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**Free fries, anyone?**

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: RBC's Curtis Sanjenko and the Carberry Potato Truck Pull's Kim Baron and Jensyn Baron helped hand out thousands of bags of frozen goodies at the Free Fry Day event on Friday. For the full story, see Pg. 3.

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

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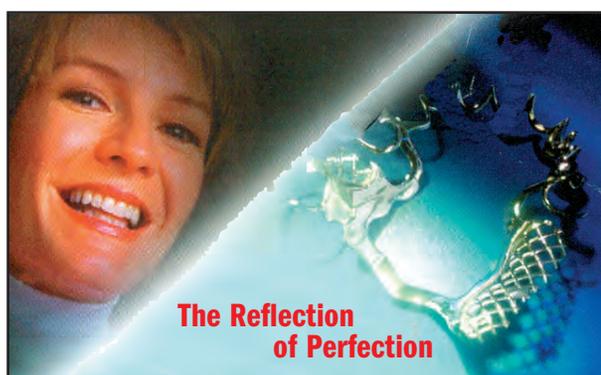
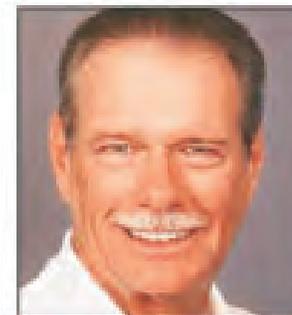
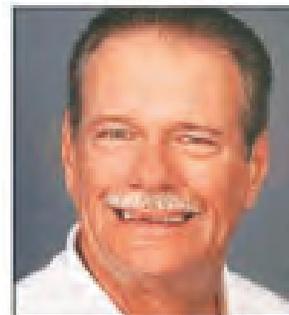
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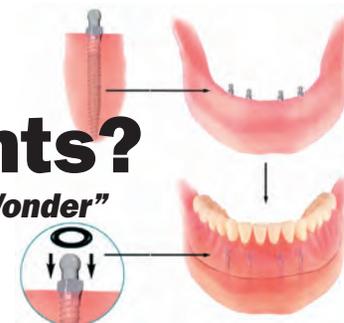
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# Free Fry Day raises thousands for CancerCare Manitoba

By Ashleigh Viveiros

People were lining up at The Potato Store in Winkler Friday for a chance to score some free frozen taters

The Kroeker Farms retail location hosted the first leg of the Free Fry Day tour, which also made stops in Carman, Portage la Prairie, and Carberry that day.

Spearheaded by McCain Foods in partnership with Smart Electric, Mid-Plains Implements, and the Carberry Potato Truck Pull, Free Fry Day set out to raise \$100,000 for the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation.

Everyone who drove up received two bags of fries, donated by McCain. Over 10,000 bags in total were handed out across all four locations.

The fries were free, but donations were gratefully accepted from those who were able to support the cause.

Organizers were still crunching the numbers at press time, but Eric Durand, plant manager from McCain Foods Carberry, was confident they would hit their fundraising goal, especially in light of the success a similar event had in Alberta last month.

"The one in Alberta we ended up raising \$350,000, and so that's why we're thinking \$100,000 should absolutely be obtainable," he said.

Free Fry Day was created in response to the surplus of potatoes created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mass restaurant closures across the nation have led to an abrupt drop in demand.

**"WE WANTED TO FIND A WAY WE COULD REALLY SUPPORT OUR GROWERS AND OUR COMMUNITY."**

"We wanted to find a way we could really support our growers and our community," Durand said, noting the Carberry Potato Truck Pull—a major annual fundraiser for CancerCare Manitoba—was forced to cancel its event this summer due to the virus. "A lot of the charities in Manitoba have been affected by having to cancel events, so we wanted to do something to give back and also bring a little bit of awareness to the fact there's huge potato surplus."

"A lot of people don't realize that one of the major reasons why Manitoba growers grow potatoes is for french fries," Durand said. "And so we can all do our small part by buying a serving of french fries to support our growers."

"French fries feed farmers" is the slogan for the campaign, which will include one more big Free Fry Day event in Winnipeg in July in support of the STARS air ambulance and Ronald McDonald House.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Carberry Potato Truck Pull volunteer Tanya Polasek accepts a donation while RBC's Sylvia Sanjenko loads up a car with french fries at the Free Fry Day event in Winkler last week.



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# Firefighters on the scene all night at SWAMP fire

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler fire crews spent last Wednesday night putting out a fire at the SWAMP (Solid Waste Area Management Plan) landfill north of the city.

A neighbour called 911 after spotting the blaze, which engulfed a large portion of main holding area of the site.

SWAMP staff were already on the scene attempting to snuff out the fire when firefighters arrived just before 10:30 p.m., says Chief Richard Paetzold.

"They'd been trying to extinguish the fire with their heavy equipment and were losing that battle," he says.

The department's tanker trucks were put into action to haul 43,000 gallons of water to extinguish the fire. Firefighters spent about six hours on the scene.

It being a landfill, there obviously wasn't much there that needed saving. But putting out the fire was still a high priority, the chief says.

"It's more about the environmental concerns. Depending on what materials are burning, you're putting a lot of toxins into the air. We wanted to do



Winkler firefighters were on the scene of a fire at the SWAMP regional landfill last week. It took 43,000 gallons of water to quell the blaze.

what we could to contain that."

SWAMP manager Brent Kletke says this certainly isn't the first fire the regional landfill has dealt with, but it's rare for them to need help from the fire department to get things under control.

"It started toward the front of our pile on the northwest corner and, due to the direction of the wind, it was just

nicely blowing over top of our pile, which caused the fire to expand very quickly across our entire tipping face," he says, estimating approximately a week's worth of garbage burned.

"I'd like to give two thumbs up to the wonderful job that the Winkler Fire Department did do when they arrived on site," Kletke adds.

There were still a few areas of smoking materials that SWAMP staff had to deal with on Thursday.

"We spent a lot of time with the excavator cleaning that up, placing dirt on top and then making sure that was out," says Kletke,

noting they also moved a lot of material to another area of the site where it could be compacted and wet down.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, but Kletke points out it could have been any number of things.

"We get a lot of material in here at SWAMP. It might have been that someone could have snuck in maybe some warm ashes. We have had lithium batteries [explode]. It's even possible it was a lightning strike."

Those first two potential causes highlight how important it is to ensure people properly dispose of potentially flammable items.

"Sometimes it may seem like a pain when we're asking questions like that of our customers, but certainly it does help prevent things like this happening," says Kletke.

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# Adult ed. grads overcame all challenges to succeed

By Lorne Stelmach

Going back to school presents many challenges at the best of times, but this year's graduates of the Morden Adult Education Centre faced even more as a result of the pandemic.

As the 19 graduates were individually presented their certificates over a number of days recently, the extra perseverance that was shown was foremost in people's thoughts.

"This year has been anything but ordinary," said valedictorian Kate Zacharias, who recited a quote from author Jim Rohn: "If you are not willing to risk the unusual, you will have to settle for the ordinary."

"It's been far from usual, but none of these unusual occurrences have stopped us from graduating," Zacharias said. "Especially with the pandemic added to the challenges ... we all still succeeded ... it's inspirational."

The class of 2020 is a varied group ranging in age from 19 to 50.

"We have people from every kind of background, people born in different countries and people with different religious backgrounds, different educational backgrounds," noted director Kelly Vipond, reflecting that they overcame the many burdens they faced in balancing all parts of their lives while pursuing their education.

"It was interesting to see how many people rose to the occasion even when things started falling apart at the seams and the world started to dissolve," she said. "Everything that felt normal was taken away, and it absolutely blew my mind how people were still, 'No, I am doing this.'

"It was just so very impressive, and I'm very, very proud of our graduates this year. They have really pushed through some of the most difficult circumstances."

Their biggest challenge likely came in losing that important connection that comes from being together in the classroom.

"Our strongest setting for learning here is in the classroom, and all of a sudden six weeks into semester two that was shut off," said Vipond. "There was a bit of time right after this happened where you could tell the wind had been knocked out of people, but they still made it happen, and they found a way."

"That's always been the heart of this place. We want to make sure that we support people in the way that they need to be supported ... that sense that we're in this together."

For Zacharias, going back to school first came to mind in her early 20s but "then life happened. I got married, bought a house and had a kid. It just ended up happening now 10 years later that I was able to do it and finally finish it."

"Adult ed has been here for me to be able to achieve it," she said. "For me, I wouldn't be able to do it without the support that I had."

"My family was huge for me, and my son being my major drive. It was a milestone for me, and I wanted him to see how important it is, and he saw me go through it," Zacharias added. "It's a big deal, and one of the big things I had left on the backburner for too long."

Having to switch to remote learning



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Kate Zacharias, valedictorian for the 2020 graduating class of the Morden Adult Education Centre, received congratulations from director Kelly Vipond last Wednesday. Zacharias also received four scholarships including two from Western School Division as well as from the Morden Area Foundation and the Bill and Linda Fehr Scholarship.

was a challenge because it was important for her to come to the centre for encouragement.

"I tried going on my own, taking the modules home. It's just not the same; you need that one on one with the teachers," Zacharias suggested, citing as well the interaction with the other students. "You are not alone. You are not walking back into this by yourself. You have other people that can relate with you."

"It's nice to be able to have people that you can accomplish this with,"

she continued. "It's not always easy coming back, and some people can't; they try. You see their efforts, and it makes you want to try even harder."

As for advice for her classmates, Zacharias seized upon the idea shared in a Ted Talk session about having grit.

"It's that drive to just keep going and keep going, and a lot of students here have a lot going on in their lives, but they have that drive to keep going and succeed."

# Winkler hosting Canada Day contest, livestream

By Lorne Stelmach

Celebrating Canada Day will be very different in Winkler and Morden this year thanks to COVID-19 restrictions.

The usual array of activities are not taking place in either city, although Winkler is aiming to get the community engaged in a new sort of way.

"Instead of bringing people to a location, it will be more a case of bringing the event to the people," said Jordan Driedger, director of community services. "It will look a little bit different from years past, but we are planning something that will involve the

community."

One part of the festivities will be a contest challenging Winkler residents to decorate their homes for a shot at prizes.

Homes must be decorated and registered in the contest before 10 a.m. July 1. The Canada Day vehicles will then travel through the city that day judging the entries.

Winklerites will be able to find a map to all the entries at WinklerCelebratesCanada.ca (head here as well to register). You'll also be able to follow along on the City of Winkler Facebook page July 1.

The evening then will feature a

livestreamed concert featuring music from country bands Brothers Keep and the Quonset Brothers.

The show will include a few words from local dignitaries and will wrap up with the announcement of the winners of the Decorate Your Home contest.

## NO FIREWORKS THIS YEAR

Meanwhile in Morden, the extra large crowd that normally gathers at Lake Minnewasta for Canada Day will not be possible for this year, although the beach and campground are open for general use.

"We're not allowed to host an event

that will potentially make such a large number of people congregate," explained Clare Agnew, Morden community services and events manager.

"The campground is open, and people can still come to the beach if they want, but we are not playing music or having fireworks or anything like that for this year."

She noted the city is planning to hold another event in place of Canada Day further down the road.

"We're looking at doing a celebration on Sept. 12 if we're allowed at that point," she said, citing the possibility of doing fireworks at another event in the future.

Check out the Winkler Morden Voice online at [www.winklermordenvoice.ca](http://www.winklermordenvoice.ca)

The *Winkler Morden*  
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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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# Parenting 101: Think before you complain

**M**y mum kept me on a leash when I was three years old.

As a single mum she had things to do around the house and had to find ways to keep me from wandering off other than holding my hand constantly or locking me in a bedroom. So she tied a rope around me and let me goof around in the yard while she did chores.

Apparently one day she had some pretty offended neighbours stop by and threaten to call Child and Family Services on her for this barbaric treatment.

Mum marched over to me and untied me to prove a point. In less than five minutes I was on my tricycle and riding down the middle of the road adjacent to where we lived.

The rope went back on and the neighbours never complained again.

As a species we seem barely capable

of managing our own children and I have never understood the nosy tendency to try and parent other people's kids or push our own "helpful" standards onto others.

I am not talking about ignoring abuse. We have a duty to involve ourselves and notify authorities when we suspect child abuse. I'm talking about styles and preferences which are often communicated in the most infuriatingly passive aggressive manners.

"Wow! You let your kids eat McDonald's? You are soooo brave. I would never let Molly eat that. Nope, only garden fresh, non-GMO, gluten-free, sugarless, veggie paste for her!"

"Jimmy, get out of that community wading pool ... it's okay of Mary's parents want her to get some sort of horrible viral disease but we love you too much to let that happen!"

Why, why, why do we get so fixated on how other people raise their kids?

Again, I'm not talking about the parents that raise their kids as white supremacists. That crap needs to be called out. I'm talking about the stupid things that make no difference.

I think part of it has to do with some odd sense that if everyone else does not raise their children EXACTLY as

I do then they are clearly judging me as a bad parent. It is the false dichotomy of Wrong or Right. There are only two ways to parent, says this dichotomy, the right way (my way) and the wrong way (your way).

This thinking ignores the massive complexities of families, cultures, and individuals. You cannot know the depth of what is going on in another parents' household. You cannot know if a child is mildly ADHD or autistic or raised in a culture that values certain things you do not. This is why you need to take a few deep breaths, close your eyes, and pause before jumping on someone else's parenting technique.

Say to yourself: "It's okay, Peter. Just because Mike lets his kids play in mud puddles in the backyard and you do not does not mean he is a bad parent or thinks you are a bad one ... you're just different."

I'm glad my mum kept me on a leash. I'm glad my editor keeps me on a leash now, otherwise I might be wheeling my trike down the middle of the proverbial highway without a thought for the oncoming traffic that would surely run me down.



**By Peter Cantelon**

# Letters

## Voicing concerns about Colert Beach's new water park

I hate to be one of those people who needs to rant about something but I think this is a legitimate concern.

The season pass for Colert Beach is \$42 this year, which is not what I have a problem with. We love taking our two boys to the beach. It's always a good time when we're there. Insert problem: Splish Splash Water Park at Colert Beach. \$26.99 per person plus tax for a day pass. That's \$120.92 for our family for one day. Not cool.

Like I said, we have two boys, ages 10 and 11. They would both absolutely love the new feature, however

one has ADHD and the other has a global development disability, which means his brain is like that of a five-year-old, plus epilepsy. So, you see, we couldn't just simply buy day passes for them; we would need four passes.

We understand that this feature probably isn't designed for children with disabilities (I know, I've seen it), but it's not really fair to say "no" to one child and "yes" to the other. Therefore, I'm forced to not only say "no" every time we go to the beach, I also have to be the one to say, with

great disappointment, "Sorry, we can't afford to go to the beach this summer."

So, \$42 for a beach season pass. Fine. If weather permits, we like to get there six or seven times. So that means saying "no" about 100 times when we go (because kids, right?!). Otherwise it would be at least \$725.50 (six times). Who can afford that? Either way, somebody's going to be more than upset.

Question is: Whose great idea was

Continued on page 7

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

# Local camps offering modified seasons

By Lorne Stelmach

The region's two Bible camps are aiming to remain optimistic while preparing for a season like no other in recent history.

Still limited in how much they can operate while remaining under some COVID-19 restrictions, they are nevertheless working to make the best they can of a difficult situation.

"We realize the value and the impact that camp has on teenagers as they're developing and going through life," said Chris Harms, executive director of the Pembina Valley Bible Camp. "When you bring a community of teenagers together, it's an incredible opportunity to build relationships and build their character. If we have to do that through modified programming, we'll do that."

"We're working hard at doing what we can do ... and using our funds very wisely," noted Dale Wiebe, executive director of the Winkler Bible Camp.

WBC were recently processing refunds for about a thousand families for their popular summer programming that might normally draw over 1,600 children.

"That's not a fun thing to do when you're processing all that money backwards," said Wiebe.

"While we're doing this, we're trying to develop something we can do online as a program. We'll hopefully have that ready by first week of July for a summer program to connect with the kids."

They had earlier been restricted to

just a day camp for leadership development that involves older youth because it could be done with more limited numbers.

"It's a little easier to maintain all the laws regarding COVID with older kids," Wiebe said.

The camp had been faced with not being able to run overnight camps until at least July 1 as part of the Manitoba Restoring Safe Services plan, but directors felt they needed to make a call before that date to allow them time to make alternative plans.

That led to the idea of a virtual summer camp, which will offer a mix of weekly online videos, submitted content, and physical interactions.

Day camps are also an option they are exploring, but working with the restriction of 16 campers per group with everyone being socially distanced is very different from how they would normally run camp.

"It's very challenging because everything we do at camp here flies against social distancing quite a bit. So everything we do, even though they say you can have 24 people in for a day camp, it's very difficult for us to run ... and try to abide by the laws," explained Wiebe.

"We're working hard at keeping the site developed and ready and getting that all back," he continued. "We have about 10 per cent of the staff we would normally have here at this time of year ... as we would normally have over a hundred staff."

The resulting impact financially will be a challenge for the camp.



WINKLER BIBLE CAMP PHOTO

The local summer camps are coming up with new ways to provide kids with a fun camp experience this summer.

"By the time spring, summer and fall is done, that will be close to three quarters of a million dollars revenue. A huge portion of our self-earned revenue is what we do with school groups in spring, all of the rentals, all of the picnics, all of the events that we do.

"That is not good for us financially," Wiebe said, noting the federal government wage subsidy program is supposed to end in August.

"We already have groups cancelling for fall," he added, estimating that overall means "80 per cent of our annual revenue is gone, so that's a big chunk.

"Part of our budget is also donations, so hopefully that will stay strong this year."

Pembina Valley Bible Camp is also trying to deal with a major drop in revenue, as COVID-19 put a dent in spring rentals.

"Even with summer camp registrations, we're down about 23 per cent," said Harms. "With our donations, we've definitely noticed a decrease there ... I think we're down about 27 per cent in donations."

They are focusing now on how to offer day camp based programming this season.

Continued on page 8

## > LETTERS, FROM PG 6

this for Colert Beach? Does this person or committee think that Morden is made up of the "super-rich"?

My personal recommendation is that the Splish Splash Water Park be

removed as soon as possible or the price be included in the park pass.

Tom Mitchell,  
Morden

## Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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



## Public Notice

### You're Invited

to share your views about the proposed rate changes from Manitoba Public Insurance

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for an overall 10.5 per cent decrease to Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums, effective April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

For further details, please contact MPI at [inquiries@mpi.mb.ca](mailto:inquiries@mpi.mb.ca) or visit the Board's website at [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

An electronic-based virtual public hearing on the proposed decrease will be held beginning:

**Monday, October 19, 2020**  
at 9:00 a.m.

Please view the hearing via the Board's website ([www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca))

If you are interested in learning more about this rate decrease, you are encouraged to attend the hearing, observe the hearing via live streaming, or provide your perspectives through the Board's online comment tool.

If you wish to speak at the hearing or make a written submission, please contact the Board Secretary, Dr. Darren Christle at 204-945-2638 or toll-free 1-866-854-3698, no later than **October 1, 2020.**

For more information, visit [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

**Manitoba Public Utilities Board**  
400-330 Portage Avenue,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4  
Phone: 204-945-2638  
Email: [publicutilities@gov.mb.ca](mailto:publicutilities@gov.mb.ca)



# One blustery night

Last week's strong winds knocked more than a few branches down in Morden-Winkler, including a chunk of this old Cottonwood on North Railway St. in Morden. The severe winds also led to power outages for hundreds of people across the region overnight on June 16.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY MAURICE BUTLER

## Horticulture Soc. hosting virtual garden tour

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden and District Horticultural Society is hoping the community will still welcome visitors to their gardens, only it will have to be done virtually this year.

The annual garden tour had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the society is encouraging people to participate in an online garden tour instead.

"We are asking residents to email pictures, short videos or share photos

to their own page with the tag @mordenhorticulturalsociety and we will then share it on our Facebook page," board member Jennifer Halbesma said in an interview by e-mail.

"We believe this version of our annual tour will be a great opportunity for others to learn about plants, get ideas for their own yards and for homeowners to show off all of their hard work, all while staying safe," she said. "We hope to have lots of submissions to share all summer long on social media."

Halbesma noted they are also aiming to continue with the Yard of the Week and Business Yard of the Week programs this summer, with a particular focus on the use of pollinator-friendly native plants.

Despite the continued restrictions, Halbesma said the society is trying to remain as active in the community as possible.

"Our goals are to enhance the beau-

ty and quality of life within the region by promoting planting, gardening, preservation of natural areas and horticultural activities, all while sharing horticultural knowledge with members and the general public," she said, noting they have attracted about 20 members since reorganizing last year.

"We continue to have growing interest in the society, but unfortunately due to COVID-19 had to suspend all workshops, meetings and the much anticipated Nature and Garden Expo," Halbesma said. "We had a lot of exhibitor interest after a very successful expo last year, so we hope to continue on with that next spring."

"Although our plans are currently on hold, we are planning on continuing our planned workshops and meetings in September," Halbesma said, urging gardeners to follow the Morden and District Horticultural Society on Facebook for event updates.

### WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?

Part of my childhood was spent overlooking the beautiful Pacific Ocean in Parksville, BC. The tide was in and the sun was setting on a hot summer evening when my brother David and I heard some cries for HELP coming from a distance out on the water. Straining to see, we noticed somebody frantically waving and then heard the repeated calls for help. We ran down the steep bank to the water, where the only boat in sight was our old wooden kayak which leaked and would submerge when someone sat in it. My brother threw the kayak in the water and swam alongside it and began the half mile or so rescue. David reached the gentleman and they used the kayak for buoyancy and relief. To his surprise it was a neighbour who was a prominent retired Doctor and real estate owner who had recently moved from Vancouver to the Island. He was diving with a dry suit when it leaked, filled with water and he became exhausted. The following day the doctor called to say he had a reward for the young boy who saved his life. David could hardly contain his anticipation as everything he had dreamed of in the sports and camping section of the Sears catalogue could finally be within his grasp. The Dr. arrived and thanked David profusely and then opened his wallet and handed him a two dollar bill. I have often thought of this story when I think about the words of the Lord Jesus in Mark 8:36,37 when He asks the questions "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul? or "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" To God your soul is of inestimable worth and being created in His image, every soul matters. Very simply stated, the soul is that part of us that it not physical and the part of every human being that lasts eternally after the body experiences death. Every human being who has ever lived is a soul, and every one of those souls are still in existence somewhere. The question is, where? Your soul, the essential you, is a priceless gift from God. Jesus, the very source of your life, died to pay your sin-wages of death so your soul might be saved and live forever in Heaven. Your soul is the only way you will ever receive and enjoy

the greatest of all gifts: God himself. Romans 6:23  
"For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord". Ron Burley www.sermon4u.com

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### > CAMPS, FROM PG. 7

"We've got some approvals now from the government on ways that we can do programming for the summer, so we're still going to run a summer program, it will just look quite different," said Harms. "We aren't able to run any overnight programming, so that's a substantial change for kids who are looking for a summer camp experience."

Day camps will be something new for them, he said, noting their shortest programs in past years have been three nights.

Now they're looking at transport-

ing kids to and from Morden for camp sessions that would run from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"The biggest change is you won't have the full evening and night here," Harms said. "They'll still come for a week, but it will just be one day at a time, so a lot of our programming side of it will look very similar through the day."

"We're in the process of finalizing some of those details," he said, adding his faith that the camp will pull through this all. "We're just trusting that God will provide a way."

# COPP provides police with an extra set of eyes, ears

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP) received its annual operating grant from the local police service last week.

Chief Ryan Hunt presented COPP coordinator Dustin Brown with the \$4,500, which will be used to help cover the program's administrative and radio equipment costs.

"The Citizens on Patrol Program is a great complement to our police service," Hunt said. "Just being able to have that extra set of eyes out there in a vehicle that isn't a marked police cruiser ... makes it easier for them to find things that maybe we wouldn't see on patrol. It's a really big benefit to us."

COPP volunteers go out in pairs to patrol the streets of Winkler evenings

and weekends.

Brown has been involved for 18 years now.

"I enjoy it," he said. "It's a nice way to spend some time with people that you might not do much with otherwise, learning to see things a little differently, and just giving back to the community a little bit."

The group right now has about eight active members.

"It seems to have slowed down a little bit," Brown said. "We had to take a bit of a break because of COVID-19 and so we are looking to recruit some new members now as we get fired back up."

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

"And you need to be willing to put in some time giving back to the community and going out on patrol," Brown



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler Police Chief Ryan Hunt recently presented Citizens on Patrol Program coordinator Dustin Brown with a grant of \$4,500.

said, noting some volunteers go out a few times a month while others only do it a handful of times a year. "It can vary quite a bit based on their schedules."

If you'd like to get involved, stop by the Winkler Chamber of Commerce office in City Hall for an application. Details are also available online at [winklerpolice.ca](http://winklerpolice.ca).

# Former CFDC staffer voices concerns about museum's future

By Lorne Stelmach

A past director and recent employee of the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre is raising concerns about the health and well being of the Morden museum.

Having recently worked there as office manager, Cheryl Link saw her position terminated amidst the pandemic alongside other cuts that impacted all staff except the executive director.

Of more concern to her though now is what she sees as the potential impact on the museum of the loss of its programming this year.

"I don't think anyone can question my love for that museum ... and my wish for it to move forward," said Link.

"I've spent 30 years of my life volunteering there, and I've been on the board of directors ... the museum was Morden's best kept secret, and I worked very, very hard to try to help promote it.

"This community has worked hard to build up the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre into a world class facility over the past 30 years," she continued. "We need to move now to safeguard Morden's greatest tourism attraction."

Link said the museum has made significant progress in recent years, including landing signature museum status in the province, but she fears that momentum is being lost and the

loss wrongly blamed on the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

She acknowledges some impact on staffing and operations as a result of the global pandemic were unavoidable. However, she wonders why some level of staffing, particularly the curator position, would not be able to be maintained, especially considering the government wage assistance that is available.

Link also questions why at least some level of programming, education, and research is not currently being done at reduced capacity and with health measures in place.

"All of those things have been eliminated, and it's not good; it goes against the requirements and qualifications for the signature museum status," she said, citing such standards as maintaining a certain level of visitation and professional staffing, among others. "We worked hard to get that status, and we need to work hard to keep it."

"We can't blame it all on COVID," Link stressed, noting the museum could have reopened May 4 but instead waited until early June.

"I don't see that there's any reason

for that to have been the case," she said.

CFDC board chair Chris Leach disagrees with Link's assessment of the museum's operations.

"I think we're going reasonably well with moving forward," he said in advance of the museum hosting its AGM virtually this Thursday. "I think we're positioning ourselves to be able to meet the requirements."

"We will maintain what we can and open up as much as we can while fulfilling the requirements that we need to fulfill provincially respecting COVID-19."

Leach suggested there were a number of considerations that came into play with their decisions around staffing and programming and not being ready to reopen sooner.

"There were still issues with what we could do and when we were going to be able to do them," he maintained, suggesting that too much remained uncertain earlier on for them to make commitments on programming.

"The opening process was going to be very slow, and the way that we were opening was not going to return to what it used to be," he added. "As a consequence, our requirements for staffing were certainly going to

change as well.

"COVID-19 created a sudden realization that normal is no longer what we thought it to be," Leach said. "So there were consequences that have occurred as a direct result of COVID-19 ... but we became aware though of a number of factors that were impacting CFDC prior to COVID-19."

Chief among them, he contended, was that the board felt the level of staffing at the museum was not sustainable.

"We were, no doubt, staffed beyond our capacity prior to COVID-19 occurring. The numbers that were occurring in visitations had peaked in 2018, they were declining in 2019 ... and we were not sure where they were going to go, and COVID-19 certainly resulted in a shutdown for nearly three months."

"Things have changed, staffing had to change. We're not really going to be looking at hiring permanent staff until we have visitations again to justify it," Leach continued. "When we are in a position, at some point, that demands more, we would look at a refocus of what we needed to do in staffing."

As for the signature museum status, Leach remains confident that as the museum continues to recover it will be able to continue to meet those qualifications.

"COVID-19 resulted in all of the signature museums laying off all

**"WE NEED TO MOVE NOW TO SAFEGUARD MORDEN'S GREATEST TOURISM ATTRACTION."**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left: Barry Wiebe of Wiebe's Steel Structures, Pembina Valley Baptist Church senior pastor Mike Sullivant, and David Krahn of Ironman Industries broke ground on the church's expansion project earlier this month.

# Winkler church starts major expansion project

By Ashleigh Viveiros

One of Winkler's biggest church communities has broken ground on a new major expansion.

The Pembina Valley Baptist Church is adding over 9,000 square feet to its current 45,000 sq. ft. facility at the corner of Hwy. 32 and Pembina Ave.

The new Family Life Centre will house a fellowship hall with seating for 600 (nearly twice the capacity of the church's current hall), volleyball and basketball courts, and a new and upgraded kitchen.

Church secretary Sandi Rempel ex-

plains the old fellowship hall will be renovated into office space, while the current office area will house a new walk-in cooler for the kitchen. There will also be added space for Sunday School rooms.

"The Pembina Valley Baptist Church is excited about how this will help as they seek to minister to the congregation and the community," the church said in a statement. "God truly has blessed, and they are looking forward to what God will do in the future."

The church welcomes an average of 650-700 members at its worship services each week.

## Adaptable staff at Regional Connections weather the COVID storm

By Lorne Stelmach

The pandemic meant there were many changes to how things were done at Regional Connections in the past year, but the organization's staff have earned high praise for how they were able to adjust.

That was the key message from executive director Steve Reynolds as part of the annual general meeting held online via Zoom last Thursday.

Reynolds highlighted "the need to be adaptable and flexible, and our staff just responded amazingly and have been willing to do whatever needs to be done to support clients.

"They're people focused, and they're really passionate, and they're here to help. Working in the non-profit sector, they have to be adaptable, and they're really amazing."

Reynolds reflected on the diversity of programming and how many people are involved in the settlement, employment, and language services for newcomers living in south central Manitoba.

"It was a busy year ... all programs combined, there were over 4,000 unique clients who came through our various programs and activities," he noted.

Reynolds touched on a number of highlights for the agency, including being named the Non-Profit of the Year by the Winkler chamber.

"That was really great recognition, I think not only for what's happening here now but the history of the organization and the impact in the community that it has had over the years."

A significant program development saw Altona and Rhineland selected to

be one of 11 national pilot sites for a new rural and northern immigration project that looks to increase local participation in the immigration process by giving community stakeholders a role in endorsing immigration applicants.

In addition, the agency partnered with the Morden Community Driven Immigration Initiative, which welcomed twice the typical number of newcomer families to Morden.

"It was a very busy year in Morden; lots of families arriving. Last summer, over a hundred families came," said Reynolds, who noted Winkler has also been working on a partnership with the province to recruit newcomers to help meet local employment needs.

He saw another key development in Regional Connections being chosen as one of seven provincial service providers selected by Immigration and Economic Opportunities Manitoba to provide Manitoba-funded settlement services for clients including temporary foreign workers and Canadian

citizens with settlement needs such as Low German Mennonites.

"We've been advocating for it for a few years. We have quite a few people with temporary work status or Canadian citizens, people with a Low German background, who have really been left out the last few years where settlement services are for permanent residents," he said, noting it allowed them to serve 956 of these clients. "So it has a huge impact for us on our region adding that service this year.

"All local residents are now able to come to Regional Connections for settlement program supports regardless of immigration status."

The various program reports presented as part of the AGM highlighted many of these successes and also included the statistics on the number of people assisted in the past year.

The settlement program served over 3,500 clients and was able to add two more workers.

The top 10 countries of origin were the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Ger-

many, Ukraine, Russia, India, Mexico, Paraguay, Syria and Brazil, and the top 10 languages spoken were Tagalog, Low German, Russian, German, English, Ukrainian, Punjabi, Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese.

The Settlement Workers In Schools program that partners with Western School Division and Border Land School Division to support the orientation of newcomer students worked with over 1,000 clients, and the employment program helped 506 unique clients, with only 10 per cent still looking for work.

The language program worked with 699 clients who attended classes in Winkler, Morden, Altona, and Morris.

Meanwhile, with expanded space, the child care program had 98 children including 49 for preschool care, 34 for toddler care, eight for infant care and seven for short term care.

In the end, providing all of these programs and services involved over 300 volunteers who committed over 6,000 hours of service.

### > CFDC, FROM PG. 9

staff except for the executive directors," he said. "We have satisfactorily completed all of the requirements that we need to complete, and our signature museum status is in good order."

He sees the CFDC taking an important step in its recovery with a new agreement in place with Kirstin Brink, assistant professor of paleontology at the University of Manitoba. Brink will be getting involved as an

adjunct curator for the CFDC.

"It means we now have access to a highly qualified paleontologist," he said, adding the museum will benefit from having the services of both her and her students to work on the facility's extensive fossil collection.

"I think it's going to result in a very bright future for the CFDC," Leach suggested. "We have been able to do some things that are going to position us to do better work related

to research and science, which we haven't been able to do for a long time."

In light of the province's third phase of rolling back on COVID-19 restrictions beginning on Monday, the CFDC announced it was able to reopen its kid's activity room and photo booth area and are also looking at launching its Dino Day Camp summer program for July and August.



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# DNS hopes to have outdoor shelter up this summer

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Organizers behind the Discovery Nature Sanctuary continue to work on improving the slice of nature amidst the confines of the city.

Board chair Paul Goossen said they spent the winter developing an action plan for the future of the 32 acres in northeast Winkler.

"That will give us a sense of direction as to where we want to go with some of the things we want to do for the sanctuary," he said.

At the top of the list is getting the outdoor classroom installed this summer.

"It will be nice to have that for educational purposes as well as for the general public to come out and spend some time together," he said of the open-air shelter and its picnic tables. "It will be an important component of the sanctuary which will enable classes to meet there ... in a semi-sheltered situation."

The classroom is going in between the dock and the hill. The plan is to have it ready for use by fall.

"We were looking to have it up, at least most of it, by May, but it hasn't been started yet and so we'll have to

wait," Goossen said. "I'm hoping it will be up by the end of the summer at least."

Also on the to-do list this year is a fence along the southern edge of the sanctuary, which is located beside the city's industrial park.

"This will give us an opportunity to provide some separation between business and the DNS," Goossen explained. "We're hoping to have vines planted along the fence line. That will give them an opportunity to grow and provide a little bit of esthetic appeal to it as well."

Work on that project should be wrapped up sometime in the next several weeks.

Visitors to the site may have also noticed several large mounds of dirt that showed up last fall.

Those mounds represent a habitat for the Bank Swallow, a bird that likes to nest in burrows it digs into river banks, cliffs, or, in this case, giant man-made dirt piles.

"That's a species-at-risk project," Goossen said, explaining the species has seen a major decline in numbers in Canada and is now considered a threatened species. The nesting bank is one way DNS can help.

Organizers hope to have an outdoor shelter up this summer at the Discovery Nature Sanctuary in Winkler.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

"We're pretty excited about that project. It's very neat to be able to get involved with some species-at-risk conservation work."

Likewise, the barnswallow shelters and the pollinator garden for bees also provide other important habitats throughout the sanctuary.

"They're an important part of our eco-system here," Goossen said.

## BIG PLANS IN THE FUTURE

Last fall, the city announced it was selling a section of land previously

earmarked for the sanctuary to a pair of businesses in the area who needed room to expand.

In exchange, city council expanded the sanctuary-designated land north right up to Hwy. 14 and also earmarked the proceeds of the sale for future DNS development.

The long-term plan, Goossen said, is to create a new entrance off the highway, a new parking lot, and more visible signage, both directing people to the site and throughout the sanctuary itself.



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# No toying around: local photographer making a name for himself

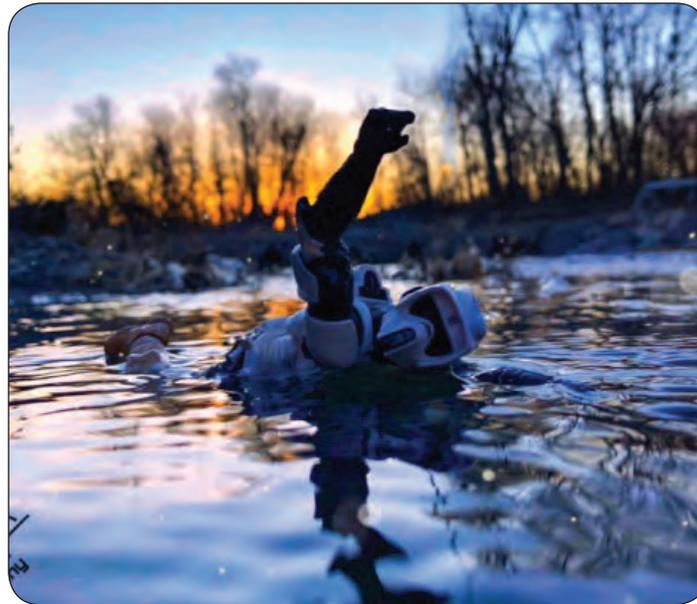
Roseisle man uses action figures as models for his unique hobby

By Brian Bowman

Jesse Murphy has taken his passion for photography and his love for Star Wars to enter the unique hobby of toy photography.

"I have been into Star Wars for as long as I can remember and a few years ago I decided to take up photography," said the 19-year-old Roseisle resident. "It was just random. It was four or five years ago during the Olympics and I took a little Lego guy and put Lego skis on him and just went outside and took a picture of it. I thought it was kind of fun, so I started doing it with action figures."

Murphy has a large collection of Star Wars figurines that he has accumulated over the years. In the past few years, he has started collecting a more popular line of toys that he uses for



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Jesse Murphy's passions are giving him unique opportunities with toy photography.

his toy photography.

Murphy found out about toy photography while searching on Instagram.

"I noticed that this is actually a thing so I started following toy photographers and I decided I wanted to get into this," he explained. "So I did and it's been a lot of fun."

Murphy participated in the Toy-

lympics in late April as a member of Team Canada, entering the category of swimming.

His photo helped the Canadian team to an eighth-place finish out of 14 teams.

"It was a pretty good learning experience and we got our names out there," Murphy said. "It was pretty

cool. There were some pictures that were incredible."

More recently, Murphy placed first in another Instagram competition hosted by a Winnipeg Star Wars toy photographer.

Continued on page 18

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# Agriculture

## Why count canola plants?

By Autumn Barnes

Multiple canola plant counts done about a month after seeding will provide a report card on the seeding operation and help with planning for the rest of 2020.

Farmers and agronomists can use multiple counts averaged across a field to calculate emergence percentage and seed survival. Use the “emergence” tool under the Seeding Rate tab at [canolacalculator.ca](http://canolacalculator.ca).

Farmers and agronomists can also use these counts to determine how much care this field will need all season long. For example, if counts are below the recommended five to eight plants per square foot, all remaining

plants may need extra attention to bring them to harvest and preserve the yield potential of the crop.

How to count with a hula hoop:

- For a quarter-square-metre hoop, use a hoop with an inside diameter of 56 cm and circumference of 177 cm. Count the number of plants inside the hoop and multiply by four to get plants per square metre. To convert to plants per square foot divide the plants per square metre by 10.

- For a two-square-foot hoop, use a hoop with an inside diameter of 19” and circumference of 60”. Count the number of plants inside the hoop and divide by two to get plants per square foot. Counting with this larger hoop (instead of a one-foot-square hoop)

will incorporate plants from two seed rows and give a larger sample size, helping to improve the accuracy of counts.

- For other sized hoops, determine the area using the formula  $A=\pi r^2$  ( $r$ = radius,  $\pi = 3.14$ ).

How to count with a metre stick:

- Use a metre stick and count the seedlings per metre of row. Take that number and multiply by 100 and then divide by the seed spacing in cm to get plants per square metre.

For example, 25 plants per metre multiplied by 100 then divided by 25 cm (10” row spacing) is 100 plants per square metre (approximately 10 per square foot).

Do not include volunteer canola plants in plant density counts or emergence calculations. Look for blue seed coats attached to seedling root systems and avoid counting plants which are growing outside of seed rows.

Many factors can cause lower-than-expected plant counts. These can include weather factors such as wind, rain and frost, insects such as flea beetles and cutworms, seedling diseases, and seeder issues such as seeding too deep or putting too much fertilizer in the seed row. While doing the counts, some scouting and records-checking can help to identify the key causes.

For more details on how to do counts, including videos, and on the common causes for missing plants, please read “Plant counts...and reasons for lower numbers” at [canolawatch.org](http://canolawatch.org). While there, you can sign up to receive the timely Canola Watch email updates throughout the growing season.

—Autumn Barnes is an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada. Reach her at [barnesa@canolacouncil.org](mailto:barnesa@canolacouncil.org).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This metric hoop is equivalent to a quarter square metre. With this hoop, multiply plant counts by four to get plants per square metre.

### > TOY PHOTOGRAPHER, FROM PG. 17

He went undefeated during the two-week competition.

“When I looked at my photo, I thought, ‘That’s an awesome picture,’” Murphy said, noting most of his photos have been taken with an iPhone but he has recently purchased a camera. “I was very, very impressed with my picture.”

It takes an immense amount of creativity—and talent—to be a successful toy photographer.

“When I see movies I say, ‘I should try something like that’ and I also follow a lot of toy photographers,” Murphy said. “[My] inspiration

comes from that. It takes a lot of creativity.”

Over the past couple of years his Instagram page has gained a significant following, including from actor Daniel Logan, who played Boba Fett in *Attack of the Clones* and the animated series.

“He saw a couple of pictures and liked them. I lost my mind, actually,” Murphy admitted. “Oh my goodness. It was crazy.”

You can find Murphy’s toy photo gallery on Instagram @starwarsmurphy.

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# PVPCC directors walk and jump their way to \$10K in donations

By Lorne Stelmach

Jumping jacks outside in rubber boots is not part of a usual exercise routine, but the Get Moving Challenge was not your ordinary fitness regimen.

The unique fundraising effort of the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre saw their board of directors get active in support of the organization.

For every \$1 donation PVPCC received over a two week period, directors pledged to do one jumping jack. A \$10 donation got them walking or jogging a kilometre.

In the end, the more than \$10,000 that came in had chairperson Davis Wieler and board members Andy Schmidt, Glenda Schwarz, and Hugh Froese covering over 350 kms on foot and doing nearly 6,000 jumping jacks.

"I've never done so many jumping jacks in my life, that's for sure," said Wieler.

"It was neat to be involved in this way," he said. "The community support is always amazing, and it was again. We didn't know what to expect dollarwise, but we always appreciate the support."

Executive director Linda Marek said the campaign came about because the centre has had to cancel many events this spring due to pandemic restrictions.

"We were in the COVID close down period when I brainstormed the idea and pitched it to them," she said. "They were all in."

"It was something we hadn't done before, and it's something healthy, something positive, and something



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

PVPCC directors Andy Schmidt (above), Davis Wieler (right, top), Glenda Schwarz (right), and Hugh Froese (not shown) ran, walked, and jumped in response to their Get Moving Challenge, raising \$10,000 for the agency.

we thought would be a good fit to try when everything is being cancelled.

"We've got a great board," Marek added, noting the challenge also presented a way to engage the community by posting regular updates on their social media pages. "Hopefully that encouraged people that they could literally see the board doing their part."

Wieler agreed it was a fun alternative for them when most of the usual options for fundraisers and community events were not possible.

"It is a challenge to hold any kind of event like we normally would, so it's thinking outside the box, and this was a neat idea to try out."

The agency remains hopeful that things change soon, though, so that they can consider moving forward with a planned benefit concert featuring musician Steve Bell this September.



# Province to install outdoor shelters for care home visits

By Lorne Stelmach

The province moved to allow limited indoor visits in personal care homes this week while also announcing a plan for semi-permanent, all season shelters that could provide another alternative for visits by family or caregivers.

The measures come because allowing personal care home residents to safely maintain connections during the COVID-19 pandemic is central to their ongoing health and well-being, said Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen.

The Morden-Winkler MLA stressed the idea of finding a safe balance and taking gradual steps to reconnect residents with their families. In-person, outdoor visits were recently allowed once again after being suspended in

mid-March due to the pandemic.

"It had a real and undeniable effect on residents, on their caregivers, on their families and friends who quite suddenly found themselves without that ability to go into the home and to visit that individual," Friesen said at a news conference Monday. "Virtual visits, video conferences, telephone calls and window visits only go so far ... Manitobans are getting back to see those loved ones in person."

The government will ask for feedback on conceptual designs for the personal care home shelters in the near future, but Friesen stressed the outdoor structures must be accessible, protected from the elements, easily cleaned, and provide a space for quality connections. Feedback can be provided at EngageMB.ca.

Friesen's hope is to see work under-

way by August and for the shelters to be in place for use by September.

As for allowing limited in-person visits, the minister said it will be for a limited number of designated caregivers or family members, and the facilities will ensure they create the acceptable conditions for visits.

"We believe it is a calculated risk, but we believe that it's a balanced risk," he said. "We're taking this step because the evidence supports it. If we see that the numbers are rising, we may curtail those right across the province or we could take a more localized approach, a site-by-site approach."

"Our numbers are good in Manitoba. They are some of the best numbers in all of North America. I think along with those low transmission numbers there can come a sense of lethargy, you can relax your guard," said Fries-

en. "We've seen in other jurisdictions how quickly the situation can turn. Our continued success depends on our willingness to do the right things."

"This is not a return to normal," emphasized Lanette Siragusa, chief nursing officer with Shared Health, speaking later that day as part of the province's COVID-19 update.

She noted care facilities have had a refresher course in personal protective equipment and have also reviewed protocols for cleaning and outbreak procedures. The indoor visits will be for a minimal number of people, Siragusa stressed, and will follow an approved plan setting out such conditions as the duration and timing of the visits.

"There was a lot of work behind the

Continued on page 22

# New designation for local heavy equipment training program

## Safety with Shelly now a Manitoba private vocational institute

By Lorne Stelmach

A local consulting service specializing in heavy equipment operator training is going a step further with its services by establishing a private vocational institute.

Shelly Plett of Safety with Shelly

Consulting Services is a training and safety consulting firm that was first formed in 2004 and incorporated in 2018.

With a background that includes working in the heavy construction industry for over 25 years and in the safety and health profession for 20

years, Plett as well as her instructors are approved with Manitoba Economic Development and Training and Workplace Safety and Health.

Plett made the move recently to become designated as an educational facility because many of the students who might benefit from this training need to get it through a private vocational institute in order to access funding support.

"What we came across the last couple years was that our students, when they want to take our program, they need to be able to get funding from somewhere," she said, noting the switch has been in the works for about a year now.

She sees the students coming to the institute varying in terms of their backgrounds and future goals.

"What we normally find is the people that come to see us are people who want a change in career ... they want to do something different," Plett suggested.

"We also have people who have been in the industry, maybe working as laborers ... and they say they want to be an operator, and they haven't had a chance.

"I would say the next group then is just people who want to enhance their experience and training," she added.

Where there may be a need for a program and service like this is that heavy equipment operator training is very specialized, with only a couple different training options available in Manitoba.

"The challenge with heavy equipment training is that there is no apprenticeship opportunity," said Plett. "We want to be in the forefront ... we want to be well established by the time that happens so that our school just rolls right into it."

Their next course is set to begin Aug 11 and run for five or six weeks for a total of 240 hours.

"It's a short duration, but it's very intense, fast-paced and hands-on," Plett said, noting the location was still being finalized although the practical component would be done in a local gravel pit. "We're hoping to be able to run the course a minimum of a few times a year."

For more information, head to [safetyselly.com](http://safetyselly.com).



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Safety with Shelly Consulting Services' heavy equipment operator training program in Morden has been named a private vocational institute by the Province of Manitoba.

# Working Towards Parity speakers reflect on their pandemic experiences

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The local Working Towards Parity—Women Speaking Up speaker series held its final session last week.

The series wrapped things up with a discussion on the topic of "Adjust, Adapt, and Thrive."

Past guest speakers were invited back to share their thoughts on how they've weathered the past few months.

Tina Fehr Kehler noted that adapting requires first recognizing that change is needed.

"When we thrive, what we're doing is we're implement-

ing suitable changes to the new situation that helps us live ... really live. Thriving means living, not just surviving."

Learning to adapt to a new reality—whether it be something created through a personal life-altering event or, as in the case of COVID-19, a global one—is about facing challenges head-on, Fehr Kehler stressed.

"Don't fight reality. Lean into it. Learn from it," she said. "Dig into yourself and face your demons."

"When the pandemic hit I'd already been prepared with the knowledge that I'm not really, and none of us are really, in control of many of the circumstances of our lives. We just aren't."

"It's about accepting what isn't and balancing what is within our own power to do."

Hannah Drudge reflected on how the recent anti-racism protests around the world have gotten her thinking about the adjustments she needs to make in her own life.

"Certainly none of these issues are new by any means," she said. "But I think for many white women, myself included, the recent Black Lives Matter protests have been a bit of a wake-up call to the fact that being truly anti-racist as opposed

to just non-racist is something that takes a lot of work.

"White people created white supremacy, so we need to do the work to dismantle it in ourselves, our families, and our communities," Drudge noted.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that the most recent surge in the Black Lives Matter movement

has occurred during the pandemic," she continued. "The pandemic has laid bare the gaping inequalities which have always existed in our society."

"Right now, thriving for me means doing the work of reckoning with my place in a society of deep racial inequality and inequities," Drudge said. "Is it comfortable work? No. Does it make me feel good about myself? Definitely not. But places of comfortability and feeling good about

oneself are rarely where real growth and learning come from. And I think that is a lot of what thriving is."

Karina Cardona noted that the past three months have sped by in a rush of learning to navigate the new normal.

"When it comes to situations like the pandem-

**"WHEN IT COMES TO SITUATIONS LIKE THE PANDEMIC, WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER."**

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The Winkler Morden  
**Voice**

# GVC Youth in Philanthropy gives back \$1,825 in grants

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The year may have been cut off a bit earlier than expected, but Garden Valley Collegiate's Youth in Philanthropy group didn't let that stop them from giving back as much as they could to the community.

The student group were able to grant out \$1,825 to Salem Home, Central Station Community Centre, Katie Cares/Katie's Cottage, and Northlands Childcare Centre for a variety of projects that will have an impact on Winklerites of all ages.

"Honestly, it was a different kind of year," said graduating student Adria Toews, pointing out YIP's fundraising paint night had to be cancelled this spring thanks to COVID-19 (though many ticket holders were generous enough donate their refunds back to the group).

Still, fundraising events held throughout the rest of the year made it possible for the group to help out everyone who applied for funding.

"We decide as a group who to donate to and this year we were able to give at least a little bit to everyone that asked, so that was really nice," Toews said.

New events like Treat Days in the Zone (where the kids solicited dona-

**"IT WAS A GREAT WAY TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR SCHOOL AND YOUR COMMUNITY."**

tions from local businesses for goodies to sell in the cafeteria for charity) were a highlight for Toews, who also helped organize events like an artisan market at Christmas, student discount card sales, and the Valentine's Crush on You campaign.

The teens also gave back by helping out at the Citizen of the Year banquet, doing yard clean up last fall, and spearheading a Christmas food drive for the Winkler Food Cupboard.

This was Toews' second and final year with YIP and she wholeheartedly encourages returning students to give it a try next school year.

"I've always enjoyed helping out the community and just making a difference," she said. "I'd definitely recommend it to anyone who enjoys helping people out. It's a great way to get involved with your school and your community."



**SUPPLIED PHOTOS**

Garden Valley's Youth in Philanthropy group for 2019-2020 included (left to right, starting with the top row) instructor Susana Hawryshko, Seth Friesen, Sofia Tissen, instructor Rhonda Kezema, Susana Wall, Rachele Klassen, Charise Wall, Melany Marx, Hannah Montgomery, Kendra Loewen, Adria Toews, and Murhula Mulume. Missing from photo: Madison Dyck and Janelle Friesen.

## "There have been tons of little blessings"

From Pg. 20

ic, we're all in it together," she observed, noting she has leaned heavily on friends for support.

Still, adjusting to the isolation that the COVID-19 restrictions necessitated was a struggle for her, especially after an already long winter.

"The stress really hit me that I was going to be stuck inside even longer. ... how am I going to do this?" Cardona said, stressing it came down to simply "trying to own what I can and let go of what I can't."

"The momentum of life has changed," she noted, "and I think what has helped me through it has been to be aware of those things and to share those feelings in conversations with others."

Steph Klassen shared that the pandemic has "affected every possible area of my life."

"From my work to my home life, parenting, being at home with my husband ... it affected my health, my diabetes. But it also helped me discover a lot of new things about myself and about the world."

"I feel like I'm thriving most days now," Klassen said. "But then I have those days that sneak up on me out of nowhere ... and I feel like I'm back at square one."

"To bring myself out of those days I've realized that I need to focus on what's best for me," she said, noting regular exercise has proven to be a balm for her both physically and mentally, as has rediscovering her love of reading and spending more quality time with her kids. "There have been tons of little blessings that have come during this time that I honestly didn't think would happen."

"I've felt myself becoming stronger in who I want to be as a human, what I want to stand for. I've been able to see things more clearly. I've developed more patience, which is something that I really needed."

"All these things have just helped me thrive in this moment."

As the world returns to normal, Lexie Elias hopes people will be mindful of some of the lessons learned during this time, including the fact that sometimes personal sacrifices (self-isolation, for example) are needed to protect others.

"We're all so caught up in our own lives and how busy we are, we forget about other people sometimes," she said. "I really do feel like through this experience maybe people will ... keep in account other people's scenarios, [that] other people need help, need to be protected."

### SERIES MAY CONTINUE

Event organizer Ang Braun from Genesis House noted the series was created to provide a platform to women in our community on a variety of topics.

"It was really a couple of us having a picnic lunch in the park and talking, between friends, about how do we get women's voices heard and whose voices are we not hearing?" she said. "That was the impetus for starting this, trying to figure out what challenges are facing young women today, what challenges are facing newcomer women, and what challenges are facing women with a disability?"

Speakers addressed all these issues and more through a series of talks that started as in-person lunch-and-learns and then shifted to virtual webinars that attracted attendees from across the province.

Braun says the organizing committee hopes to host more speakers in the future.

"There is some conversation happening about the potential for this to carry on," she said, urging people to stay tuned to the Working Towards Parity Facebook and Instagram pages for updates.

# Habitat for Humanity pumping the brakes for 2020

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler-Morden chapter of Habitat for Humanity has been forced to tap the brakes on its campaign to get a house in Morden built.

The chapter had a busy year of fundraising planned as a follow-up to successfully completing the construction of its first house in Winkler last winter.

Thanks to COVID-19, though, events like the Habitat golf tournament, community garage sale, and Beach Boat Build have had to be cancelled outright or postponed indefinitely. Even the draw for its popular play-house raffle has been bumped to 2021 thanks to the cancellation of the summer festival season.

"Everything we had scheduled doesn't work anymore because of

crowd restrictions," says Habitat rep. Christina Falk, adding that while they're hopeful the Boat Build could possibly take place in September (the City of Morden is eyeing that month for its postponed Paddlefest), a huge pandemic question mark continues to hang over any long-term planning.

Crowd restrictions aside, it's clear 2020 isn't the best time to be fundraising.

"We had a long discussion about what this year looks like and one of the things we feel strongly about is that businesses are hurting right now," Falk says, "and so it's really hard to go to them asking for a lot of money."

"We have so many non-profit organizations in our community that need money—everybody has lost funding, not just us—and we just feel there's some that need more immediate help than we do," she adds. "So we won't be doing an aggressive fundraising push for 2020."

Further complicating matters is the fact the families Habitat sets out to help are also struggling right now.

"We had started taking in applications for the Morden house and we had several in already, but each of those families lost their jobs," Falk says, explaining employment is one of the key criteria to being selected as a Habitat family. "If they don't have an income they can't pay a mortgage."

"We realized probably a lot of the people who are in our niche group for these houses have lost their jobs right now, and so we decided let's just press pause on everything."

Winkler-Morden Habitat will resume accepting applications for the Morden house next spring.

"Hopefully by then some families will have gotten back on their feet," Falk says, adding they expect there may be more families than ever in need of a helping hand in the wake of the pandemic.

It's certainly not the year anyone had expected, but Falk is hopeful they won't lose the momentum gained from the successful Winkler build, which is now home to a young family of six.

"I'm not going to lie, it's nerve-racking," she says. "We had such a good thing going and people were so responsive and we were ready to get going with our next build."

"To see everything kind of stop is hard, but, really, everybody is in the same boat with this right now. I think everybody is going to be picking up the pieces this year. We'll figure it out."

You can stay up to date on what the local Habitat for Humanity is up to or make a donation to the cause online at [www.habitat.mb.ca/chapters/winkler-morden](http://www.habitat.mb.ca/chapters/winkler-morden).



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden-Winkler community pulled together to help Winklerites John and Margaret Wiebe build a house for their family last winter. Thanks to COVID-19, Habitat for Humanity has had to scale back on its 2020 fundraising and family selection goals for a build in Morden.

# Manitoba caseload at 314, no hospitalizations

From Pg. 19

scenes to make sure that we made this safe, as safe as possible," she said. "This is a high risk population, and

we do want to find a balance between making sure that people can visit their loved ones and stay safe."

Two new cases of COVID-19 were announced over the weekend as well

as one new case on Monday, bringing the total number of lab-confirmed positive and probable positive cases in Manitoba to 314.

There are currently 14 active cases, none of which required hospitalization at the start of the week. A total of 293 people have recovered from COVID-19. Seven people have died.

Three cases last Friday included a male truck driver in his 40s from Winnipeg and a male and a female from the Southern Health region. Those cases were linked to travel and a previously known case.

In one instance, it was found a person attended JT's Store and Diner in Blumenort June 10 at 6 p.m. despite showing symptoms, though public health officials say the risk was mitigated by the business having social distancing measures in place.

Two cases reported Saturday involved a male truck driver in his 30s and a female in her 20s from Winni-

peg.

The case reported Monday involved a male truck driver in his 40s from the Southern Health region.

"COVID-19 is not going away. We've still seen this virus, and as we continue to reopen we'll continue to see this virus," stressed Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial public health officer. "We need to learn to live with the virus because we know that we need to deal with this virus in one shape or another for the foreseeable future."

Phase 3 of the province's reopening plan began on Monday, lifting or easing restrictions on countless businesses and also upping the cap on group gatherings to 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors, with flexibility for more if subgroups are kept separate from one another.

Details of the plan are available at [gov.mb.ca/covid19](http://gov.mb.ca/covid19).



## Lemonade for a great cause

Morden's Emery Sawatzky set up a lemonade stand recently to raise funds for Boundary Trails Health Centre's palliative care program in memory of his great grandmother Marie Peers. The enterprising youth managed to raise \$251 for the cause.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Track down your family's history with the Winkler Heritage Soc.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Heritage Society wants to get the word out about the wealth of historical records it has available to anyone researching their family's history.

A stop by the society's museum in the Southland Mall could result in you tracing your ancestry back generations, says the museum's Joanne Bergen.

"We have access to the Homestead Files. Anybody whose family came here in the 1870s, if you give me their name and a birth year I can tell you where they settled, which quarter section of land," she says, noting the Mennonite Heritage Archives provided the society with a digital version of those files last year.

"They cover both the East and the West Reserve," she says, adding they also have access to municipal records and several church record books stretching back decades.

A newer tool in their arsenal is the Genealogical Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry program,

commonly known as GRANDMA.

With that database, Bergen has access to genealogical information of over 1.4 million people, most of whom trace their ancestry to Mennonite communities in Russia and Poland.

"Unfortunately it only works if you are of Mennonite descent," she says. "But if you are, we can punch your name into GRANDMA and look to see if you're in there and it'll do your entire family tree for you.

"I did mine and found 10 generations back. Some people's have gone back to 1480."

Entries for some individuals can be quite detailed, including not just extensive family connections but also sometimes tidbits about their life.

"The notes in GRANDMA can be incredibly interesting," Bergen says, pointing to one entry that shared how the individual was known for successfully swimming across the Red River with a wagon and a team of oxen—a feat that drowned another family who tried to do the same shortly afterwards.

Bergen says they have USBs available for sale on which they can put

**"IF YOU WANT YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY, COME IN AND ASK BECAUSE WE MIGHT HAVE IT."**



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Heritage Museum's Joanne Bergen with the GRANDMA program she can use to track down genealogical information for people of Mennonite descent.

whatever information they find for people to take with them and explore. "It's such a neat thing and we're trying to figure out how to let people know we can do this for them," Bergen says.

"If you want your family's history, come in and ask because we might

have it."

The Winkler Heritage Museum is located in the north end of the mall. They're operating on a revised schedule right now: Tuesday to Friday from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

# Celebrating provincial funding for local projects

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen made the rounds in the com-

munity last week to celebrate local projects receiving provincial funding this summer.

Receiving funding through the Man-

itoba 2020 Green Team was the Garden Valley School Division (\$6,189), Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre (\$4,229), Genesis House (\$6,068), the South Central Regional Library (\$2,353), the Stanley Soil Management Association (\$6,068), The Bunker (\$6,189), and the cities of Winkler (\$9,102) and Morden (\$6,314).

A number of local agencies are also getting funding through the province's Building Sustainable Communities program.

A total of \$227,563 is going out to the CFDC (\$41,250 for a feasibility study update), the City of Winkler (\$75,000 for removable flooring in the Meridian Exhibition Centre and \$20,000 to review and upgrade the zoning by-laws), the Discovery Nature Sanctuary (\$1,695 for a nature trail), Regional Connections (\$7,093 for office renovations), the RM of Stanley (\$42,525 toward its drainage plan), and the Grace Mennonite Church (\$40,000 for its exterior accessibility project).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen congratulates The Bunker's Kevin Hildebrand (centre) and Amy Peters on the ministry receiving \$6,189 through the Manitoba 2020 Green Team, which supports a variety of community improvement projects.

The *Winkler Morden*  
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# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Whips, Mohawks back in action next month

By Lorne Stelmach

The Border Baseball League is gearing up for a 2020 season that will be shorter and follow a different format.

The changes, including a range of measures to ensure compliance with all public health orders, are being welcomed by local players and coaches in order to salvage the summer.

"It's such a different year ... but it

just seems like this year, given the situation we're in, everyone is just very thankful that we're going to get a chance to play and very appreciative of the fact we are going to get to hit the field," said league president Darren Russell. "We're optimistic. We know it's going to be different than it's ever been before, but everyone understands the rules ... everyone wants to play."



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden Mohawks and the Winkler Whips are eager to get back on the field as the Border Baseball League season begins in July.

The league will be down one team to eight this year with the Killarney Lakers unable to field a complete squad, although they do plan to play some exhibition games.

Back for another season are Winkler, Morden, Pilot Mound, Carman, Altona, Clearwater, Baldur and Cartwright.

The Pilot Mound Pilots finished in first place last year with a solid 14-2 record followed by the Morden Mohawks at 12-4 and the Winkler Whips at 11-5.

Winkler, though, are the ones aiming to defend the league championship, which they captured by first eliminating Carman and then Morden before taking down Pilot Mound in three games in the final. The Pilots found some consolation in capturing the provincial AA championship.

The tentative start date for this summer is July 3, although a schedule had not been finalized at press time. The plan is a season shortened from 16 games to 10.

The western and eastern based teams will play home-and-home series with the closest teams in their region. All teams will also spend one day in games against teams from the other region.

The playoffs then will also be abbreviated over two weekends of tournament style play that will see a champion decided by the end of August.

"We wanted to ensure that we provided as much baseball for the teams and players this year that we could possibly provide," said Russell.

"All of the teams will be participating right up until the week before the

final weekend of the season," he continued. "We wanted to ensure if teams committed to playing this season that we provided them with as much opportunity to play as much ball as long as they could."

Russell has no doubt there will be some good baseball played even with the changes that are necessary.

"The competitiveness of our league has always been there ... the parity in our league is there."

For the defending league champs, there is optimism about their chances to repeat.

"We've had quite a bit of interest from some of the younger guys coming out of midget and junior age," said Bill Fehr, player and coach for the Winkler Whips.

"We do have nearly all of our players returning from last year but with lots of interest from a younger group of players as well ... so it's good to have lots of interest from our players. They are very eager to get back on the field."

"I think the guys are excited to get out there," agreed Brent Laverty, coach of the Morden Mohawks.

He also noted perhaps as a result of people's plans changing due to COVID-19 that they may be gaining some players, such as a couple who graduated from junior ball and another who had been in the U.S.

"Some of the guys we maybe weren't expecting to have back are now staying here," he said.

"I think we'll have a pretty strong team, and our pitching I think should probably again be strong. I think we should be able to field a strong team again."

## Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony postponed to 2021

The Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony scheduled for this fall has been postponed to 2021.

"At a board of directors meeting on June 10, it was decided that the Oct. 3, 2020 date for the induction ceremonies and banquet was surrounded by too many uncertainties and the event

needed to be postponed until June, 2021," Baseball Manitoba announced in a statement.

"The board extends their apologies for any inconveniences that this postponement may cause."

Presently, June 19, 2021 is the suggested date for the induction ceremony

of this year's inductees.

"Please note that only those scheduled for 2020 induction will be inducted at that time," the agency said. "Updates will follow as more information becomes available."

Meanwhile, the Hall of Fame is now inviting nominations for the 2022 in-

duction ceremony. Categories include individuals, major club teams, minor club teams and a special category for teams or individuals.

Details of induction criteria can be found on the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame website or by contacting Murray Zuk at murzuk@mts.net.

News or sports tip? E-mail [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca) or call 325-6888

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### PUBLIC NOTICE



**Gateway Resources Inc.  
Annual General Meeting  
June 30 @ 7:00 p.m. at Gateway  
Resources - Dining Hall**

This year's meeting will be Business Only, with COVID restrictions and requirements in place. A PDF of the report book will be available by request.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



**HYLIFE**



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- Recognizing and treating livestock health issues
- Maintaining livestock performance records
- Other duties as assigned

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- The ability to work well with others
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Please send your resumes to Melinda at [hr@pennerwaste.com](mailto:hr@pennerwaste.com)

### PUBLIC NOTICE



### WINKLER POLICE BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE

A Winkler Police Board quarterly meeting will be held on July 8th at 12:45 p.m. at City Hall in the South Committee Room, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB.

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### SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

**Here's How It Works:**  
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!

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

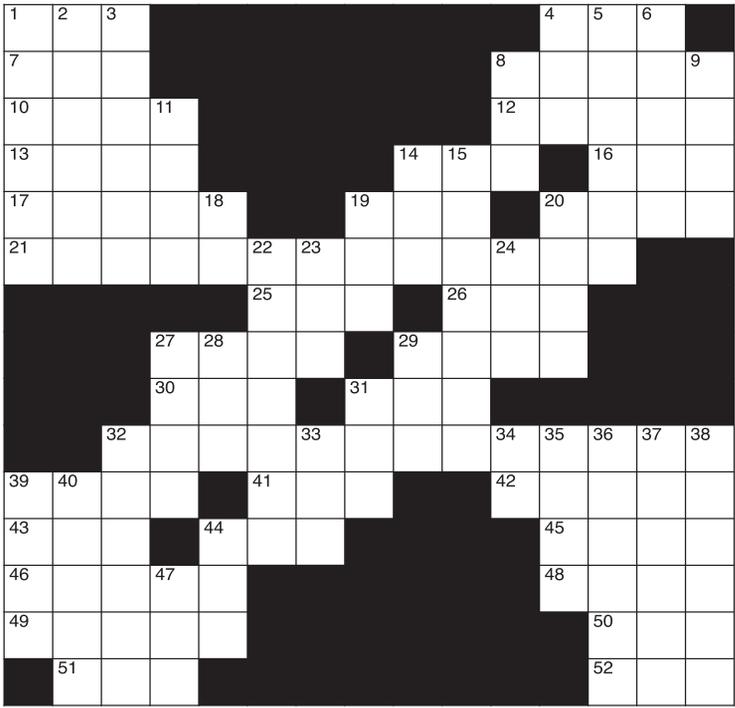
Sudoku Answer

E	E					F	L	E	S
L	L				G	G	V	A	S
T	O	T	S			K	K	K	H
S	I	B	I		N	A	O	N	A
E	R	L	B		V	I	O	D	D
N	O	T	E	T	P	V	S	N	V
H	O	T	I						
K	N	I							
I	V	B	U						
S	V	A	O						
F	H	S							

Crossword Answer

## X CROSSWORD

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Protects from weather
  - Superhigh frequency
  - Southern constellation
  - Swines
  - Self-righteously moralistic person
  - United Arab Emirates city
  - Surinam toad
  - Sign language
  - Tattoo (slang)
  - Makes level
  - Sun up in New York
  - It must be scratched
  - Where people live
  - Swiss river
  - Buddy
  - One of two equal parts of a divisible whole
  - Shrek is one
  - Egyptian unit of weight
  - Fiddler crabs
  - Carroll O'Connor's TV wife
  - No longer having life
  - Former OSS
  - A way to emit sound
  - Mandela's party
  - Adult female chicken
  - U. of Miami's mascot
  - Southeastern Chinese people
  - Casino game
  - Amos Alonzo \_\_\_, US football coach
  - Joint connecting two pipes at right angles
  - Will Ferrell film
  - River in NE Scotland



- Occur
- Show up
- Capital of Taiwan
- Former French coin
- Some are bad
- Monetary unit
- Immoral act
- Package (abbr.)
- Indian religious person
- Crew
- Antidiuretic hormone
- Makeshift
- Baseball box score stat
- Make a mistake
- Not moving
- Even distribution of weight
- Clumsy person
- Paddle
- Worked the soil
- Alias
- Plant cultivated in Peru
- Side-blotched lizards genus
- Wild dog
- Pound
- Manning and Lilly are two
- Put on the shelf for now
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Cuddle
- Dashes
- Related on the mother's side
- Witch
- Kilogram force (abbr.)

**CLUES DOWN**

**ANNIVERSARY**



Congratulations to Don and Mavis Cram on their 70th wedding anniversary Married June 22nd, 1950 in Morden. They have resided in the area for their entire marriage. Have five children, 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Love and best wishes Dad and Mom -From all your family

**Announcements**

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**Helen Klassen**  
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**OBITUARY**

**Ella Hildebrand (nee Suderman) 1922 - 2020**



On Monday, June 15, 2020 just five days short of her 98th birthday, Ella Hildebrand, 97 of Winkler and formerly of Greenfarm, MB passed away peacefully at Boundary Trails Health Center.

She was predeceased by her husband, Isaac D Hildebrand in 1998 and their son, Brian Hildebrand in 2015; her sister, Margaret Krahn in 2018 and her brother, David Suderman also in 2018.

She leaves to mourn her passing her three remaining children: Sharon Waldron, Sandi Mill and her husband, Bill and son, Wes Hildebrand as well as her grandchildren, Matt and Sara Hildebrand and their children, Ava and Finn, Felicia Hildebrand, Daniel and Stacey Waldron and their children, Alex, Janae and Madeline, Rachel and David Tower and their children, Ethan and Dax. She

also leaves to mourn her passing her brothers, Abraham Suderman, John Suderman, Peter Suderman and her sister, Doreen Hildebrand and their spouses.

A private graveside service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 19, 2020 at the Winkler Cemetery where she was laid to rest next to her husband, Isaac with Reverend Victor Engbrecht of the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church officiating.

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



**OBITUARY**

**Abram N Hildebrand 1925 – 2020**



Abe N Hildebrand passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. He went to be with the Lord at the age of 94 years.

Abe was from the Valleyfield District and was born on October 3, 1925.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Katherine "Tina" (nee Janzen) and his second, wife Anne (nee Zacharias). He is survived by the children of Katherine: Kathy (John) Parsons, and Alfred (Carla) Hildebrand; he also leaves to mourn the children of his second wife, Anne: Gerald Hildebrand and Eric (Arlene) Hildebrand. Dad was very proud of his grandchildren who will forever be impacted by his love for them: Daniel Wong, Sara Wong, Destiny, Adam, and Aly Hildebrand.

Graveside service was held at the Glencross Church Cemetery on Wednesday June 24, 2020. If friends so desire, donations may be made in Abe's memory to the BTHC Foundation designated to Cancer Care or to the Glencross Mennonite Church.

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



**OBITUARY**

**Ella Agnes (Funk) Thiessen (nee Hildebrand) 1938 - 2020**



On Thursday, June 18, 2020, at Boundary Trails Health Center, Ella Funk-Thiessen (nee Hildebrand) passed away at the age of 82 after a short battle with cancer.

Ella will be forever remembered by her husband, John Thiessen; her children, Garry (Judy) and Cal (Shirley); her granddaughter, Shayleah (Paul); her stepson, Kevin (Wanda); her step-grandchildren, Brooke, Cole, and Nikki; and her siblings, John, Wilfred, Leonard, Ed, and Linda and their families. Ella will also be remembered by her numerous nieces and nephews, extended family and dear friends. She was predeceased by her husband,

Bernie Funk in 2000 and her brother, Walter.

A private service in memory of Ella was held.

The family would like to thank the Boundary Trails Health Centre doctors, nurses and staff in palliative care.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ella's memory to the South Central Cancer Resource.

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



**OBITUARY**

**Justina Dora Penner (nee Unger) 1931 – 2020**



On Wednesday, June 17, 2020, Justina Dora Penner (nee Unger) was welcomed into the presence of her Saviour as she passed away at Boundary Trails Health Centre with family by her side.

Justina was born on March 11, 1931 in Altona, MB to John H. and Justina Unger (nee Siemens). She grew up working with her Dad on the family farm in Neuenberg, MB. She hauled grain, chased geese and spent many hours working outside.

Justina was baptized upon confession of her faith on May 7, 1951 at the Neuberghal Church. Justina and Jack met at Elim Bible Institute and were married on October 7, 1951 in Plum Coulee, MB. They made a life for their family in Plum Coulee then moved to Winkler where Justina lived out the remainder of her days. Justina

chose to stay at home to be a mother and homemaker for her four children. As the last of the children were in high school, she found employment in fabric, clothing, bridal wear and retail which she enjoyed for 17 years. People sought out Mom as a seamstress who offered advice on clothing (in particular, wedding dresses) and then capably altered any garment. She sewed wedding dresses for many new brides. Mom was a creative person and what looked impossible to our eyes soon became a masterpiece.

Justina loved adventure. She lived life to the fullest. After Dad's passing, her determination took her on many road trips. Her independent spirit had her in the driver's seat as she drove to Texas, Red Deer, Pennsylvania, Moose Jaw and so many other places. Justina loved music. She was musically gifted with a rich alto voice and participated in many choirs. Justina encouraged musical talent in her children. Justina was passionate about her faith. She found much comfort and joy in the community of her Church. Her relationship with Jesus was also evident in her relationship with others. Justina loved to volunteer. She served at MCC, with Palliative Care and anywhere a helping hand was needed.

Justina was predeceased by her husband, Jack A. Penner on September 12, 1989; by her parents, John H and Justina Unger; her two sisters, Tina and Helen and her brother, Menno. Justina loved her family. Left to celebrate the life of Justina are her four children, Wes and Carol along with their children, Mike and Terry, Jeremy and Marieke, Vanessa and Ryan and their grandchildren, Cassidy, Leah, Adrian, Evan and Reuben; Myra and Val; Marilyn and Jake along with their children, Heather and Frank; Gerald and Michelle along with their children, Andrew and Jade, Jonathan, Rachel and their grandchild, Benjamin. She is also survived by her sister, Susie and brother-in-law, Otto, and her sister-in-law, Mary.

Private graveside service was held on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at the Winkler Cemetery.

Justina's family would like to thank her church community, family and friends and the staff of Boundary Trails Health Centre.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Justina's memory online to One Hope Canada.

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