way. This can be easily seen on modern hog operations in Manitoba.

Significant progress has been made to improve the environmental footprint of the province's hog sector. For example, current hog production emits 35 percent less greenhouse gasses than 50 years ago. Manure is managed as a valuable plant nutrient, rather than waste to be disposed. Over 85 percent of manure is injected below the soil surface where the nutrients are readily available for crops. Today's pork is produced using 40 percent less water and 33 percent less feed than 50 years ago. Modern operations have the economies of scale to take advantage of emerging research, new technologies, and innovative farming practices to further improve the industry's environmental impact.

The Animal Diseases Amendment Act has generated comments about the humane treatment of animals. Hog producers in Manitoba adhere to strict animal care codes that are a combination of professional stan-



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Continued on page 26

Your FARM



Ducks Unlimited Canada all a-buzz over pollinators

Conservation group celebrates role pollinators play in healthy, sustainable landscapes

By Karli Reimer, Ducks Unlimited

Want to bump up your crop yields? Then consider enhancing the pollination services available to you by adding natural areas on your farm. Research shows that healthy landscapes that host mixed natural areas including wetlands, grasslands, shelterbelts and ditch vegetation all aid in increased biodiversity and safe spaces for pollinators. And more pollinators means increased production of our crops and food.

June 21 was the start of National Pollinator Week, and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is celebrating the role these creatures, and the habitats they depend on, play in our lives. All week they were sharing stories, studies and strategies on how and why we need to direct conservation efforts to help these important species.

"Mixed natural areas, in fact, play a very important role in providing resources to wild pollinators for nesting and foraging, especially when located in cropped landscapes," says DUC re-

search scientist, Jim Devries, who also conducts research on pollinators for the organization. "And these pollinators return the favour. They help increase crop production through increased pollination. Maintaining places for pollinators to reside also benefits other beneficial insects, and biodiversity in general, including habitat for amphibians, mam-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

As part of his pollinator research, DUC research scientist, Jim Devries, installed this bee trap at the edge of a wetland inside a canola field.

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Your FARM



> DUCKS, FROM PG. 25

imals and birds."

Bees and other pollinators have a natural partnership with agriculture, and with crops like canola and soybeans, in particular. Many studies of insect pollination in canola demonstrate increases in yield. These results make a strong case for setting aside areas that benefit pollinators to further maximize

crop production. And when we include mixed natural areas on the landscape, we all benefit from resulting carbon storage, biodiversity, increased soil retention, and water filtration.

"The contribution farmers and ranchers make in providing habitat for pollinators is significant and should be recognized," says Paul Thoroughgood, DUC's agriculture lead. "Natural areas, flowering crops such as canola, and

wetlands all play a role in sustainable agriculture by providing for the needs of pollinators as well as the current and future health of our soil and water."

There are almost 1,000 bee species native to Canada and these tiny creatures significantly benefit from wetlands, grasslands and other natural areas. To support our local pollinators, we can help by increasing the type and variety of flowers available to them.

Providing a pollen- and nectar-rich mix of agricultural legumes is a good step, and that's why DUC started offering a Pollinator Pak seed blend as part of its new Marginal Areas Program on the Prairies.

Explore the conservation programs that aid in pollinator health at ag.ducks.ca or contact your local DUC office to learn about eligible programs options near you.

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> ANIMAL CARE, FROM PG. 24

dards backed-up by regulatory enforcement. Every hog farmer in Manitoba is expected to follow the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs. The Code is a result of a rigorous development process that uses the best science on pig health and welfare, which has been compiled through an independent peer-reviewed process. The Code Development Committee includes independent scientists and representatives from non-governmental organizations involved in animal welfare.

Backing-up the Code of Practice is legislation and regulation, like Manitoba's Animal Care Act. Those who do not provide animals in their care with adequate food and water, and ensure that they are kept in sanitary and safe conditions are subject to fines, or even imprisonment. Offenders can be prohibited from owning animals following conviction. Manitoba's animal welfare regulations are current, effective, and have been used by other jurisdictions as a model to follow.

Animal care in modern hog production does not stop at codes of practice and regulatory enforcement. There is also verification. The Canadian Quality Assurance (CQA) program and its replacement, the Canadian Pork Excellence (CPE) program, are national platforms for producers to demonstrate compliance with food safety, animal care, and traceability. Program registration is required to ship animals to federally inspected processors. Under these programs, animal care is assessed regularly, including an annual visit from a veterinarian.

Modern Manitoba hog farmers are leaders in protecting their animals and the environment. In return they need protection and the pigs under their care need to be protected from foreign animal diseases like African Swine Fever. This protection is lost if people from outside of the farm breach biosecurity. Farm families also need to be protected from those who come onto their property without permission.

This is where The Animal Diseases Amendment Act and its companion bill, The Petty Trespass Amendment and Occupiers Liability Act come into play. These bills are designed to protect livestock and the farm families who are such an important part of rural development and the economic fabric of Manitoba.

The hog sector contributes approximately \$1.7 billion to the provincial economy and provides over 14,000 Manitobans with quality jobs. In the last five years, over \$100 million of private investment has flowed into the province because of the sector. Hog production is a success story that all Manitobans can celebrate and one that should be protected for the future.

getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

PTM keeping busy behind-the-scenes

By Lorne Stelmach

Being closed to the public is not all bad for the Pembina Threshermen's Museum.

Directors of the volunteer-driven pioneer village museum on the highway between Winkler and Morden of course would rather be open by now, but the pandemic-related shutdown has also afforded them extra time to focus on a few projects and maintenance.

"It is a good time to get a few things done," vice-president Howard Thiessen said last week. "We have to be careful though that we don't overspend ... we're trying to not overdo it."

"We have to try to do some planning for the year," he said. "We're optimistic that at some point, it's going to work out, and we still have people who want to come around and want to help us out."

One recent project involved lifting the Reimer House off its base in order to put in a new and more solid foundation for the typical Mennonite log home, which was built in 1878 and moved to the museum from Hochfeld.

It is a fairly substantial project, not-

ed Thiessen, who explained that the bottom layer of logs were rotting and needed to be replaced.

BB Wiebe and Sons were called on to raise the house and temporarily move it aside so that the new floor could be put in place.

"It is kind of time consuming ... we need to have the right people there to do the right thing with it. In order to maintain it, this is important," said Thiessen, who added they also discovered that "not everybody who can build a log house can necessarily repair a log house."

Another project involves doing some repairs to what's known as the Siemens house. The old white house that long stood at the corner of Hwy 14 and PR 428 in Winkler was moved down the road to PTM last December.

Built in 1919 by the Winter family, the two-storey house had been owned by the Siemens family since 1949.

The building is in good shape, considering its age, with the Siemens \ having kept much of the original character intact.

Still, there is some repair and restoration work needed, but Thiessen stressed they are aiming to just keep



PTM PHOTO

PTM's log house was moved from its original foundation this spring so a new, more solid one could be installed. It's one of several improvement projects the museum has on the go while it waits for restrictions to ease enough to allow them to open this summer.

it intact and not change too much if possible.

"We want to try to leave it to look the same as much as we can," he said. "We'll furnish it with antiques then as well at some point."

The home, which got some new roofing this spring, might not be fully ready for this season, but they like how it is fitting in already.

"It's sitting beside the old barn, and they kind of look like they might belong together," said Thiessen. "They're

kind of a nice pair of buildings right there."

The museum is looking forward to the day they can show off everything they have to offer once restrictions ease.

"We're anxious to get something going though," said Thiessen. "We want people to come around and show interest in the place."

Check out their Facebook page for opening day updates.

Get your "Ticket to Ride" at your local branch

From Pg. 18

SCRL participates in the national TD Summer Reading Club as a fun way to keep kids engaged and reading through the summer months.

Children of all ages are encouraged to keep a log of the number of minutes they have spent either reading independently or with an adult.

This year's theme is "Ticket To Read." Registration began at each branch this week.

Families can register online through the SCRL website (scrl.mb.libraries).

coop) or by downloading the READ-Squared app and picking South Central Regional Library as your library.

Families with no internet access can contact their local branch to register.

Ching estimated the program had about 1,300 kids register last year, with about 600 actively participating.

"I think in our highest year, we probably had about 1,900 children ... and some of it can be the theme, how excited they get about the theme," she observed.

They hope their online content can help stir that excitement this summer.

"Last year, at first, we were scram-

bling a bit and thinking, 'Now what do we do?'" Ching recalled.

Now, after months of posting online content, library staff are well-versed at it, as are kids and families in accessing it, though some barriers remain.

"A lot of kids are really comfortable with the online thing now," Ching said. "Unfortunately, there's still some children and municipalities who don't have good internet service, so if we do only bring in those who don't have internet [when they can open], it could at least be something we could offer those people and might fill our capacity."

"We're hoping when we're able to open the doors that kids will be excited about it. The bonus is all the crafts and the activities. Every craft and activity that we do ... they can do it at home, the instructions will be there, they can follow on the video," said Ching.

"We are trying to get them engaged. I think that kids have really been so left behind ... we need to get them back in our libraries," she concluded. "It will be exciting to see what it all looks like when it's fully produced and ready to go."

Thanks for Farming Tour hits the road next month

By Lorne Stelmach

It began last year as a local company's way to show appreciation for the agricultural community in the midst of tough times.

Now, the Thanks For Farming tour started by Thunderstruck Sales and Marketing has split off on its own, so this travelling trade show that is not just about promotion but more so about giving back to the farming communities obviously has resonated and connected with people.

"We had great response and feedback. The farmers really enjoyed it, and the companies that joined us had a lot of success in connecting with farmers ... we got to say thanks to just over 600 farmers across western Canada last summer," said organizer Jeremy Matuszewski.

The first Thanks for Farming tours in 2020 went to 10 communities across three provinces to connect the agriculture community with manufacturers and speakers while also making donations back into those communities.

Those events were on a smaller scale, given the realities of the pan-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The 2020 Thanks for Farming Tour made 10 stops across three provinces. This year organizers have their sights set on visiting Lethbridge, Swift Current, and Brandon.

dem, but the organizers this year are aiming to do a smaller number of larger scale events similar to one they were asked to put on last November in Red Deer when that Alberta community had to cancel its main large trade show.

The plan for this summer is for two-day stops in Lethbridge July 7-8, Swift

Current July 13-14, and Brandon July 28-29, and the hope is it could involve 75-100 exhibitors while working within whatever local restrictions remain in place.

"We're working with all the local public health authorities. We've been granted exemptions for Swift Current and Lethbridge," said Ma-

tuszewski, who noted both of those provinces were planning to lift restrictions before those dates. "We're fully confident we are going to be able to go there. Whatever restrictions and health protocols the government puts out, we're going to follow them."

They had been planning to hold an event in Winkler as well, but it was not possible under the current restrictions.

As for the planned shows, the presentations will cover a wide range from mental health to cover crops and transition planning, among others.

"We're also going to be supporting local charities," Matuszewski added. "It is all designed to just say thank you to farmers."

"We're happy to be able to provide a place where producers and ag businesses can have face-to-face interactions again in a safe environment," he said. "Giving back was a huge focus for the 2020 tours, and the 2021 Thanks for Farming tour will be no different."

Pre-registration is required to attend. Admission is \$20 a day, which includes lunch. Tickets are limited.

For more information, head to www.thanksforfarmingtour.com.

Local projects receive provincial funding

By Lorne Stelmach

Provincial funding is providing a boost to a variety of projects, facilities, and organizations in the region.

The Building Sustainable Communities program has funded nearly 600 projects across the province with almost \$18.3 million over the past two years, and it continued in 2021 with around \$13 million to support 305 community development projects across the province.

The 2021 program expanded by over \$5 million to include support for larger-scale capital projects with a maximum grant contribution of 50 per cent of eligible capital project costs of up to \$300,000 as well as added funding to support pandemic recovery.

The program continues to provide funding for other community projects at the current maximum grant of up to \$75,000, and Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen last week highlighted local projects that had earned support.

"I'm so excited that these amounts are coming back to our communities for some very worthy projects," said Friesen, who noted the expansion of the program overall meant an addi-

tional \$141,000 coming into this riding.

"We know that this program has been very, very successful in addressing local needs, closing the gap for many organizations, especially now during the pandemic when so many groups have faced unprecedented challenges. We're pleased to be helping groups take steps forward to rebuild and to grow strong after the pandemic."

Project funding recipients in the Morden-Winkler constituency include the following:

- City of Morden - Conner Hill park space - \$77,932.
- Pine Ridge Elementary School Par-

ent Advisory Council - playground development - \$25,500.

- Winkler Curling Club - ice plant upgrade - \$75,000.

- City of Morden - Access Event Centre generator - \$60,000.

- City of Morden - parks and urban forestry master plan - \$10,000.

- City of Winkler - Winkler Aquatic Center speed slides - \$63,787.

- Border Valley Snow Goers - warm up shelter - \$16,250.00

Support also comes to a number of projects in this area as part of the Borderland constituency including the following:

- RM. of Stanley - Schanzenfeld secondary plan - \$21,000.

- RM. of Stanley - Stanley Park picnic shelter and washroom facility additions - \$75,000.

- Rosenfeld Good Neighbour Centre - picnic shelter addition - \$9,787.

- Altona Community Action Network - Altona community garden pavilion - \$70,000.

"I am proud to highlight our PC government's investments in local projects that will help build thriving, sustainable communities for everyone's benefit," said Josh Guenter, MLA for Borderland. "These grants will help boost community organizations during these unprecedented times as we begin to rebuild our economy beyond the pandemic."

Stay cool this summer: Cdn. Red Cross

By Voice staff

As the mercury continues to rise, the Canadian Red Cross has some tips for keeping cool this summer.

"Drink plenty of water," says spokesperson Lynn Kolba. "It sounds obvious, but when you are out having fun in the sun for a couple of hours, you

can lose track of how hydrated you are and run into trouble before you know it. And don't forget about Fido! Pets need water and shade as well."

Be prepared, Kolba urges. Before you head out for the day, check weather reports for heat warnings and then slather on sunscreen, as sunburned skin loses the ability to cool itself.

More tips to help you stay safe during hot weather:

- Avoid being outdoors during the middle of the day. Instead, try going out in the early morning or later evening hours when the sun is not as strong. Where possible, try to spend the hottest hours of the day in an air-

Continued on page 29

New ceiling for Coulee's The Centre on Main

By Ashleigh Viveiros

When it's able to throw open its doors to the public once again, visitors to The Centre on Main in Plum Coulee are going to notice a big change in the acoustics of the community centre.

Thanks to a grant from the provincial government, the facility was able to fix a problem that cropped up not long after it opened a few years ago.

"The first big event we had it was so noisy in there that people could hardly talk to each other across the table," recalled board member Brian Derksen.

John Peters from IroSteel happened to be there that day and let organizers know there was a fix to the problem.

"Our place was all done by grants and donations, so we didn't have extra money at that time," Derksen said.

When they received a grant of just over

\$12,000 this past winter (connected to having to be closed due to pandemic restrictions), they knew just how they wanted to spend it.

The new ceiling now in place includes specially designed panels and insulation that dampens sounds.

"We have had no events, but for a month there we were able to put all the chairs six feet apart and we drank coffee in there," Derksen said. "Every time a person walked in they'd say, 'Boy, it's quiet in here.' Which is exactly what we wanted."

"It's just so much better, it's unbelievable. And we can't wait until we have a big event in there to really show it off."

SUPPLIED PHOTO

A grant from the province helped pay for a new acoustic ceiling for The Centre on Main in downtown Plum Coulee, cutting down on excess noise in the facility significantly.



DKSM offering musical theatre camp Aug. 5-13

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Youth with a flair for the dramatic are invited to let it out this summer as part of the Douglas Kuhl School of Music's first-ever Musical Theatre Camp.

Dubbed "Songs in a New World," the camp is slated to run outdoors in the Winkler Parkland Aug. 5-13.

It's open to children and teens age 10 and up who love to sing and dance or who are willing to learn, says DKSM artistic director Rochelle Drudge, who is heading up the camp alongside Winnipegger Janna Larsen.

"The point is having fun with music and putting together a show that works," she says, explaining participants will spend the week learning a variety of songs from popular musicals to perform as a medley show at the end.

With this week-long celebration of

musical theatre, Drudge says they're hoping to give kids something fun to look forward to this summer.

"Mental health and social relationships are central to our well being, and participating in arts (music, dance, etc.) has such a positive effect on our overall health," she notes. "So we're hoping to create an event that is both safe and respectful of where our province is at with the pandemic, while at the same time providing an opportunity for young people in our area that will address their health and well being more broadly."

"Having something fun like this to look forward to and do this summer can make a big difference for kids who have had a very difficult year."

The camp is also a chance to learn from an experienced professional in the world of musical theatre.

Larsen is the founder of the Junior Musical Theatre Company in Winni-

peg and has extensive experience as an artistic director and instructor. She even got her feet wet on Broadway working on *The Lion King* and *Wicked*.

"In my life I've done probably 350 musicals that I've directed," says Larsen. "And I absolutely love it."

So when Drudge invited her to Morden-Winkler—an area she recalls fondly from visits to family here growing up—for this program, she jumped at the chance.

"With COVID I think a lot of artists are looking for inspiration and are dedicated to keeping the arts alive during times like this," she says. "Because so much has been limited this year ... kids are just starving for artistic experiences."

The average day will include everything from musical theatre "Olympics" (highest note, longest held note, dance contests, etc.) to choreography, singing, and drama lessons.

"We'll constantly be moving them around through these different areas," Larsen says. "We're planning to do all of that live, in small groups outside ... but if restrictions get a little tighter we do have ways that some of it could be done virtually and we would figure out how we could still have a performance experience at the end ... we're dedicated that there will be a performance and that the show must go on."

"Part of the arts is using creativity to find your way we're going to keep all the restrictions in mind and still try to create something that is an arts experience that is rewarding."

If this sounds like something your child might be interested in, reach out to Drudge at rochelle.dksm@gmail.com or 204-312-7074.

Registration is \$150 per child, which includes a free mask and a sweatshirt. Financial aid is available.

Participants will be asked to submit a short audition tape showcasing their skills (guidance on creating this tape will be provided). This will be used to help organizers plan the week.

"I hope the kids love the arts and go away from this feeling like they've learned some skills straight from Broadway, that they realize how much is open to them in the arts community locally as well as in Manitoba, and that they're inspired to maybe take some classes in high school or be part of choirs moving forward," Larsen says. "For those of us that are artists, art is what makes life worth living ... it makes your life fuller."

> STAY COOL, FROM PG. 28

conditioned environment.

- Slow down activities that increase your body temperature. Work, exercise, and play in brief periods and take frequent breaks in a cool or shaded area.

- Dress in light, loose clothing. Wear a hat and sunglasses.

Heat-related emergencies include heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Children, the elderly, and those with certain health conditions are particularly susceptible,

but these emergencies can happen to anyone who stays in the summer heat for too long.

Common signs someone is getting overheated include cramps, muscle contractions, moist skin, skin that is redder or paler than usual, nausea, dizziness and weakness, exhaustion, high body temperature, irritability, and rapid, shallow breathing, to name just a few.

"Heat-related emergencies are progressive in nature and can get

rapidly worse without proper treatment," says Kolba. "Anyone demonstrating signs of heat overexposure should be moved to a cool location, given cool water to sip, and cool compresses to apply to the skin. Call 9-1-1 for anyone showing significant signs of distress, losing consciousness or whose symptoms are becoming more severe."

For more information on keeping your summer safe, head to redcross.ca.

Creating accessible spaces for everyone

By Jules Stevenson

La Riviere & Community Recreation Association has made another step towards accessibility by installing an access ramp at the rear door of Blair Morrison Hall.

"We're trying to meet the standards and trying to keep everyone safe by doing so," says Evelyn Janzen, La Riviere & Community Recreation Association board chair.

"We have community members who need it. Always have and probably always will," she says, adding the recreation centre is the hub of the community and needs to be accessible to everyone.

The centre has been actively making accessibility improvements in the community with the help of Mike and Jeannette Pauls Riverside Construction for a number of years.

Prior to the new ramp, they have also installed visual fire/emergency exit lighting, handicap stalls, handrails in the bathrooms. Designated parking, a pick-up/drop-off zone, and proper

signage have also been constructed and installed.

The accessibility project is ongoing—they have four more exits to put ramps into.

"It's one step, or one door at a time," says Janzen, noting progress relies on donations and fundraisers.

Janzen says they started the accessibility project because of a young girl in the community who was paralyzed at the age of three.

"The only way to keep her included with the other kids was to ensure the doors were accessible for her," she says.

Other accessible entrances are the main entrance doors to Blair Morrison Hall, which have a power-operated door, and the front door of the La Riviere & Community Arena, which has a portable ramp.

Janzen says her passion for accessibility also stems from her daughter, who is in a wheelchair.

"In her community, she can only access four stores, out of a community of 5,000," she shares. "We want to make



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Mike Pauls of Mike and Jeannette Pauls Riverside Construction with his quality control guy, Mac, as they complete the finishing touches to the Blair Morrison Hall's new accessibility ramp.

sure we include everybody. Everyone has something to offer to the community and we need to take advantage of that."

The board of directors say the ramps

could not have been completed without the financial assistance of Pembina Manitou Area Foundation and Enbridge.

Keeping safe on the water this fishing season

Enjoy the water with the peace of mind that you are prepared for all eventualities

By Katelyn Boulanger

With fishing season off and running and bringing more people to the water, the Lifesaving Society of Manitoba is reminding residents to make boating safety a priority before they leave the dock.

"One thing that everybody needs to know is they have to check their specific craft because the required safety equipment does vary depending upon the exact type and length of your craft," said Manitoba Lifesaving Society's Water Smart Coordinator Dr. Christopher Love.

Love says that even though you'll need different equipment for a jet ski than you would for a fishing skiff or a yacht there are some basic pieces of safety gear that everyone should be aware of.

"Common things that everybody's going to need is they are going to need an approved life jacket, for each person who is going to be in the boat. By law, you just have to have it, it has to be the appropriate size, and it has to be in the boat when someone is in

the boat. Our recommendation is that they actually need to be wearing that life jacket," said Love.

Lif jackets are the number one thing that he recommends, saying that they should be put on even before you get on the dock and not taken off until after you are safely back on dry land. However, Love notes that one thing that people may not know about life jackets is that they need to be either Transport Canada approved, or Canada Coast Guard approved. That means that you purchased a life jacket on a trip to the U.S., prior to COVID, that jacket might not meet Canadian standards.

Another item that is required on many crafts is a sound signaling device such as an air horn or a whistle. These can be used to avoid collisions when you are in reduced visibility but also helps if you fall overboard—your voice will eventually give out but a whistle can make noise for much longer.

"We recommend with those two things that I've already mentioned, the life jackets and the sound sig-

naling device, you actually combine those, you put a whistle on every single life jacket that's in your boat so that when somebody is wearing [their life jacket], they automatically have the sound signaling device on them," said Love.

Some other common items that you will need are a heaving line, which is essentially a rope that floats and can be used for rescues, an anchor, a manual propelling device like paddles, a fire extinguisher if you are cooking or have a fire hazard on the boat and lights if you operate outside of daylight hours.

For larger crafts a reboarding device may also be necessary and should you be taking your boat on a larger body of water where you may not be able to see land at all times, a radar reflector could be necessary.

"A radar reflector is essentially a device that you affix to the highest point of your craft or you affix to a pole so that it gets some height above your craft and it's to make you visible to other crafts that are using radar as part of their navigation methods. It's also used if you are ever reported missing, and search and rescue are out looking for you," said Love.

Some things that may not be required but that he recommends you

consider when taking the boat out are a toolkit of basic mechanical repair supplies and a basic first aid kit.

"I've heard plenty of stories of incidents where fish hooks have gone in the wrong direction or into the wrong place. I've heard stories about fillet knives on a rocking boat. I've heard stories simply. I mean some of the fish that we have in Manitoba, they bite or they've got really rough scales and so having those basic first aid supplies—you don't have to have the world—but having some basic antiseptic, some band-aids a little bit of gauze that can be a big difference between dealing with something easily and immediately or it becoming worse."

Love also suggests, especially at this time of year, to prepare for changing weather conditions. It may be colder on the water than it is on the shore and water temperatures at this time of year are still very cold as the water hasn't had time to heat up yet.

Additionally, let someone know where you are going and when you plan to get back, just in case.

COVID-19, of course, also comes into play this year as you need to adhere to provincial safety regulations even if you are out on the water.

Continued on page 31

Homebound seniors connect with new app

By Nicole Brownlee

A B.C.-based app is offering convenient entertainment and helpful services for seniors with an age-friendly design.

Co-founder Barry Jones launched Stayhome-living in January after recognizing the harsh impact COVID-19 restrictions had on seniors' social lives.

"For most people our age, it's doable but very inconvenient. For the seniors, it was a much harder experience for them," he said.

Seniors rely on social circles to stay engaged and connected with their community, Jones said. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, they're becoming isolated.

"Many of us have the luxury of having to work from home and keep connections up through technology," he said. "I saw this firsthand through my parents in their late 80s, very social people. Suddenly all of their social angles, their weekly get-togethers for potluck dinners, cocktail parties... all of that just fell away dramatically."

Jones wanted to create a free resource for seniors to help them regain some connection to their

friends and family. With the help of his business partner Carolyn Glazier, and Glazier's father Tom, the team built the Stayhome app last summer.

"We did a survey of about 150 seniors in the community and sort of asked them what they would like and what they would find useful in it, and it sort of grew organically from those roots," said Jones.

The app looks like a house. Portals for entertainment, healthcare services, local resources, and social media apps are located in windows and doors.

Videos walk the user through setting up the app, like joining their Facebook or email to the "connect" page or showing users how to book a medical appointment online.

"People have really enjoyed [the instructional videos] ... they can ask 10 times and they're not embarrassed, and nobody's losing their patience if they have to pause it and go back and watch again," said Glazier.

As users become proficient with the app, they can access different features like playing online games, ordering food from delivery service, and arranging transportation depending on their region.

"It's just a wonderful mentality that this age group has," said Jones. "They have a 'give it a go' mentality,

"YOU SEE AND HEAR OF NEW APPS BEING LAUNCHED, BUT REALLY NONE OF THEM HAVE SENIORS IN MIND."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Barry Jones said he wanted to create an app that would help seniors like his parents reconnect with their friends and family during the COVID-19 pandemic.

and it's refreshing."

First launched in Surrey, B.C., the team hopes to expand its reach across Canada and continue adding new services to the app.

"You see and hear of new apps being launched, but really none of them have seniors in mind," said Jones.

To learn more about the free app and access instructional videos on how to install it, visit www.stayhome-living.com/.

Take tick bites seriously

By Jules Stevenson

"The pain at times was so severe that I understood compassionate death. The pain was so bad and there was no diagnosis. I actually prayed for death," said Joni Einarson on her battle with anaplasmosis, a disease she got from a tick bite.

Up until 2013, Einarson lived a normal, healthy, and happy life. She was in very good shape—she went to the gym five days a week and worked in her yard often.

Then Einarson began feeling tired and lethargic and developed pain in her neck. She went to see a doctor and was prescribed antibiotics, but the symptoms persisted.

"I couldn't even walk from one side of my house to the other. I literally had to lay down on the ground," she said. Some of Einarson's symptoms included inflammation in the back of her throat, severe pain in her legs, and lethargy.

"Any kind of tick born disease that becomes chronic, you will have that for the rest of your life. There is no cure for it," says Einarson.

Einarson says she's doing much better now but is still dealing with the long-term effects.

"I'm still tired, I still have difficulties,

"I'M STILL TIRED, I STILL HAVE DIFFICULTIES, AND I CAN'T DO WHAT I USED TO DO."

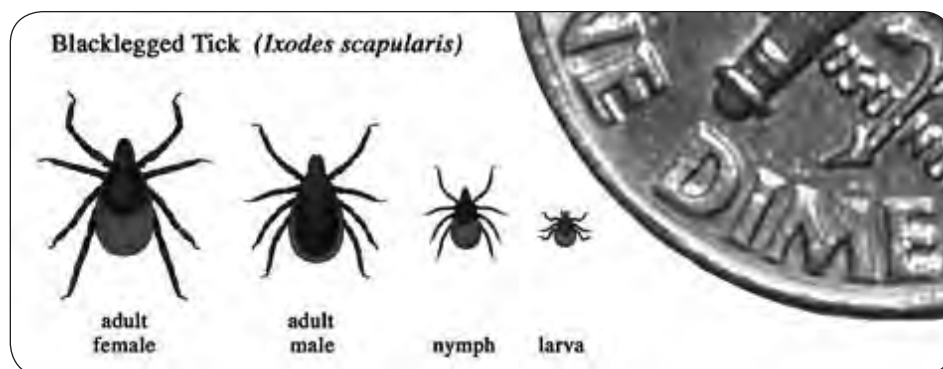
and I can't do what I used to do," she says.

According to Manitoba Public Health, blacklegged ticks can carry anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Lyme disease.

Sarah Cormode, a consultant with the Canadian Lyme Disease Association and host of the podcast *Looking for Lyme*, says it's important to remove ticks properly with fine tipped tweezers to try and get the entire tick so it can be sent in for testing. When first bit by a deer tick, Cormode says seeking antibiotics is the best course of action.

Cormode recommends having a tick removal kit nearby, especially when working outdoors. Tick removal kits can be found at stores like CanLyme and Canadian Safety Supplies.

She says it's hard to test for Lyme disease in people, but if the tick is col-



SUPPLIED IMAGE

Blacklegged ticks have the ability to transmit diseases to humans.

lected and sent to the private lab Geneticks, it can be tested for Lyme and other diseases.

"A tick is pretty small. It can't jump, it can't fly. It can only get on your body by crawling so it'll either start at the top or the bottom and crawl until it finds someplace warm," says Cormode. She recommends wearing long

clothing and tucking pants into socks to help stop them.

"Ticks are most likely going to be in those hot places like your head, armpits, groin, in the back of your knee," says Cormode. She says to check not only yourself, but also your pets and children for ticks.

> WATER SAFETY, FROM PG. 30

Also, as always you will require your craft operator card and boat license.

"By doing this planning ahead, by preparing ahead, you can avoid a whole lot of problems and you can have a really, really enjoyable time out on the water," said Love.

Love recommends anyone wanting to head out whether it be on the

lake or the river check out the Canadian Safe Boating Council's Boat Notes App, which breaks down all the items that you need for your particular boating situation.

You can also get additional information on the Manitoba Lifesaving Society's website at lifesaving.mb.ca or the Canadian Safe Boating Council's website at csbc.ca.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Local skaters make the cut for provincial teams

By Lorne Stelmach

Seven local skaters have earned places on provincial teams.

The Morden Figure Skating Club celebrated the achievements of these skaters on its Facebook page recently, and coach Pam Parker noted it is a huge honour for these members to have their commitment recognized in this way.

"Being a smaller rural club with limitations on ice time and training time, in comparison to larger centers, we are thrilled to have skaters selected to represent us," she said.

Pre-novice skater Alison Convery was named to Manitoba's High Performance Team, while juvenile skater Jessica Kagan and novice skater Sarah Kagan were named to the Six Gold Team.

As well, four skaters earned spots on the Development Team: juvenile skaters Molly Cowan and Gabrielle Hildebrand, pre-novice Ky-Lynn Jenner, and novice Olivia Sawatzky.

The Skate Manitoba provincial team structure has four levels including the Junior Development, Six Gold, Development, and High Performance teams.

At the High Performance level, the skaters are striving to achieve podium results at Skate Canada qualifying events which lead to national events.

Skaters from the pre-novice to senior levels must

apply to be a part of this team and had to send in report cards and videos meeting the criteria for their respective level to be selected.

Amidst the pandemic restrictions, these skaters connect through monthly virtual sessions with clinicians from across Canada, and they qualify for an out of province travel subsidy.

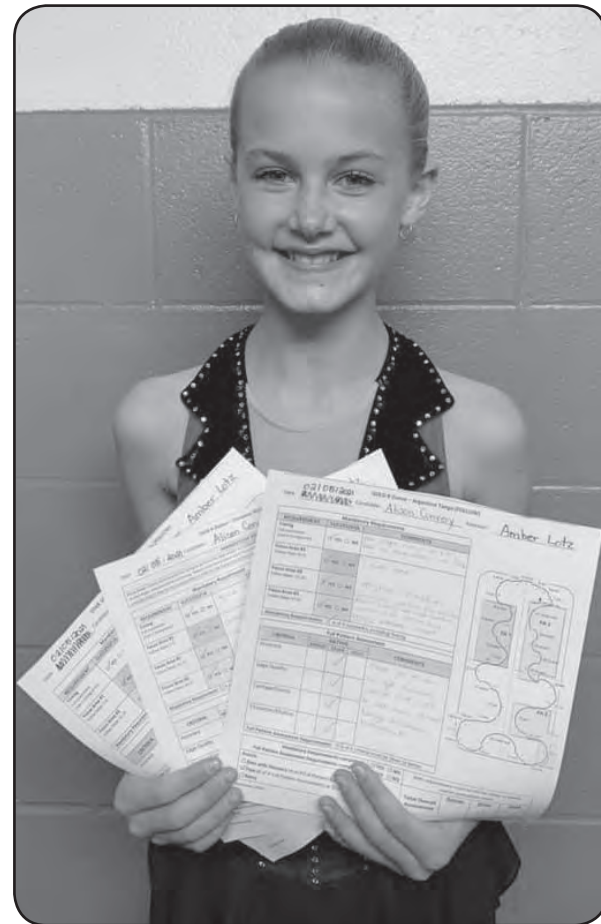
There is also a high performance camp day where the skaters get virtual competition training assistance, attend a high performance simulation competition in preparation for their competitive season, and they get to work closely and are monitored by Skate Manitoba to make sure they are meeting requirements of the team.

Parker said the skaters can gain a lot from being involved at the provincial level.

"It gives them more exposure in the skating world and allows them to interact with and see what other

Continued on page 33

MORDEN FIGURE SKATING CLUB PHOTO
Morden Figure Skating Club member Alison Convery, seen here after having achieved her certificates for gold dances and Star 10 freeskate elements, recently earned another honour in being named to the Skate Manitoba high performance team as a pre-novice.



Morden-Winkler swimming lesson, summer camp registration begins

By Voice staff

There's still a lot of uncertainty about the months ahead, but the Morden-Winkler recreation departments are moving forward with registration for several programs they hope to hold this summer.

Registration has opened for both swimming lessons at Lake Minnewasta and several Morden summer day camps.

"We are optimistically planning for swimming lessons and will be processing registrations. Full refunds will be offered if the program is cancelled due to public health restrictions or algae advisories," the rec. department noted.

Sessions are planned for July 5-16, July 19-30 and Aug. 2-6.

The day camps—which range in theme from sports to crafts to science—are scheduled to take place weekly starting July 5 and running

until Aug. 20.

Registration information for all these programs is available online at www.mymorden.ca/recreation or call 204-822-5431 ext. 210.

Meanwhile, the Winkler Aquatic Centre has announced its intention to open for the season on Friday, July 2,

public health orders allowing.

Swimming lesson registration is slated for June 29 for Winkler and RM of Stanley residents and June 30 for the general public.

There will be no preschool lessons this year. Various other lesson levels will run in weekly group and one-on-

one sessions starting July 5 until the start of September. There are also several leadership courses scheduled for those who wish to become lifeguards or water safety instructors.

You can register online at cityofwinkler.ca or by calling 204-325-8212 ext. 1 or 204-325-8333 ext. 1.

Flyers to face Terriers in home opener

By Voice staff

When the Winkler Flyers return to the local ice this fall after a lengthy time away it will be to face the Portage Terriers.

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League team has announced that its home opener is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Win-

kler Centennial Arena.

The league is planning for a return to two divisions for the 2021-2022 season, featuring an West and East division with six members teams in each.

Winkler, playing in the East division, will play 40 games against Portage, Selkirk, Steinbach, and the Winnipeg Blues and Freeze. They'll

play 14 games against West division teams Dauphin, Neepawa, OCN, Swan Valley, Waywayseecappo, and Virden.

The season will begin with 10 weeks of home-and-home divisional play followed by six weeks of non-divisional matchups before moving to a more traditional schedule format in January.

2021 Manitoba's Credit Unions Scholar Athlete Awards presented

Schools nominated their top athletes

By Voice staff

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association, with support from Manitoba's Credit Unions, announced the recipients of the 2020-21 Manitoba's Credit Unions Scholar Athlete Awards.

These \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to four graduating high school student athletes who maintained a minimum 85 per cent average and competed in at least two interscholastic sports.

Other criteria included school, community involvement, volunteer, and citizenship activities.

The four winners included the Selkirk Royals' Annika Goodbrandson, Lindsey Gundrum of Prairie Mountain High School, Luke Janzen of Linden Christian School, and Paige Wright of Warren Collegiate Institute.

In this COVID-19 pandemic year, recognizing the extenuating hardships students have had to overcome, and in their continued support of student athletes across our province, this year Manitoba's Credit Unions will also award an additional \$400 scholarship to each nominee.

The 41 students nominated this year included:

Halle Meisner – Ashern Central School

Martina Barclay – École Secondaire Kelvin High School

Rachel Bartel – Linden Christian School

Gianna Bergsma – Dufferin Christian School

Halayna Boden – Major Pratt School

Lane Bond – Warren Collegiate Institute

Chloe Capan – Grant Park High School

Cameryn Carlos – Fort Richmond Collegiate

Owen Cassie – Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate

Reid Cook – Major Pratt School

Trent Crane – Northlands Parkway Collegiate

Jaylyn Deurbrouck – Elm Creek School

Karly Edel – Morris School

Jarvis Ewasko – École Edward Schreyer School

Annika Goodbrandson – Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School

Lindsey Gundrum – Prairie Mountain High School

Aaron Herrera – Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute

Ryan Imperial – St. John's High School

Luke Janzen – Linden Christian School

Cailyne Jeppesen – École Secondaire



Trent Crane from Northlands Parkway Collegiate and Jaylyn Deurbrouck from Elm Creek School were among the nominees.

Oak Park High School

Jayden Jewar – Rivers Collegiate

Darwin Klostermaier-Starkewski – St. John's Ravenscourt

Kyla McDonald – Cartwright School

Kara McMillan – Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate

Kenn Mendoza – Sisler High School

Faye Murray – St. Mary's Academy

David Nelson – Westgate Mennonite Collegiate

Bryce Neustater – Morris School

Brooklyn Olfert – Dakota Collegiate

Paisley Poirier – Lac du Bonnet Senior School

Karina Reimer – Calvin Christian School

Jaxon Rose – Dakota Collegiate

Erica Schroeder – MacGregor Collegiate Institute

Kate Sigurdson – Collège Béliveau

Avery Stubbings – St. Paul's High School

Erin Sutherland – Westgate Mennonite Collegiate

Brady Van Den Bussche – Treherne Collegiate

Nathan Voogt – Dufferin Christian School

Emma Winram – École Edward Schreyer School

Paige Wright – Warren Collegiate

Binyam Zerihun – Vincent Massey High School

> SKATERS, FROM PG. 32

skaters are doing in the province, which can be a great motivator. The team also allows them to be experience different coaching techniques and ideas for training through the virtual seminars they can attend," she said.

"Additionally, I feel it will hold them accountable to their training, as they need to keep meeting the requirements to be able to hold their spot on their respective teams. Once in the team structure skaters can also move up to a higher tier within the season, which is a great incentive to keep improving."

Parker also noted that COVID has helped them in some ways including that the strength,

conditioning and dance has been accessible through the Rink Training Center in Winnipeg through a virtual platform.

"It's allowing the skaters to have the opportunity to train in the comfort of their own home without added travel time," she noted. "Not only are these skaters putting in time on the ice, but they are spending additional time doing strength and flexibility training off the ice as well as some dance classes.

"As a club, we are very proud of our skaters and the dedication they are showing. It takes a lot of time, hard work and perseverance to be a competitive skater," Parker concluded.

CWE postpones Manitoba matches

By Voice staff

Canadian Wrestling Elite has announced it is pushing its Manitoba tour stops back to September.

While the wrestling troupe is hitting the road in Saskatchewan and Alberta next month, the stops planned for Winnipeg, Morden, and

Gladstone have had to be rescheduled due to ongoing pandemic restrictions.

CWE is now planning to host matches in Winnipeg Sept. 3, Morden Sept. 4, and Gladstone Sept. 5.

For more information on these events as it becomes available head online to cwecanada.ca

"BEING A SMALLER RURAL CLUB ... WE ARE THRILLED TO HAVE SKATERS SELECTED TO REPRESENT US."

What's *your* story?

We want to hear from you.

The Winkler Morden Voice connects people through stories to build stronger communities.

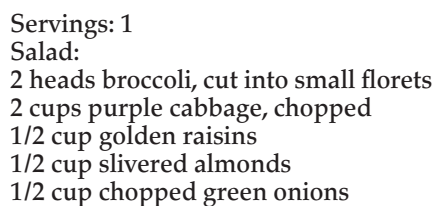
Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service?

A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday?

A young entrepreneur starting out?

Please share your story ideas at news@winklermordenvoice.ca Phone 204-332-3456

The Winkler Morden Voice

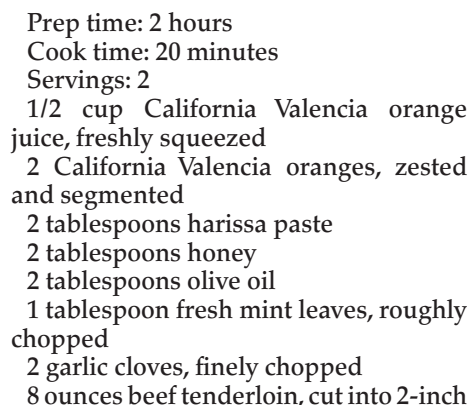


Miso Orange Dressing:
 1 cup Florida Orange Juice
 2 tablespoons canola oil
 2 tablespoons miso
 2 tablespoons almond butter
 1 shallot

To make salad: In bowl, toss broccoli, cabbage, raisins, almonds and green onions.

To make miso orange dressing: In food processor or blender, pulse orange juice, canola oil, miso, almond butter and shallot until smooth.

Pour dressing over salad, tossing to coat. Serve immediately or chill in refrigerator.



cubes

- 1 green bell pepper, cut into 2-inch squares
- 1 red onion, cut into 2-inch squares
- 16 broccoli florets, raw
- kosher salt, to taste
- black pepper, to taste
- cooked couscous
- mandarin chutney

In mixing bowl, combine orange juice and zest, harissa, honey, oil, mint and garlic; mix well.

Add beef cubes and toss to coat; marinate 2 hours in refrigerator.

Using long skewers, build kebabs, alternating beef, peppers, onions and broccoli on each.

Heat grill to medium-high heat.

Season kebabs with salt and pepper, to taste. Grill until vegetables are cooked through and beef reaches desired doneness.

Serve over bed of couscous and top with mandarin chutney.

take *a break*
> GAMES

4	7		9			2		
	2			6		5	4	
5						8		3
				3				1
	8		6	2		9		
7	3	9					1	
					1		7	
		2		8				

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	7	8	9	1	5	2	3	6
3	5	6	4	7	2	1	8	9
9	2	1	8	6	3	5	4	7
5	6	7	1	4	9	8	2	3
2	9	4	5	3	8	7	6	1
1	8	3	6	2	7	9	5	4
7	3	9	2	5	6	4	1	8
8	4	5	3	9	1	6	7	2
6	1	2	7	8	4	3	9	5

[illegible]

Crossword Answer

X **CROSSWORD**

1. College group
5. Small morsels of food
11. Actress Dunham
12. Puts a limit on
16. Used for baking or drying
17. Commercial
18. Zookeeper Bindi
19. Walk in one's sleep
24. The Great Lakes State
25. Winter sport
26. A thin layer on something
27. Peacock network
28. Give birth to a lamb or kid
29. "Too Scared to Cry" author
30. Nose
31. Friend
33. Country music legend
Haggard

1. Excessively showy
2. Put an end to
3. Blood disorder
4. Ingredient in wine

[illegible]

5. Shellfish
6. Made smaller
7. We
8. The Treasure State
9. ___ Ekland, actress
10. Male parent
13. One hundredth of a watt
(abbr.)
14. Dish of minced meat
15. Smothered laugh
20. Article
21. Atomic #12
22. Small parrot
23. Fictional "Star Wars" planet
27. French wine grape
29. Football stat (abbr.)
30. Sound unit
31. Where you sleep
32. University of Dayton
33. Miller beer offering
34. Feel embarrassed

35. Able to be estimated
36. Commune in NW France
37. Adult female chicken
38. Intergovernmental organization
40. Archaic term for until
41. That which is not sacred
42. Sound made in speech
44. Handgun (slang)
45. Fill up again
46. Evoke or awaken
47. Beam Me Up, __!
48. Spider wasp genus
50. Headdress
51. Exclamation of surprise
52. Of I
54. Figures
55. Men's fashion accessories
57. Indicates position
61. Megabyte
62. The Prairie State

Carman Bakery & Pastry Shop's secret ingredient is love

By Becca Myskiw

Breads, buns, and tarts, oh my! An experience like none other sits in the centre of Carman, producing mouth-watering goodness day in and day out—it's the Carman Bakery & Pastry Shop.

It was 2005 when Simon and Audrey Riedstra took over the business. They met years before when Simon was working on a dairy farm in the area, but it was soon time for him to go back home to the Netherlands. Audrey moved overseas a few years later and married Simon before having four kids.

The couple lived there for a while, coming back to Carman every few years to visit Audrey's family. However, on their trip home in 2005, the bakery that then sat at 8 1st Ave SW was up for sale.

"We took a look at it and ended up putting in an offer before we left," said Audrey. "That wasn't the plan."

But it turned into quite the adventure. That little shop now known as Crazy Lady's Cafeteria was the bakery's home for a number of years. They first purchased the store next to it and added a European grocery store, then purchased the bakeries in Treherne and Pilot Mound, respectively and spent a while supplying product to the bakery in Morris.

After Audrey's parents (also their delivery drivers) passed away, they decided it was too much for the few hands they had. So, they let go of the Treherne and Pilot Mound businesses and in 2009, they bought the building they're currently in at 59A Main Street South, adding an addition a few years later.

For years, they baked and sold product out of that building while still delivering to larger businesses around them. But after COVID-19 hit, they decided to close the store to the public and baked only for their suppliers. But after being closed for a little over a year, the couple opened their doors to the public once again and as of May 19, they have been taking orders for curbside pickup three days a week.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons, the bakery will be selling their goods to the community at wholesale prices. Simon said that's 40 per cent less than buying it in store.

The team of just six, is at the shop baking by 8:30 a.m. daily. They mix the bread ingredients, divide the dough, let it rest, roll it out, proof it, bake it, cool it, and pack

it. Two people. Rolling, two people packing, and Simon and Audrey doing everything in between.

Their most popular product is perhaps their sweet cinnamon bread. It tells the story of the one-of-a-kind sweet and tasty creation on the back of the bag—Simon's parent's owned a bakery in the



Simon, left, and Audrey Riedstra own the Carman Bakery & Pastry Shop.

PHOTOS BY BECCA MYSKIW/VOICE

Netherlands and that is where it started.

"With meticulous care and hard work, he created delicious loaves of his traditional cinnamon bread," it says. "Following an ambitious dream to keep the family tradition alive, we are continuing on with his legacy."

Every loaf of the sweet cinnamon bread is crafted by Audrey and Simon themselves. At the front of the shop there's a board on the wall that says the secret ingredient is always love. Audrey points to it when describing the sweet cinnamon bread.

"There's a whole lot of love and a whole lot of bickering, sometimes, but it works," said Audrey.

On any given day, they're producing 500 to 1,000 dozen buns. But that's not all for Carman—the Carman Bakery & Pastry Shop's products go to De Luca's, Giant Tigers across western Canada, different businesses in Morden and Winkler, and beyond.

Their first day open to the public was a few weeks ago. Simon said they had three

times more people than they used to get before the pandemic, which convinced them to open for three days of the week from now on. And they're happy to be selling everything at wholesale prices.

"If we can support the community for three days in a week and go with very low pricing then it is no different for us than selling to the wholesale accounts," said Simon.

The Funnies

PLANET GARRY

By: Harrison Doll

Inspired By: Bill Watterson
(P.s. This comic is based on an actual event...)



Hundreds of dozens of buns are baked daily and sent out across the region.



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY
REVISED WATER RATES - STANLEY WATER UTILITY
June 10, 2021**

The Rural Municipality of Stanley (RM) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised water rates for Stanley Water Utility (Utility) as set out in By-Law No. 6-21, read the first time on February 4, 2021. Rates were last approved in 2019 in Board Order No. 36/19.

The current and proposed rates are as follows:

	Current Rates		Proposed Rates	
	By-Law 13-18		By-Law 6-21 Year 1	
Quarterly Service Charge	\$ 11.33	\$	\$ 11.33	
Water - Massey (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 5.97	\$	\$ 6.15	
Water - Other (per 1,000 gallons)*	\$ 12.33	\$	\$ 12.79	
Minimum Quarterly Charge - Massey**	\$ 29.24	\$	\$ 29.78	
Minimum Quarterly Charge - Other**	\$ 48.32	\$	\$ 49.70	

*Includes purchased water costs

**Based on 3,000 gallons

Details of the RM's application are available for review at the RM's office or the Public Utilities Board's office. Any questions concerning the application for revised rates, or the operation of the Utility, should be sent directly to the RM.

If you have concerns/comments regarding the RM's application for water rates please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment. Please note all comments will be forwarded to the RM.

Questions or comments should be sent on or before July 10, 2021. The Public Utilities Board is the provincial regulatory agency that reviews and approves rates for water and wastewater utilities in Manitoba, with the exception of the City of Winnipeg. The Board's review process involves:

- the Utility filing a rate application to the Board,
- a public notification of proposed rate changes,
- the Board's review of the application through a public hearing or paper review process, and
- the issuance of an Order which outlines the Board's decision on the rate application and the rates to be charged.

The Manitoba Ombudsman has privacy guidelines for administrative tribunals. The Board is mindful of its obligations under those guidelines. Its decisions in respect of the application being considered will be sensitive to the guidelines. Personal information will not be disclosed unless it is appropriate and necessary to do so. However, the Board advises participants that these proceedings are public and that as a result, personal information protections are reduced.

The Board will then decide whether any further notice is required and whether to proceed with a public hearing or paper review process. All concerns received by the Board will be considered in the Board's decision on rates to be charged.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MAY OR MAY NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RATES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED FOR BY THE APPLICANT.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

Frederick Mykytyshyn

Assistant Associate Secretary
Manitoba Public Utilities Board

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MORTGAGE SALE

MORTGAGE SALE

The land and building known as 47061 Mile 17N, Municipality of Pembina, Manitoba, as described in Certificate of Title No. 2744455/4, will be sold by public auction by a Licensed Auctioneer on July 14, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

The Vendor is informed that the property consists of a one storey dwelling approximately 1,408 square feet, with living room kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, double attached garage on a lot of approximately 2.01 acres. Property is serviced by a well and septic system (particulars unknown).

Realty taxes (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to December 31, 2018.

Prior Charges: Caveat No. 1071862/4 and Tax Sale Notice No. 1263280/4.

TERMS OF SALE

A deposit of \$20,000.00 by way of certified cheque or bank draft payable to Fillmore Riley LLP, or cash (the cash component of the deposit not to exceed \$7,500.00) and the balance according to conditions which will be available for public view electronically by contacting the individual below prior to the auction. The property will be sold subject to a Reserve Bid of \$125,500.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 15th day of June, 2021 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale.

The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca

Due to restrictions under The Public Health Act, in order to participate in the auction sale, you must pre-register by contacting the individual below by telephone or email at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled auction. Anyone wishing to attend this auction sale must do so remotely (either by video conference or teleconference). Should the successful bidder have attended by teleconference and/or video conference, the bidder will have 24 hours to execute the Auction Sale Conditions and to provide them together with the deposit to our office as set out below.

Further information may be obtained from:
FILLMORE RILEY LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
1700 - 360 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3
File No. 400784-3619/MTU/bk (mcl)
Attention: Matthew T. Underwood
Phone: 204-954-6421
Email: auctions@fillmoreriley.com

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SENIOR RENTALS

Garden Park Estates in Winkler has 1-2 bdrm suite and one 1-bdrm with a den available.

Everything is on one level, indoor heated parking is available, common rooms for socializing and gatherings (when safe), lunches are available 5 days per week, hairdresser salon is in the building. Suites are spacious with open concept, walk-in pantry, utility room is ready for you to bring your own washer and dryer, fridge, stove and dishwasher are provided. All suites have an outside entrance and are connected inside through common hallways. All suites have a patio and a small flower bed. Rent includes maintenance, snow removal, yard care, and all utilities. Call or email Cindy at 204-362-7151 or cindyek@mts.net.

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AUCTION



Rick Zelmer, Tool and Shop Equipment Auction. Timed online closing June 24, 6 pm. Items are located at Bill Klassen Auction, 9 mile south of Winkler on hwy. 32 and 1.2 mile west on Road 3. Inspection days are June 21, 4 to 9pm and June 23, 4 to 9pm or by appointment, 204-325-6230 See list at billklassen.com

See our website www.billklassen.com for list and pictures!

Bill Klassen Auctions Ltd.
Ph: (204) 325-4433
Cell: (204) 325-6230
Fax: (204) 325-4484

AUCTION



Farm Retirement Auction for Mark Treichel, 204-373-2741, Emerson, MB.

July 14 Timed online farm auction begins closing at 10 am. Large farm equipment auction, 2009 Versatile 435 tractor, 2394 hrs, IHC 5288 MFWD, IHC 674 Diesel, 2010 New Holland CR9070 COMBINE, loaded, 2227 engine hrs, 30 ft Flex head, Zero Hrs on preharvest green light, Sunflower 50 ft air seeder model 9850, good tillage, 3 tandem trucks, collection of 100 stationary engines. Check the Treichel farm auction at www.billklassen.com

See our website www.billklassen.com for list and pictures!

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AUCTION



Gautier, Luc and Ellen, excellent yard and shop auction with much trucking related. 3 mile west of Carman on PR 245, yard # 27082. Please call ahead prior to viewing items: 204-745-7975. Auction is open for bidding, begins closing Friday, July 16, 5 pm. Kubota B3350 FWA, with loader and backhoe, and many other attachments. Kubota ZD 331p 60in Zero turn mower, hot pressure wash trailer and much more. Register at www.billklassen.com. Next day July 17 is payment and pickup day at the farm, we can ship, Bill Klassen Auctioneers 204-325-4433 CELL 204-325-6230

See our website www.billklassen.com for list and pictures!

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AUCTION



26x36 house to be moved. Entrance, laminate flooring, electric furnace, 2001 PVC windows, oak cabinets. House must be removed by Sept. 30/21 located 3 mile south of Graysville. Owners, Chris and Ben Larsen 204-745-3261, or 204-745-8298.

This house sells at Winding Trail Farm auction, Timed online July 12, 5 pm. Register at billklassen.com House sells to the highest bidder, if house sells for less than \$5000, buyer will need to put up another \$5000 caution fee, which will be refunded after house is removed from Property.

See our website www.billklassen.com for list and pictures!

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EMPLOYMENT



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Assistant Golf Superintendent

SUMMARY: This position reports directly to the Golf Superintendent. Under the superintendent's supervision, the assistant directs and participates in the maintenance of all golf course features, equipment, and facilities. The Assistant Superintendent may serve in the Golf Superintendent's capacity in the event of their absence.

MAJOR DUTIES:

- Assist in the daily operations of Pleasant Valley Golf Course
- Aids in planning and supervising the maintenance of greens, tees, fairways, roughs, bunkers, etc...
- Programming, repair, and maintenance of irrigations systems.
- Assists Superintendent in the implementation of an overall turf health program. This includes aeration, topdressing, and the application of pesticides, fertilizer, & chemicals to golf course turf.
- Operates an assortment of golf course equipment, including but not limited to: mowers, utility vehicles, sweepers, brooms, rollers, rakes, utility vehicles, loaders, compressors, trenchers, auto-mobiles, etc...
- Mows golf course turf and performs daily course setup duties.
- Maintains and repairs golf course equipment.
- Trims and removes trees and brush.
- Performs any and all golf course tasks as required by superintendent.

KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED BY THE POSITION:

- Working knowledge of the maintenance of golf course tees, fairways, roughs, bunkers, and greens; seeding and maintenance practices for golf course turf; planting, cultivating, pruning, and caring for plants, shrubs and trees; characteristics and proper use of various fertilizers and soil conditioners; herbicides and pest control methods and materials
- Irrigation system operation, repair, and maintenance
- Maintenance of golf courses and facilities
- Equipment operation and maintenance procedures

SKILLS REQUIRED BY THE POSITION:

- Operation of light and heavy equipment
- Ability to keep and maintain daily records

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Possess, enrolled or seeking a degree in a turf grass management related field or applicable past experience (2 to 3 years of past golf course experience may be an applicable substitute).
- A valid driver's license
- Must have or be prepared to obtain the following: Core, Landscape, IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Certification Licenses

**Submit resume to: Pleasant Valley Golf Club
Box 490, Glenboro, MB R0K 0X0 OR
email: pleasantvallygolf@gmail.com**

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AUCTION



Auction for Winding Trail Farms, Chris and Ben Larson, 3 mile south of Graysville, MB.

This is 6 miles west of Carman MB, owners 204-745-3261, July 12, 6 pm closing, timed online auction. 2015 enclosed trailer 20' x 8 1/2 x 70 inches high cabin, 2010 JD 1895 Seeding unit w/ triple 1910 tank, 2012 CIH 330 Turbo disc, CIH 3588 Ant Eater 2 x 2 tractor 3/ ph & pto. Ten 2700 bushel hopper bins on skid. JM Grain cart, model 875 pto drive. 2003 CIH 2388 & 1688 Combines, Letourneau FP 20 SCRAPER, 1998 CIH Quad Track 12 sp power shift, pto 8200 hrs. House to be moved 24x 36. Timed, online auction, register to Bid at www.billklassen.com

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BIRTHDAY



These words are to thank you
For the kind and caring way
You bring so much happiness
Into this world each day.
You're a Mom upon whose wisdom
We know we always may rely
As you've guided us so gently
As every year's passed by.
You have a special way
Of turning grey skies into blue
And there could never be a Mom
Who's loved as much as you!
Happy 70th birthday Mama!
We love you!

-Love Mom

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Klassen
January 24, 1945 to June 25, 2012
We love and miss you every day.
Tears of joy that you are ok.
-The family

IN MEMORIAM



In memory of
James (Jim) Bayliss
June 26, 2020

What we would give to see you in your
favorite chair
Your pleasant smile
Sit and talk with you awhile
Those days are gone
But loving thoughts and memories will live
with us forever

-Sadly missed
Glenda and family

IN MEMORIAM



Jennifer Marlene Derksen
September 1971 - June 2017

A cluster of beautiful memories
Sprayed with a million tears,
Wishing God had spared you
For a few more years.
Thanks for the years I had with you
Our family chain is broken
And nothing seems the same
You had a special thing about you
That was nice to see
Jesus wanted you to come to heaven
And I will see you soon.
Love and always.

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OBITUARY

Ronald David Rempel

July 16, 1952 - June 11, 2021



Ron went up to the Spirit in the sky on Friday, June 11, 2021. He leaves to love him his wife of 44 years, Phyllis (Schellenberg); his daughters, Adelle (Derek) Rewerts, Rozlyn (Dave and his children) Sucharyna, and Shallon (Matthew) Oleschak; his granddaughters, Talia and Vivienne (Adelle's); his sister, Lorraine (John); brothers, Richard (Eleanore), Dennis (Teresa) and Donald (Paula), their families, his Schellenberg family and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends and his three puppies, Molly, Storm and Star.

Ron grew up in Lowe Farm where he spun tales of his adventures with his siblings, their cousins and Skipper "The Wonder Dog". He had life-long memories and stories of the joyful times spent

with his grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins. Ron had a variety of jobs as he searched for his career. The one that stood out the most was the almost two years spent as the farm manager of a chicken ranch near Kelvington, Saskatchewan. In 1985 he was offered a job as an electrical apprentice by his good friend, Grant Bergman. He accepted the opportunity and the family moved back to Morden. In June 1990, he was certified as an electrician and started Ron's Electrical Services in 2000. Ron's Electrical Service was a family business for over 20 years. He took pride in everyone's contributions, especially working alongside his daughter, Shallon who was certified 20 years after he was. Ron's work gave him an outlet for his skills, creativity and an opportunity to serve his community. Ron was a brother in the Morden Elks and served on the board of the Minnewasta Golf and Country Club. He was an avid Morden Redskins fan. In the summer months, he cherished Sunday mornings in the sunshine and green grass - first as an umpire and later as a golfer. Ron endured a few health challenges but refused to dwell on them. He said: "I was doing great before I knew, we'll deal with it and move along. My life will not be defined by my limitations, they are only limitations if I let them be." Ron's daughters were his pride and joy. He was incredibly proud of the three strong women he and Phyllis raised. Their dynamic personalities made for great conversation, often off-key humor and amazing memories. They brought into the family three great guys that became sons. He called them "his boys". Ron was a loving and attentive grandpa to his two greatest joys: his special little loves, Talia and Vivienne. Laughter and joy filled the home. His heart was so full of love and happiness for his family. In the last few years, Ron found real peace and joy in the things that mattered most to him: cooking up a Friday night meal for the love of his life, spending time with his family, golfing with his buddies, his puppies, good music and exercising his great big laugh with his biting sense of humour.

He is greeted in heaven by his parents, Cornelius E. and Mary Rempel, his parents-in-law, Ben and Susan Schellenberg, in-laws, Ken and Delores Schellenberg, grandparents, numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, a niece, friends and puppies, Skipper and Major.

Thank you, Ron for sharing your beautiful journey with us. We miss you already.
A private family service as held on Friday at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Ron's memory to the Pembina Valley Humane Society, The Morden Elks and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The family would like to offer a special thanks to the Morden Police Department, the EMS Service paramedics, the 911 operator, Joey Grenier of Wiebe Funeral Homes and to everyone who has supported our family with your prayers, sharing of memories, cards, flowers, visits, gifts of food, love, and friendship.

-With sincere appreciation of your thoughtfulness,
Phyllis Rempel and family

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



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OBITUARY



Abram Reimer 1942 - 2021

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Abram J. Reimer, age 79, announces his passing into the Lord's presence at 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 6, 2021 at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre.

Abe was a loving husband, uncle, brother and father of four children, grandfather of five, great-grandfather of four.

Abe was born on March 7, 1942 in the village of Schanzenfeld to Jacob and Margaretha (Friesen) Reimer. He grew up working on the farm and when he was 20 years old, he married Maria Sawatzky, on September 9, 1962. They raised three sons, Wes, Dennis and Larry, and daughter, Connie.

Abe was first employed by Winkler Cheese Making Plant and then at Ideal Brass in Winnipeg. He also was part of the maintenance department at Bethel Hospital in Winkler. Abe had an entrepreneurial spirit and started his own cleaning business as well as being owners and operators of Winkler Vacuum. He also worked several years at Winkler Meats as a sausage maker. Abe and Mary were also house managers for the Medora Bay home for challenged adults. They enjoyed their time with the friends they made there. Abe had a passion for sports, often finding opportunities to support local clubs (baseball and hockey) by coaching; and volunteering his time to be a booster of the Winkler Flyers. He also loved to camp and fish when time allowed for it. Most of all Abe loved Jesus. After coming into relationship with Christ, he was actively involved in church attending regularly, being discipled and encouraging the community at Christian Fellowship Church in Winkler. For a season he was part of the church leadership team. Abe and Mary also attended Winkler EMM Church where they were encouraged by the pastors and community to grow in their faith. He loved to listen to sermons and gospel music. Abe did the best he knew how to follow Jesus and encourage others to pursue a relationship with Him.

He was known for his quick wit, his infectious smile and his kind and compassionate spirit. Abe's friendly and open demeanor allowed him to make friends easily.

Abe was predeceased by his parents, Jacob and Margaretha Reimer; his brothers, Isaac Reimer, Bill Reimer, Jake Reimer, John Reimer, Dave Reimer, Pete Reimer, Henry Reimer, and Neil Reimer and by his sisters, Tina (Peter A) Kehler, Eva Reimer, Betty Giesbrecht, Anne (Stan) Davis and Helen (John) Friesen, Mary Kehler and Susie Besteck.

Remaining to cherish his memory is his wife of 58 years, Maria (Sawatzky); his children, Wesley (Angela) Reimer, Dennis (Tracey) Reimer, Larry (Odia) Reimer and his daughter, Connie Reimer; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Steven Reimer and girlfriend, Carmen Davis, Joshua Reimer, Jeremy (Amy) Reimer (Vivienne, Brian), Sara (Nathan) Wiebe (Andrew, Autumn), Georgia Reimer; his

siblings: Margaret Hiebert, Agatha (Gordon) Baldwin, Ruth Henry and his sisters-in-law, Esther Reimer and Patricia Reimer as well as many nieces and nephews and their families.

A graveside service was held on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at Westridge Memorial Gardens, Winkler with Pastor Dale Dueck and Pastor Randy Smart officiating.

In memory of Abram J Reimer, donations may be made to the Gideons International in Canada. Thanks to all the healthcare workers in Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre, Boundary Trails Health Centre and St. Boniface Hospital for your care and attention to our father.

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



Tina Hiebert (nee Heide) 1929 - 2021

Friday, June 4th, 2021, at 91 years of age, Tina was ushered into the glorious presence of her Savior with family by her side!

On December 31, 1929, Tina was welcomed into a loving, Christian home by her parents, Cornelius and Elizabeth Heide. She grew up with two sisters and one brother. Mom often shared the most significant part of her life with others, when at age 14 she invited Jesus into her heart. Her new-found faith was declared by becoming baptised later that year. On October 15, 1950 in the Grossweide MB Church, Mom married the love of her life, Peter Hiebert! There was no greater thrill than for them to help their three children accept Jesus as Savior! Together Mom and Dad faithfully served in various areas in church.

Through turbulent times, Mom and Dad clung closely to their faithful heavenly Father and experienced the promises in His Word to be true! They were also able to enjoy more light hearted times, especially spending time in God's beautiful creation through camping with family and friends. In later years games, puzzling, watching birds, listening to Southern Gospel Music and being together with family and friends were highlights for Mom. Knitting and sewing for Jesus also gave her much joy. All praise and glory go to our heavenly Father for blessing our family with a wonderful, loving Mom, Grandma and Great-grandmother! One day we will have a grand reunion in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Left to mourn Tina's passing are daughter, Karen Hiebert; son-in-law, Ed (Sara) Zacharias and granddaughters, Rhonda (Mel) Wiebe and great-granddaughter, Aurelia; Marla (Ketan) Nayak; daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Hiebert and granddaughters, Christina (Jason) Flamand and great-grandchildren, Anna, Nathan and Brielle; Rachel (Dan) Thurlow and great-grandchildren, Zachary and Kaylee and granddaughter, Rebecca Hiebert. Tina was predeceased by her husband, Peter in 1998, daughter, Grace in 2013, son, Garry in 2006 and also two sisters and one brother.

We would like to thank Dr. Allen for many years of good care, BTHC staff who went above and beyond to provide for Mom's needs, and Home Care staff who enabled Mom to stay at home till near her passing! Thank you to Eastview Place in Altona who provided care second to none! Thank you, Pastor Davey and Annie Martens, for speaking at the funeral and always making Mom feel special! A huge thank you to Wiebe Funeral Home staff for your expertise and care, helping us during our time of grief. Thank you also to The Film Collective for taping the service. Thanks to everyone who prayed for us and showed various, kind expressions of sympathy.

If friends desire, donations may be made in Tina's memory to Thailand Churches Together Project C0670 which Rebecca Hiebert, Tina's granddaughter is currently involved with in Thailand. Please send donations to: Multiply #300-32040 Downes Road Abbotsford, B.C. V4X 1X5 Toll free 1-888-866-6267

Private funeral service was held on Saturday, June 12, 2021 with interment at the Grossweide M.B. Cemetery.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements
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OBITUARY

George P. Friesen 1943 - 2021



George P. Friesen, 78 years of age, of Winkler, Manitoba passed away peacefully on Friday, June 18, 2021 after a short battle with pneumonia complications and entered into the presence of his Lord and Savior.

Dad was born on January 11, 1943 to Cornelius and Aganetha Friesen, in Cuauhtemoc, Mexico. It was evident from an early age, that he had a very curious mind and was eager to learn and explore. These traits would come to serve him well as he grew older and into adulthood. In the spring of 1962, Dad would meet the love of his life, Katherine Banman, and their wedding followed on August 11 of 1963. Shortly thereafter, they would start a family which would include six children: Helen, Cornel, Nettie, Tina, Mary and Margaret. With his natural leadership and obvious talent for problem solving, Dad found much success in the employ of local industry, and he quickly gained the respect and admiration of his employers as well as the people in his charge. The same success and respect would follow him as he launched into new business ventures of the next several decades.

Within the community, he would freely give of his time with local organizations including the Salem Care Home, MCC outreach, church boards as well as continue as a consultant for local businesses after his retirement. Dad had many interests and hobbies, but woodworking was his life long abiding passion, leaving beautiful works of craftsmanship in many homes and churches over many years. At the core of everything he did was a quiet faith. This was a repeated theme of conversation with our Dad in the hospital during his last few weeks. Dad had not only placed his faith in Jesus for his salvation but remained completely yielded to God's will for him even in illness.

All who knew George remember how involved and concerned he was about raising a good family and he worked tirelessly to provide for their needs and nurture all those in household. George was predeceased by his father, Cornelius; mother, Aganetha; sisters, Justina, Helen, Aganetha and Anna. He is survived by his wife, Katherine along with his daughter, Helen, son, Cornel (Joy), daughter, Nettie (John), daughter, Tina (Frank), daughter, Mary (Randy), daughter, Margaret (Art) and brother, Cornie (Helen). Also left to cherish his memory are 26 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Special acknowledgements also go out to Mariann Friesen, Maria and David Friesen along with many friends he made in the business and church community.

A private funeral service was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in George's memory to Mennonite Disaster Services Canada.

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