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A community effort

Habitat for Humanity's Winkler-Morden chapter presented the Derksen family with the keys to their new home on Saturday. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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Morden's first Habitat family gets the keys to their new home

By Lorne Stelmach

The first Morden build for the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity became way more challenging than anyone would have anticipated, but the reward for everyone's efforts finally came this past Saturday.

A ceremony at the 6th St. home officially handed over the keys to Pete and Emily Derksen and their two boys, and chapter chair Duane Falk reflected on the many challenges that had to be overcome to get here.

"It was a tough time. It almost seemed like this house didn't want to be built at first," he said. "Between COVID happening and trying to find volunteers and make that all work ... and between the tough weather we had and supply issues, it's been a challenge to get it done."

"I'm so excited to see this house finally finished in Morden," Falk continued. "We waited a long time to build the first one here and to see it as a reality is so exciting."

Pete Derksen said he was "very thankful for everybody's individual role in making this happen. Thank you all so much for making the time. A lot of this is done by volunteers, and a lot of you have full-time jobs too, and your evenings and weekends were being spent here."

"It's a home for somebody, and that can mean the world to somebody ... so we really appreciate what you all have done."

The Derksens were lauded for going well beyond the 500 "sweat equity" hours required of Habitat families.

"For us, we're getting help, so we just want to return the favour and just help out as much as we can as well," said Derksen.

He also noted, though, that there were many obstacles faced along the way.

"I didn't think that we were going to be at this point right now, and I'm just so excited to start a whole new chapter with my family. It really does change everything about the life we knew ... it's all new to us. It's going to be brand new, lots of learning, but we're all so excited about it. The kids are excited."

"There's a lot that still needs to be done, but that's all part of making a home," he added. "It becomes a home after memories have been made and stuff has been done with your family in there."

The project began with the lot at the far north end of Morden being donated by Triple E Developments.

Next came fundraising and then the process of finding a family in need of better housing and who met Habitat's other criteria, including being able to pay back the mortgage in the years ahead.

Habitat builds are affordable but still well built and highly energy efficient, and families are paying full market value for their homes.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Kevin Hildebrand of Habitat for Humanity's Winkler-Morden chapter handed the keys to their new home over to Pete and Emily Derksen and their kids on Saturday. The family put in hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" into the Morden house, working alongside countless community volunteers and tradespeople.

They take on a mortgage with Habitat for Humanity that has zero per cent interest and requires no down payment, and the organization adjusts the mortgage payments based on income. The organization then recycles mortgage payments back into building more affordable housing.

Steve Krahn, representing Habitat for Humanity Manitoba at the key ceremony Saturday, noted it is estimated that for every Habitat home that is built, \$175,000 returns back to the community.

"The Habitat program is truly a win-win solution for everyone," he said.

"By giving a hand up to one family, we're helping all of us."

Krahn and Falk both noted that they now look forward to moving on to the next projects in the area.

"We're seeing on the horizon several more homes for the Winkler-Morden community, which is truly exciting," said Krahn.

"It's really exciting now. This next year, we've got a lot of people backing us, a lot of partners who are willing to help us in this next phase, which is essentially three builds with a duplex in Morden and a single family house in Winkler," said Falk.

"It's never too late to finish your schooling"

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Salina Zavatto has high hopes for her future now that she has her mature student high school diploma in hand.

Zavatto is one of six students who completed their studies this spring at the Winkler Community Learning Centre, located in Red River College Polytech's Winkler campus.

Zavatto left high school midway through her senior year a few years ago. Last year she decided it was time to hit the books once again.

"I wanted to finish up some things in my life, because I never got the chance to finish Gr. 12," she said.

She joined about 80 mature students in study at the learning centre. Some, like Zavatto, were chipping away

at the credits they needed to finally graduate high school. Other students, high school grads already, were back to complete prerequisite courses required for post-secondary training they didn't realize they wanted to pursue when they were younger.

Zavatto threw herself into her studies, appreciating the fact the centre offers self-directed learning, where students can come in to get one-on-one support from their teachers as needed but otherwise don't need to be sitting at a desk for set times every week.

She got the credits she needed in about eight months and is now turning her attention to finding a job.

"I was not employed because I was focusing on my schooling," Zavatto shared. "I hope that I can get a good job out here now."

Though she didn't have a great deal of interaction with her classmates due to the individual nature of the coursework, Zavatto knows they ran the gamut in age and reasons for returning to the classroom.

She urges anyone considering getting their mature high school diploma to take the plunge.

"I'd tell them to do it. It's never too late to finish your schooling."

RRC regional campus manager Joanne Unrau wants people to know the learning centre accepts students anytime throughout the school year.

"We run our mature high school on a continuous intake. So that means if you're working seasonal and fall just doesn't work for you, you don't miss out on a class."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Salina Zavatto was one of 82 students at the Winkler Community Learning Centre this past year. She and five others completed their studies to earn their mature high school diplomas.

Continued on page 11



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Left: Prairie Dale School Gr. 6 students Kaylin Guse and Caitlyn Lik raised nearly \$250 for Salem Home through a class project this month. Above: The money was used to purchase oversized board games for Salem residents to enjoy, like this giant Connect 4 game.

Prairie Dale kids do some good with their "Genius Hour" project

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Salem Foundation got a helping hand from the students of Prairie Dale School in Schanzenfeld earlier this month.

Foundation executive coordinator Susan Hildebrand said they were surprised to get a visit from Gr. 6 students Kaylin Guse and Caitlyn Lik, who arrived with a donation cheque for nearly \$250.

"To have the youth in our community desire to help out the residents of Salem Home is absolutely humbling for everyone at Salem Home," she said.

The girls raised the money by organizing a bake sale at the school as part of their "Genius Hour" project for their language arts class.

Teacher Carilee Bergman explains students were tasked with researching in-depth any topic they wanted and then presenting their findings to the class.

"It's very hands-on and they are very engaged in the project. It's exciting to see when kids are super engaged about what they're learning

about," she said, noting some kids opted to research various charitable causes and then host a fundraiser for them while others dived into topics ranging from optical illusions to how the brain works to remote-controlled cars.

"It was whatever they wanted to do and where their heart was," Bergman said.

Lik and Guse said they felt Salem Home was a topic that would resonate with their classmates.

"There are many kids in the school that have grandparents and great grandparents in Salem Home, so they wanted to donate to support them," said Guse.

Lik added that they also know a few families from their church who have loved ones who live in the care home.

In researching Salem, the girls say they learned a lot about how the residents there pass the time.

"We learned that there are many old people and that they like playing games and stuff like that," said Guse.

The bake sale was a fair bit of work to organize and run, but it proved a bigger success than they ever imagined it would be.

"To be honest, we thought we'd only raise \$50," noted Lik, adding their classmates were "pretty pumped" at the prospect of supporting Salem.

The girls raised a grand total of \$246.30, which Salem has already used to purchase various activity items for its DementiaAbility program, including extra-large game boards and pieces and a fabric checkers board.

"The adapted games that was pur-

chased with the generous donation from these students will help to foster these relationships," said Hildebrand. "It will give the youth and the residents the opportunity to interact with each other in a fun easy way, with lots of friendly competition of course.

"The relationships that are created between these two generations are so genuine and have such lasting effects," she added. "These relation-

ships give the opportunity to boost confidence, build bridges between the past and the present, encourage communication, and they create connection for everyone."

A few days after the girls stopped by Salem Home with their donation, a busload of residents popped by the school to present Lik and Guse with a letter of thanks and bookmarks for each of their classmates.

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"THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE CREATED BETWEEN THESE TWO GENERATIONS ARE SO GENUINE AND HAVE SUCH LASTING EFFECTS."

Tractor Trek sets out from Winkler on Saturday, July 9

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Eden Foundation's 15th annual Visit the Villages Tractor Trek has a new start and finish line this year.

The cavalcade of vintage tractors will be gathering at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler (750 15th St.) on Saturday, July 9, instead of the usual Reinland location.

"This will provide a great opportunity for people in the community of Winkler as well as throughout those villages we're visiting—Schanzenfeld, Hochfeld, Blumenfeld, Osterwick, and Chortitz—to actually be able to get outside and see these antique tractors go by," says foundation director of development Jayme Giesbrecht, noting they're especially excited to be taking the parade past the Salem Home personal care home with this new route.

Every participating tractor is an antique, at least 40 years old or more.

"There are all sorts of different makes and models ... we'll see everything from green and red to maybe a rusty brown and everything in between," Giesbrecht says, noting they're hoping to exceed 40 tractors again this year.

"We have a lot of trekkers who have been involved with the Tractor Trek for all 15 years, and so they're returning again," she says. "And then we're always finding more diamonds in the rough when it comes to antique tractors, so we're really looking forward to hopefully seeing more tractors than ever."

Participants are raising funds for Eden's mental health programming, and many of them really go above and beyond in that task.

"They'll ask their friends or family or community members or coworkers



Eden Foundation's Visit the Villages Tractor Trek travels from Winkler to Schanzenfeld, Hochfeld, Blumenfeld, Osterwick, and Chortitz and back next week.

VOICE FILE PHOTO

to sponsor them even further [beyond the \$150 registration fee]," Giesbrecht says. "It's not everybody's cup of tea, but when we do have individuals who are willing to ask that question—'Are you willing to sponsor me?'—it really goes a long way and makes a big difference in the final number when it comes to funds raised."

Those donations allow the foundation to sponsor upgrades at Eden Health Care Services' various facilities in southern Manitoba and support subsidized programming like Recovery of Hope counselling, which operates on a sliding fee scale.

"There are so many different ways that these funds are helping within Eden," Giesbrecht notes.

You can support the cause by making a donation online at edenhealth-care.ca/donate or stopping by the Tractor Trek community breakfast on

July 9.

Food will be served by donation from 7:30 a.m. to about 9:30 a.m. at the Emmanuel church.

The tractors will then leave the church grounds at around 10 a.m. and head west down Roblin Blvd. to Summerfeld Dr., Grandeur Ave., and then 15th St. all the way to Pembina Ave. where they'll turn east for a short stretch before heading down 14th St. South out of town.

After leaving Winkler, the route takes the tractors to Schanzenfeld and then through Hochfeld (where they'll

stop for lunch), Blumenfeld, Osterwick, and Chortitz on their way back into Winkler for supper and awards.

It's a long day of driving, but a fun one, says Giesbrecht.

"I think there's a parallel with mental health with that freedom you can have when you're on a tractor and the wind's in your hair and you're getting a bit of a sunburn and you're just outside with friends," she says. "It's a happy time, and that's something that we all need is to get together and do something fun."

Voice wins big at provincial newspaper competition

The *Winkler Morden Voice* was honoured with several awards from the 102nd annual Better Newspaper Competition last week.

The competition for the 2020 publication year (results for which were delayed thanks to the pandemic) was organized by the Manitoba Community Newspaper Association, which represents over 30 community newspapers across the province.

In its circulation category (10,000+), the *Voice* took home first place for Best Editorial page, second for Best Front Page, and third for Best in Class.

Among the individual awards, reporter Lorne Stelmach won second in Best Education Story for a piece he did on local teachers finding new ways to engage with students during the pandemic.

Photographer Rick Hiebert's photo of CWE wrestling in Morden won him a third place nod for Best Sports Photo.

Editor Ashleigh Viveiros came in first in the Better Communities Award for a story on the local Habitat for Humanity chapter's first recipient family, second in Reporter of the Year, third for Best News Story for a piece on visitation concerns at Salem Home during COVID-19, and third for Best Editorial for one reflecting on the closure of the *Winkler Times*.

Our sister papers—*Express Weekly News*, *Stonewall Teulon Tribune*, and *Selkirk Record*—also took home a bevy of overall and individual staff awards.

The management at the *Voice* would like to thank all our staff for their continued outstanding work.

On behalf of our community, the
Western School Division Board of Trustees
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"There was lots of adapting and changing ..."

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year was not only one of continued adjustment amidst the pandemic but also one of growth for Regional Connections.

Driving it all is the continued emphasis on client-centred services and a co-ordinated response to welcoming and helping newcomers, executive director Steve Reynolds said following the organization's annual meeting last Thursday.

They continued to adjust and be responsive to client needs and to be flexible during COVID-19, he emphasized.

"It was very challenging. With so many of the programs and connections, the in-person connection is so critical for newcomers to the community, to meet people and community members to meet newcomers and build those relationships. So there was lots of adapting and changing and doing things remotely by video call and one-on-one instead of groups.

"We still made it work, and the staff were flexible, and community volunteers were great. We made it work but for sure missed the in-person component of getting groups together ... so we're looking forward to more of that again now in the future."

Reynolds said it speaks well to the dedication and commitment of all involved that they not only maintained programs but have also been expanding.

"Staff worked hard, and we worked hard to adapt and adjust and still had some opportunities to build programming over the last year, so that was really positive."

He cited the Gateway to Work Experience program as an example of a key program which just last week received a commitment of funding from the province.

"It's a more in-depth employment bridging program," he explained. "It takes a couple months of employment skills training and work placement. For newcomers who have a bigger gap as far as transferable job skills, it will hopefully bridge that gap and people will be in good jobs.

"We have also some additional refugee support starting now for refugees arriving to the area," he added as an example of another newer initiative.

The annual meeting offered some highlights of their range of programming:

- Settlement program - helps newcomers to settle and integrate into life here. It involves a variety of initiatives ranging from weekly conversation groups to helping clients prepare



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Regional Connections staff and board members gathered for an annual meeting last week. The settlement services agency worked hard to be flexible through the pandemic, says executive director Steve Reynolds.

for their citizenship tests.

It noted the top ten countries of origin for clients were Philippines, Kazakhstan, Germany, Ukraine, Russia, India, Mexico, Paraguay, Syria, and Brazil, and it worked with 257 new temporary workers last year and reached out to over 250 employers in the region.

- Employment program - two employment facilitators worked with 360 clients, and 208 gained employment, while some shifted to further education and training.

Falling under this area is the Professional Bridging Program where clients receive support in the credentials recognition process. There were 149 such clients who benefitted from that program last year.

- Language program - there were 605 registrations in English language classes with 335 attending in Winkler, 93 in Morden, and 75 in Altona.

- Child care program - care is provided while clients are taking day time ESL and literacy classes. The programs offered on site in Morden, Winkler, and Altona had 50 children in the past year.

- HIPPY program - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters had three home visitors who held weekly visits with 27 families in Morden, Winkler, and Altona. They also hosted some group meetings and activities.

- SWIS program - Settlement Workers In Schools works in the Borderland, Garden Valley, Mountain View and Western school divisions. It had eight workers and one co-ordinator helping support newcomer students so that they can fully participate and succeed in school life. There were 184 students in Borderland, 112 in Garden Valley, and 57 in Western.

- Volunteer program - includes community mentors as well as interpreters, who were able to provide that service for 25 languages. There is also the language buddies program that had

65 volunteers and 51 clients matched up to practice their language skills and just connect in the community.

In addition, there is the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership,

which in the past year had six area municipal councils pass welcoming and inclusive communities policies

Continued on page 6



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• GUEST COMMENTARY

Hard facts on gas tax

In May, consumer inflation rose to 8.7% in Manitoba, the highest rate in nearly forty years. At this rate, the average household would spend an estimated \$4,900 more on goods and services.

Manitobans are struggling with rising costs these past few months. Everything has gotten more expensive – groceries, household goods, furniture, loans and mortgages. But nowhere is the pressure more noticeable than at the fuel pump.

One thing I hear frequently is that the government should be providing relief at the pump by decreasing gas taxes. It's an important topic for discussion, but there's a lot that people don't realize is going on when it comes to provincial and federal tax on gas.

First let's talk about provincial taxes on fuel. The Manitoba government does apply an excise tax on fuel at 14 cents per litre. This is a fixed price per litre, it's not price sensitive. That means the government of Manitoba does not make additional fuel tax revenue from high prices at the pump. The excise tax is the only provincial tax on gas – there is no PST applied and no other form of provincial tax.

Then there's the story of federal taxes on fuel, which is more like a three-part saga:

First, the feds have their own excise tax on fuel at 10 cents per litre.

Second, the feds then apply the carbon tax, which is now 11.1 cents per litre. The federal carbon tax has been increasing for five years now, and while their original story to Canadians was that the carbon tax would top out at this current level of \$50 per tonne, last August they announced that the carbon tax will actually rise to \$170 per tonne by 2030, or 38 cents per litre.

And then there's the third federal charge on fuel: the Goods & Services Tax. The federal government applies their 5% GST to fuel, which is price-sensitive – meaning that the higher the price of gas, the more revenue the federal government makes. To illustrate, in January 2021, the federal government pulled in just over \$6M each month in GST on fuel in Manitoba alone; today, that number is \$11.7M per month – or \$140 million in a single year.

Our provincial government has been hard at work making life more affordable for Manitobans who need financial relief. Budget 2022 increased the rebate on your Education Property Tax bill – a historic tax relief measure

for 355,000 homeowners. And the cheque is literally in the mail, arriving before your tax bill is due. We've also created a new Residential Renters Tax Credit to give all apartment dwellers an annual \$525 rebate, and that credit was expanded to 40,000 additional renters who were previously ineligible. On top of these measures, the provincial government has increased shelter benefits for low-income Manitobans by investing \$18M for both EIA and non-EIA rent assist indexation. These actions help families now.

The federal government continues to take a 1-2-3 approach to taxing your fuel. 1. It applies a 10 cent per litre federal fuel tax; 2. it adds in the carbon tax at 11.1 cents per litre; and 3. it applies GST on the total price.

Fuel prices have never been higher. And it's high time for the federal government to come clean with Manitobans about the money that Ottawa is making due to the sharp increase in the price of gas. It's time for the federal government to get real and tell citizens how they plan to help make life more affordable.

Cameron Friesen is the MLA for Morden-Winkler

> REGIONAL CONNECTIONS, FROM PG. 5

and created an interactive Pembina Valley services map, a podcast series sharing stories, and held its second annual Connecting Cultures and Communities Celebration. In addition, it conducted a comprehensive immigrant survey.

Reynolds said all of their community partners play a vital role in their continued success in the region.

"We have tremendous opportunities in our communities to work with other partners," he concluded. "The spirit of collaboration is alive and well in rural Manitoba. We know that working with community members, service providers and stakeholders is a key component of building community together."

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The Voice is published Thursdays and distributed as a free publication to 21,141 households. Republishing in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Printed in Canada by Prolific Printing. The Voice received financial support from the Government of Canada in 2021.

View the Voice online at www.winklormordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

United Way bids farewell to Terry Gibson

By Lorne Stelmach

United Way Pembina Valley is moving forward without a very familiar face at the board table.

At its first annual general meeting June 22, the United Way board paid tribute to Terry Gibson, who has been involved with United Way in the area for over 20 years.

He was a longtime member of the Morden United Way and continued on through the amalgamation between Winkler and Morden to form the new United Way Pembina Valley last year.

"It's been a long time, and it's time to move on, and with the amalgamation being as successful as it was, I thought this is just a really good time for an old guy to step back," said Gibson, who was presented with a gift in thanks for his many years of service—a canvas photo of the clocktower building in downtown Morden.

"I think you guys are losing a winner as he heads into retirement, but he sure as heck has earned it," said former Morden board member Randy Penner, who convinced Gibson to join the board all those years ago and was on hand to toast him at the AGM.

"Terry's been a really great member of the United Way. He's got a bunch of stuff in his legacy that needs to be talked about," said Penner, who cited examples ranging from spearheading the combine pull at the Corn and Apple Festival to annually organizing Koats for Kids.

And when door-to-door canvassing was on its way out, Gibson visited just about every business in Morden and beyond to promote the new payroll deduction program, Penner noted.

"That is a core now for a lot of the donations that happen," he said, crediting Gibson as well for putting in countless hours into the United Way over the years. "I know the hours he spent just doing

emails, doing all the stuff, the organization stuff when he was president, and as a member."

As far as the motivation for Gibson, he shared a memory from one of the Corn and Apple Festival parades, which he rode in most years to represent the agency.

"We were driving along, and you're waving and smiling and talking to the few people you know on the sidelines, and one guy in the distance saw us and called out 'Way to go, United Way. If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't be here anymore.' And that was the Big Brothers [Big Sisters] guy. And that gave me a real lift."

Gibson said he was always spurred on by hearing from the agencies United Way supports with grants each year as to how they use that money and the good works they're doing.

"There's a lot of rewards in it, little rewards here and there," he reflected. "You never know when they're coming, but they make it worth it."

The organizations that United Way supports are varied and impact many different people in the community, Gibson noted.

"Nobody uses them all, but over your life you or your family will probably use some of them. And they're all there if you need them."

The United Way board is sad to see Gibson go.

"Terry was a very valued member of United Way Morden," said president Kim Nelson. "Working with him during the amalgamation and hearing the stories and the commitment and the dedication and the time he put into the United Way, and seeing his drive to have the two communities join—he will be missed."

Nelson reflected on "his passion and his enthusiasm for the projects and for the amazing agencies that we are able to support ... he's left some big, big shoes to fill. We wish him the best."

Along with Gibson's departure at the AGM, the



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Retiring United Way board member Terry Gibson with the gift he received from the agency in thanks for his decades of work.

United Way welcomed a new board member in Levi Abram Taylor. Nelson noted they are always looking for new people to get involved.

"I think as we head into our second year, where we are right now is a great starting point," she said of the board's numbers right now. "United Way Pembina Valley is only going to continue to grow and strengthen in both communities, so we will always welcome people to inquire about joining the board."

You can learn more online at unitedwaypembina-valley.ca.

WSD announces hires for next school year

By Voice staff

As one school year winds down, Western School Division (WSD) is busy getting things in order for the next.

The Morden division has announced several administrative hires over the

past few weeks.

Michael Ward has been hired as the new vice-principal at Morden Collegiate Institute, effective this fall.

Ward has been with the division since 2013 when he began teaching Gr. 8 at École Morden Middle School. He has served as vice-principal of

Maple Leaf Elementary School since 2017.

WSD shares that Ward's educational philosophy centres around the belief that teachers are not simply distributors of information but facilitators of learning. Every student comes to a classroom with individual skills, and educators set the environments in consideration of student differences to develop deep thinkers and practiced learners.

Stepping into Ward's former role at Maple Leaf is Carla Wiebe, who will serve as interim vice-principal for the 2022-23 school year. The process to fill the role on a permanent basis will occur next spring, the division said.

Wiebe has been a resource teacher at Maple Leaf School for the past three years. Prior to that, she worked for Garden Valley School Division for 10 years and spent three years teaching

in Kuwait. Wiebe has taught in early years, middle years, and high school, and has spent the last six years working in resource.

WSD notes that Wiebe is passionate about inclusive education and enjoys working with her colleagues to make learning accessible for all.

Finally, Adam Adamson is coming on board as WSD's transportation supervisor.

Adamson has been a professional driver since 2002 and has experience ranging from passenger transport to freight haulage. He has spent the past decade working as a professional long-haul deck driver while also working towards obtaining a number of trade certifications.

He is replacing Allan Toews, who is retiring at the end of the school year.

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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



SUPPLIED PHOTOS
Winkler Community Foundation reps. have been making the rounds this month presenting its 2022 grants to a variety of community groups and projects, including the Pregnancy Care Centre (far left), Imagination Library (left), and Flatlands Theatre Company (above).

Winkler Community Fdn. distributes \$98K in grants

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Community Foundation staff have been making the rounds this month presenting the agency’s 2022 grants. Through its designated, field of interest, agency, and donor advised endowment funds, the foundation was able to support 27 local projects with a total of \$98,403, said executive director Myra Peters, noting how excited they are to be able to impact so many different kinds of charitable programs

and facilities. “It is so important to work together to make our community strong,” Peters said. Endowment funds generate grants each year through the interest they accrue, which means a donation given to one of the foundation’s many funds is a gift that gives back to the community in perpetuity. From its Community Fund, the foundation was able to grant out \$4,000 to the Flatlands Theatre Company for equipment, \$3,000 to the

Winkler Library for a reading garden, \$3,500 to the Discovery Nature Sanctuary for an entrance kiosk, \$5,000 to Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care for office renovations, \$3,000 to Genesis House for a kitchen in its transitional housing, \$2,500 to the Winkler Rec. Department for a sports wall of fame in the Meridian Exhibition Centre, \$2,978 to Central Station for new tables, and \$500 to the Winkler Festival of the Arts for its annual competition. The Darlene Peters Health Fund generated a grant of \$4,160 to Salem

Home for lifts, the 2014 Manitoba Winter Games Sports Legacy Fund supported Winkler Whips baseball diamond upgrades to the tune of \$2,000 and the purchase of a jump harness for the Winkler Skating Club for \$1,500, and the Dr. CW Wiebe Medical Fund provided the clinic with \$7,996 for ultrasound units. The Katie Cares Fund totalled \$4,276 for the charity’s operations, the Winkler Cheer Board Fund supports this year’s campaign with \$1,120, and the Winkler Minor Ball Fund will help support teams going to provincials or Westerns with a \$377 grant. Donor Advised Fund grants included \$649 from the Kalansky Family Fund to the Imagination Library, \$1,290 from the MAP Family Fund to Central Station, and \$1,126 from the Mend the Gap Fund, also for Central Station. Agency Fund grants included \$777 from the Fire Rescue Fund for firefighter training, \$803 from the Heritage Museum Fund for museum operations, and \$45,296 from the Gateway Resources Fund for a new recycling sprinkler system. Finally, the foundation-supported Youth in Philanthropy groups at Winkler Elementary School and Garden Valley Collegiate were able to present \$2,555 in total grants to Genesis House, Special Olympics, Central Station, South Central Cancer Resource, and the Winkler Day Care Centre for a variety of projects.

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“IT’S SO IMPORTANT TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY STRONG.”

Cadenza lunch concerts return next week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Douglas Kuhl School of Music's Cadenza Summer Music Week is back this year, and so too are the free lunchtime concerts.

Eighty budding performers have signed up for the camp taking place at the EMM Church in Winkler July 4-8.

They'll be learning from a host of talented professional musicians, including performers such as the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's Andrew Goodlett, cellists Bery Filsaime and Natalie Dawe, pianist Dianna Neufeld, vocalist Alyssa Hildebrand, and many others.

"It's some of Manitoba's best," noted director Rochelle Drudge. "And not only the best musicians but collaborative musicians that enjoy playing together."

In between helping the students hone their craft when it comes to strings, piano, and voice performances, the Cadenza faculty also loves

sharing a taste of their music with the community at large each year.

"Since we have a week with all these fabulous musicians, we really want to share that with the community," Drudge said, noting the daily concerts run from 12:30 to 1 p.m. at the church at 600 Southview Dr. (not at the concert hall, as was the case in past years). Admission is free and open to all.

"I know there's lots of people that look forward to this concert series and enjoy sharing it with us," Drudge said. "And our faculty looks forward to it as well."

The shows are a great way to introduce kids especially to instrumental music.

"There's not a lot of this kind of music accessible in our community and so often kids don't get exposure to it," Drudge said, noting the performances run the gamut from classical selections to modern pop and jazz songs to musical theatre hits. Since composition is a theme for the camp



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Cadenza Summer Music Week faculty will perform a series of free lunch hour concerts at the EMM Church in Winkler July 4-8.

this year, some of the faculty will also be sharing their own original pieces at the concerts.

"We've intentionally made it short selections, a variety of selections, and sort of an interactive, relaxed setting for the kids," Drudge said. "They can make some noise if they need to, but they also get to learn concert etiquette."

"Where else would you go to hear a string quartet here?" she added. "You'd have to go to Winnipeg, you'd have to buy a ticket to some long con-

cert ... this is something much more accessible for everyone.

"I have had a number of students actually who have perked an interest in violin or cello at those concerts as young children. That's really neat to see them now as students and then becoming advanced students."

You can learn more about the Cadenza Summer Music Week, including the full faculty list for 2022, online at www.cadenzasummermusicweek.com.

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Eating right can improve quality of life

Legend states that on April 2, 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León was the first European to discover modern-day Florida when he traveled on a quest for the mythical "Fountain of Youth." While modern science has proven that there is no mystical fountain or body of water that can reverse or slow down the aging process, there are many steps people can take to age well and prolong their lives.

Eating the right foods is one way to age well. According to Ralph Felder, M.D., Ph.D., coauthor of "The Bonus Years Diet," reversing the aging process internally is more difficult than out-

ward cosmetic changes. But the right foods can go a long way toward increasing both life expectancy and quality of life. Those who want to employ diet to increase their life expectancy may want to start adding more of the following foods to their breakfast, lunch and dinner plates.

- Berries: In addition to their abundance of antioxidants, berries have other benefits. A 2012 study from Harvard University found that at least one serving of blueberries or two servings of strawberries each week may reduce the risk of cognitive decline in older adults.

- Fruits and vegetables: Produce is good for the body

because it's low in calories and high in fiber, vitamins and other nutrients. Numerous studies have indicated that diets plentiful in fruits and vegetables help people maintain a healthy weight and protect against cardiovascular disease.

- Fiber: Increase your fiber intake for a longer life. Research from The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition

finds that the more fiber you include in your diet, the lower your risk of coronary heart disease. The daily recommendation is 25 to 35 grams.

While there may be no such thing as the fountain of youth, a healthy diet can help men and women prolong their lives.



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SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Winkler's Concerts in the Park series kicks off July 7 with The Travelling Kind (above) followed by The Cracked Egg Shell (below) July 14, The Clap-Tones July 20, Link and the Moustaches July 27, and Dark by Three Aug. 3.



Concerts in the Park starts next Wednesday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Bethel Heritage Park will be a hopping place every Wednesday through July and into August.

Winkler's Concerts in the Park series returns next week, July 6, with music from The Traveling Kind.

"They are a family unit that play bluegrass and acoustic music," explains community events coordinator Nicole Enns. "I'm really looking forward to hearing them and I think they'll bring out a pretty nice sized crowd to start off with."

The lineup for the rest of the summer includes contemporary hits from The Cracked Egg Shell July 13, Eric Clapton tribute band The Clap-Tones July 20, electric blues tunes from Link and the Moustaches July 27, and rock from Dark by Three as a series finale

Aug. 3.

It's a varied list of mainly local artists that Enns hopes will draw in music-lovers of all stripes.

"I just really think we should be proud of all the talented musicians we have in this area and we need to show them off and celebrate them," she said. "Hopefully we have some huge crowds come out to enjoy the music and everything else that's going on."

Everything else includes food and ice cream for sale from The Bunker's food truck and the Ice Cycle and bouncy castles for the kids.

The concerts, sponsored by Crocus Realty, are all free to enjoy. Just bring something to sit on.

The show starts at 7 p.m. every week.

Funding announced to tackle local workforce shortages

By Lorne Stelmach

A provincial investment of \$516,000 will support four Regional Connections programs to help address workforce shortages in the Pembina Valley.

It is estimated the two existing projects and two new initiatives combined could serve nearly 400 unemployed and underemployed Manitobans in the region, and executive director Steve Reynolds sees it as a vote of confidence in what Regional Connections is accomplishing here.

"I think there's both the recognition there are a lot of jobs available in the region; there's a lot of employers looking for labour and for workers and to hire people," Reynolds said following the announcement last week. "There's also recognition of the past program success here at Regional Connections and positive outcomes and helping people find work and a good reputation."

"So we're really happy the province is helping us build on it," he said. "We're really excited about both the new programs starting up and the ones that are continuing on now."

Economic Development, Investment and Trade Minister Cliff Cullen said the government is committed to providing meaningful employment opportunities for all Manitobans, but they wanted to specifically address the skills gap and workforce shortage

in Pembina Valley.

"Our government's investment will enable Regional Connections to provide project-based employment services so unemployed and underemployed Manitobans living in the Pembina Valley can receive short-term skills development and on-the-job training to find and maintain purposeful employment," said Cullen.

The projects provide a range of services and diverse training such as employment assistance for individuals who can find jobs with minimum supports, language training for employment, and skills development training to address the skills gap and workforce shortage in the local labour market.

The projects include:

- Employment Assistance Services Project. This existing project helps 325 unemployed and underemployed individuals including immigrants find and maintain employment in Morden, Winkler, or Altona. The project uses a holistic service delivery approach in which clients have access to a wide range of services that support outcomes including settlement, em-

ployment, language and community connections.

- Professional Bridging Program Project. This project currently helps 40 underemployed internationally educated individuals as they develop occupational-specific skills through English language training, professional certification in the regulated fields of their interest, and bridging support to connect with the labour market.

"For newcomers who are internationally educated professionals ... connecting to professional level jobs in Canada and in Manitoba is another whole process. People are trying to get their credentials recognized, get their licence," explained Reynolds. "It's specific support, so hopefully those people with professional skills can get into a career here in Manitoba."

- Gateway to Work Experience for Newcomers. GWEN will help address workforce shortages in welding, manufacturing and hospitality sectors in the Pembina Valley. It will provide an opportunity for 24 unemployed or underemployed individuals to prepare to work in an entry-level position in the welding, manufacturing

and hospitality sectors, understand the Canadian work environment and gain work experience, and maintain sustainable employment in those three sectors in the Pembina Valley.

- Employer-Driven Curriculum Development Project. This aims to develop a program curriculum for the GWEN pilot project, supporting 24 unemployed or underemployed newcomers. It will develop modular courses in the welding, manufacturing, and hospitality sectors and a workplace-specific coaching and mentoring component.

"As economic growth continues to drive community growth in the Pembina Valley, we know local employers are looking for skilled labour," said Reynolds.

"This investment in Regional Connections means we will be able to help local unemployed or underemployed job seekers identify their goals, find good local jobs and upgrade their skills to become eligible for new opportunities," he continued.

"Today's announcement builds on years of successful employment programming and projects at Regional Connections that have supported hundreds of local residents towards meaningful employment. That good work will continue and be taken to the next level with this new funding."

"WE'RE REALLY EXCITED ABOUT BOTH THE NEW PROGRAMS STARTING UP AND THE ONES THAT ARE CONTINUING ON NOW."

"You persevered, showed great resilience and dedication"

Morden Adult Ed Centre celebrates 13 graduates

By Lorne Stelmach

Going back to finish your schooling is difficult enough on its own, but the 2022 graduates of the Morden Adult Education Centre faced a new set of challenges the past few years.

Overcoming the additional burdens posed by the pandemic earned the class of 2022 extra praise at the June 20 graduation ceremony.

"It is inspirational, and it serves as an example to those around you," centre director Todd Folkett said in addressing the 13 graduates.

"There are many obstacles and barriers that need to be overcome," he said. "Regardless of these challenges, you persevered, showed great resilience and dedication to stay the course in order to complete your goal."

Folkett said what they have accomplished is no small feat, and this now was a day they may have thought would never come.

"You can now smile and revel in the fact that you have accomplished a gigantic milestone," he said.

"When most of you made the important decision to come back to school and become a student again, many of you were apprehensive and unsure of what the journey was going to look like," he continued. "Graduates, you can now look back to see that all those small steps have created

a long and satisfying journey that has led you here.

"Behind each and every one of our grads is a story of family, friends, and community who supported them in times of struggle," Folkett added. "To all those supporters, we say thank you."

"It is a special day," said Western School Division board chairperson Brian Fransen. "What you have done opens doors for you and for those who come after you. We are excited to see what the future may hold for you, and we are proud to have been able to play a small part in providing this opportunity to you."

"Graduation is not an easy task. You've all made sacrifices and have overcome challenges to get here today," agreed superintendent Stephen Ross.

He encouraged the graduates to think of the differences between the windshield and the rearview mirror.

"The windshield is large and the rearview mirror is small ... because what happened in your past is not as important as what happens in your future," said Ross. "What's really important is what's ahead of you now."

Class valedictorian Julia Wiebe reflected a bit on her own personal struggle to get to this point.

"At the beginning of this school year, my confidence in myself was non-existent. I've always questioned every one of my decisions ... the hesitation to start on the path of this program was overwhelming," she said. "Seeing the potential of what the future could hold was a brighter light than the small doubt in myself."

Class valedictorian Julia Wiebe said she's grateful for the support and encouragement of her classmates. "Through all the snowstorms and the restrictions, we helped each other. Seeing all the wonderful qualities in all the people around me opened my eyes and motivated me to do better."

PHOTO BY
LORNE STELMACH/
VOICE



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Adult Education Centre celebrated the graduation of 13 students last week.

She was grateful for the support and encouragement of her classmates who were in similar circumstances.

"They were in the same position that I was in," she said. "Through all the snowstorms and the restrictions, we helped each other. Seeing all the wonderful qualities in all the people around me opened my eyes and motivated me to do better."

"Walking through the door at the beginning of the year was the hardest step. We all took that chance ... we

pushed and made it through all that," she concluded.

The graduating class of 2022 includes Tiffany Amber Barrie, Taylor Eliza-Mae Beaulieu, Dennis Block, Deidre Kara Helen Dysart, Brittany Cora-Lynn Gillespie, Ambur Joanna Hildebrand, Gary Scott Hill, Sonya Theresa Keshane, Susy Loewen, Ike Rempel, Salah Taileb, Brandi Nicole Thiessen, and Juliana Destinie Klassen Wiebe.

> RRC WINKLER CAMPUS, FROM PG. 2

Students meet with their teacher at the start to determine how best to proceed and how often they may need to come into the centre for assistance with their coursework.

"Really, we're looking to be as flexible as we can be to accommodate the students and help them achieve their goals," Unrau said, noting they're exploring offering more fully distanced courses so people who wish to can pursue their education entirely remotely.

In addition to the high school courses, RRC Winkler also offers a host of post-secondary training programs.

Pandemic restrictions meant their student numbers were down a fair bit this past year, but they still had 22 graduates from the Winkler business administration, administrative assistant, business accounting and management, and health care aide programs.

A local graduation ceremony wasn't held, but graduates were able to walk across the stage at the

Winnipeg ceremonies earlier this month, Unrau noted. The campus intends to get back to hosting Winkler graduation celebrations like normal next year.

She invites anyone looking to pursue mature high school courses or post-secondary education to get in touch with the campus to see what they have to offer.

"I would encourage anybody looking, not sure what they want to do but they want to get some extra training, to come talk to us at the campus," she said. "We've got programs that will open doors for you. We have programs that will transition you into a different post-secondary [institution], because we have transferrable credits. There's a lot of things we can do to help you meet your education goals."

The campus is on track for a return to more normal operations this fall, Unrau added, with pandemic restrictions relating to vaccination and mask use lifted.



A decorative graphic featuring several stylized maple leaves hanging from thin grey lines. The leaves are in various colors and patterns: solid red, solid grey, and red with white polka dots. They are arranged in a scattered, overlapping manner against a white background.



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WORK & WESTERN WEARHOUSE

Winkler Arts and Culture feeling good about the future

Welcomes new staff member with big plans

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Arts and Culture has high hopes for the future now that pandemic restrictions are over.

The Park St. art gallery's board gathered last week for its annual general meeting to reflect on the challenges of the past year and their many plans for the months ahead.

"We've had a bad two years with COVID. At one point you'd almost thing this place is almost not going to exist anymore because we couldn't raise any funds, we couldn't have any events," said president Ray Derksen.

Staffing turnover has also proved a major hurdle in recent months, with the executive director position remaining vacant, hindering event planning even after restrictions were lifted.

The gallery managed to keep its head above water in the 2021-2022 fiscal year thanks largely to COVID-19 financial assistance from the government (turning what would have been a deficit year into a surplus of about \$23,000), but those funds won't be an option moving forward.

That means WAC will need to step

up its game and get people through the doors once again.

Tasked with that goal is newly hired administrative assistant Gwen Freeheart, who is on a six-month term for now with plans to hopefully have them transition into the executive director role.

"Gwen brings a younger perspective, which is so needed," noted vice-president Jenessa Kehler (as Freeheart's mother, she recused herself from the hiring process). "We're very excited having seen what they are capable of and their passion for creating a space [for everyone]."

"It's artists but it's also bigger than just artists," Kehler added. "It's something for everyone that is looking for social connections, cultural connection."

"I just really hope that I can start to get a lot more traffic through here," Freeheart said. "And I just want to give everybody a space that they're excited to go to. If you're not into sports, if you're not into other types of groups, then this is a place that can host a wide variety of kinds of people, and I really hope that people who haven't quite had that opportunity to find that place of belonging can finally find that here."

This summer will see the gallery host an exhibition of landscape paintings by Raymond Klassen in July and the Faces of Winkler show in August



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Winkler Arts and Culture board president Ray Derksen, vice-president Jenessa Kehler, staff member Gwen Freeheart, and board members Valerie Klassen and Nathan Klassen at the agency's AGM last week. Missing are board members Michael Grenier, Nora Johnston, and Jennifer Penner.

spotlighting community members from all walks of life.

Also in the works are a variety of workshops for adults and kids alike, as well as coffeehouses and, hopefully, many other kinds of social events, Freeheart said.

It's all part of making the centre what Derksen calls a "living building."

"We want people to come here for many reasons," he said. "It's not just for the art on the walls, it's for the socializing, the communicating, sharing ideas, even sharing life stories. This is a cultural centre ... it's about opening minds."

When it comes to long-term goals,

Derksen noted WAC hasn't given up on its plans to one day renovate and open a second gallery space, add a kitchen so it can better host large-scale events, and transform the rear yard into a sculpture/event garden.

"It's going to be a process," he said, explaining they hope to launch a fundraising campaign soon to get those projects off the ground so the centre can realize its full potential. It won't get there, he stressed, with just the one initial exhibition space it has now. "I feel that this gallery is like one shoe and the other shoe is just waiting to be put on and then we can actually walk somewhere. So that's the future."

Fun at the Thousand Oaks Gospel Music Camp



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Thousand Oaks Gospel Camp filled the Parkland bowl in Winkler with music over the weekend. Hosted by Thousand Oaks Ministries, the festival saw gospel groups from across Manitoba and Saskatchewan perform Saturday and Sunday, including the Elias Family from Winkler (above). The weekend also included a wiener roast and youth night on Saturday and a Sunday morning message.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Residents of Thornhill came together last Saturday for an afternoon of memories, food, and bouncy castles to celebrate the 102nd anniversary of the Thornhill Community Hall.

Thornhill Community Hall marks 102 years

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was two years later than originally planned, but the centennial celebrations of the Thornhill Community Hall were no less a blast.

Residents past and present came out Saturday to take a trip down memory lane while celebrating the facility's 102nd anniversary.

The hall was built in 1920 not only to create a gathering space for the close-knit community but also to honour the men who went to serve in the First World War.

The community rallied together to get it built, buying \$10 shares and hosting fundraisers to cover the costs.

Then they did it again in the late '70s when the original building, by then over 50 years old, was in rough shape and at risk for getting demolished.

"It was getting kind of dilapidated," recalled longtime hall board member Theo Allen. "So we got motivated and

we had all kinds of events and stuff to raise the money to put in a new foundation and move the hall back. And then in '79 we put an addition on the side with indoor plumbing and a kitchen—we'd never had a kitchen there before."

Located in the heart of town, the hall has been the go-to place for community celebrations for generations.

"Back in the '20s and '30s, this was the only entertainment you had," observed Allen. People used to hitch up their horses at the hall every weekend to enjoy entertainment that ranged from dances to spelling bees, card parties to literary nights.

Once cars became more the norm, people were able to go further afield for entertainment, but the hall has remained the central gathering space for many a baby shower, wedding, and community meal ever since.

"I'd say we have a couple dozen events a year," Allen said.

The board of directors has also set out to make investments around the hall, over the years installing a veterans cairn and a historical plaque and, more recently, getting a playground built across the street,



which they last year named in memory of Paul Olafson, an avid local volunteer.

It's always a community effort to make these improvement projects happen, stressed Allen.

"Everybody's a volunteer, but we get things done," he said.

Enjoying the fellowship at the hall last weekend were Betty Peters and Dave Penner, who both moved to the community as adults to raise their families, and have stuck around ever since.

"We really love it here in the community," Peters said of what's kept her in Thornhill for nearly 40 years.

"The people here, we all know each other and we help each other," she said as her neighbours gathered around the barbecue and

visited, watching as the kids enjoyed the bouncy castles set up for the day. "If somebody needs a driveway open, someone's there to help.

"We're just a close community and we want to keep it that way," she said noting community celebrations like this, along with things like the Canada Day festivities, go a long way toward getting everyone together and connecting.

Penner moved to town a few years before the hall was refurbished. He also reflected that the community always steps up when something needs to get done.

"It keeps growing," he said.



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Altona Bisons sweep Pembina Valley Orioles



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Orioles pitcher Johnny Martens can only watch as Altona's Bryson Loewen slides safely into home base on a wild pitch in Sunday's doubleheader in Morden, which went the Bisons' way 6-0 and 7-6.

Bisons move into third place in MJBL, Orioles are in sixth

By Ty Dilello

On Sunday afternoon, the Altona Bisons swept the Pembina Valley Orioles in both games of a doubleheader, winning 6-0 and 7-6 in extra innings.

Ethan Giesbrecht pitched the first game and had a complete game shut-out with ten strikeouts for the Bisons, while Trent Peters homered twice.

In the second game, Dillan Thiessen started on the mound for the Bisons and went the first six innings.

"We were tied at 6-6 and didn't have much pitching left, so Isaiah Letkeman came in and pitched the last and extra-inning without giving a run," said Bisons manager Curt Letkeman.

"The first game, we didn't hit well and gave up two home runs," noted Pembina Valley manager Jim Odlum. "Defensively, we didn't make any errors but couldn't put the runs across the plate. In the second game, we had a chance to win it. One small error cost us the chance to put the run across. In extra innings, we couldn't get any hits."

Earlier in the week, the Orioles fell to the St. James A's 11-4. To get back in the win column this week, Odlum

said, "We need the pitchers to keep throwing as they have been. And then cut out the errors and get timely hitting."

For the Bisons, they lost to the Carillon Sultans 7-6 but then bounced back to beat St. James 10-0.

"On Wednesday, Maddux Mateychuk pitched a great game, only giving up one hit before we had to take him out in the seventh," noted Letkeman. "Unfortunately, we made some errors, and our relief pitcher had some control issues in the seventh. We ended up giving up seven runs but only one hit, which was an extremely frustrating loss."

"The guys bounced back great on Thursday as we beat St James 10-0 for a huge win, as they'd only lost twice thus far this year."

Splitting pitching duties were Connor Cory and Dillan Thiessen.

"We had a season-high 12 hits, and the guys are starting to feel better at the plate as we've had double-digit hit totals in the last three games," said Letkeman.

The Bisons now move into third place in the MJBL standings with a 10-6 record and are back in action on Wednesday against Winnipeg South and a doubleheader on Sunday with the Carillon Sultans.

The Orioles are in sixth place with a 7-10 record and meet up with St. James on Sunday for a doubleheader.

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PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Orioles Drew Hilhorst dives safely back into second base on the pick off attempt by Easton Grieve of the St. James A's in the June 21st game, which St. James won 11-4.

Week of mixed results for local Border Baseball League teams

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The local Border Baseball League teams all had a mixed go of it last week.

On Tuesday, June 21, the Altona Bisons fell to the Morden Mud Hens 1-0 at home while the Winkler Whips lost to the visiting Carman Cardinals 8-4.

Morden, in turn, dropped a 4-2 decision in Clearwater Friday night, while Winkler bounced back to defeat the Regals in Baldur 5-3.

On Sunday, the Bisons split a doubleheader with Clearwater, losing game one 4-3 and then taking game two 2-0.

Morden, meanwhile, hosted the Cardinals, who doubled up with a

12-6 win over the home team.

This week, Altona is in Carman Tuesday night while the Mud Hens host the Whips. Thursday sees Morden play at Carman.

After the weekend, Winkler is in Altona and Morden is at Cartwright on Tuesday.

With just a few weeks left to go in the season, the Mud Hens are sitting comfortably in first place in the East Division with a 7-2 record and a few postponed games in hand. The Bisons are in second at 6-5 followed by the Cardinals and the Whips, both at 4-4.

Morden is slated to host the 2022 Baseball Manitoba Senior AA Provincials taking place July 15-17.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Whips hosted the Carman Cardinals last week Tuesday. The Cardinals went home with an 8-4 win.

Morden Triathlon returns July 9-10

By Lorne Stelmach

Returning this summer after a two-year absence, the Morden Triathlon may not reach peak participation, but organizers are pleased to be back in action again.

And they expect that registrations will continue to trickle in right up to the last minute, suggested race director Heather Francis.

"Triathletes are notoriously last minute people. I'm anticipating registrations will pick up in these next two weeks," Francis said last week in advance of the July 9-10 event. "I would say the numbers overall are down, but that's consistent with most events we are seeing."

"We can definitely welcome more athletes and more volunteers. We would love to see more of both," she continued. "We're just finding that after a couple of years off with no race, people tend to drift off to other things or forget about it. So we're hoping the excitement of a live race being back again will get people to come out and sign up."

The triathlon was cancelled in 2018 due to a shortage of volunteers and then returned in 2019 before being cancelled the last two years due to the pandemic.

Francis believes it can be a major selling point that the race serves as a world qualifying event. Multisport age group winners in Morden can qualify to compete at the world triathlon multisport championships in 2023.

The 2022 race lineup includes a vari-

ety of events such as sprint triathlon, olympic triathlon and sprint cross triathlon, and a number of events are world qualifiers including sprint duathlon, olympic duathlon and olympic cross triathlon.

In addition, there will also be the try-a-tri and try-a-du as well as the kids of steel, and Francis especially hopes people who otherwise would not consider taking on a triathlon would perhaps be drawn to give it a shot.

"We always have events that are geared to people who want to try it out, and I think that is something that people are aware of ... that you don't have to be an Olympic calibre athlete

to participate and you can have fun," she said.

"We have try a tri or try a du, so you can try out a triathlon or a duathlon, and they're less distances so it's less intimidating for the new person," she continued. "And it's just a really fun atmosphere, and it's a great way to give the sport a try and see if it's something that engages your interest."

"For someone who is in reasonable shape, just to pick it up and do a try a tri or try a du without a whole lot of training really is quite doable, and often that's how people get hooked on the sport."

Francis also made a last-minute ap-

peal for some more volunteers to get involved.

"The atmosphere is always kind of electric and energizing," she said. "It's a real motivator for athletes when you have people standing on the sidelines and cheering."

"We also still do need formal volunteers to do lots of different tasks. We need a lot of people even to do simple things like directing an athlete around a corner to make sure they don't take a wrong turn on the course," she said. "Those people are very important, although it's not a hard job."

People can find more information online at mordentriathlon.com.



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ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW JULY 11TH TO JULY 20TH FROM 9AM TO 5PM
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Longtime Altona coach hanging up his ball cap

By Ty Dilello

One of Altona's finest local baseball coaches in recent memory is retiring after 27 years.

Over the years, Voth coached his four children and also coached at numerous levels, including House (Rookie), Mosquito, Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget, South Central AAA, Carillon (Steinbach) AAA, W.C. Miller boys' baseball, Altona ladies fastpitch, and ten years of a fall baseball camp for children who were not in organized baseball.

In that time, Voth's teams won seven provincial championships and competed in six Western Canadian championships, winning three.

"I want to give all honour and glory to my Lord and Saviour for this," said Voth. "I also want to thank my wife for her support as it took me away from home a lot.

"I also couldn't have had this success without the coaches and managers I've had over all these years. I've been blessed with having the pleasure of coaching so many tal-

ented teams and players.

"Also, a big thank you to Altona Minor Baseball for the support. It's been a pleasure to play and practice on the diamonds that Altona has. We are the envy of a lot of towns."

As for memories from his time coaching, there are too many for Voth to pick just one.

"Something I will always cherish is the friends I've made over the years," he said. "Something I'm proud of is being told by other teams that we represented Altona well and that we were a class team. That means a lot. I would like to give credit to all the Altona coaches who coached these players before they got to the level that I was coaching. A job well done!"

Voth also recalls how some years ago, when the Western Canadian championship was being held in Morden, very heavy rains hit and all fields were flooded.

"At the coaches/managers meeting, they were talking about what to do now. Then one of my coaches said we could continue the champion-

ship in Altona. When they agreed, two phone calls by my assistant coaches to Altona put everything into action. I think within two hours, there were games being played in Altona. All diamonds had been mowed and chalked, and all the announcers were set, and scorekeepers were set.

"The teams that had come to Altona were very impressed with our facilities and how our volunteers prepared everything. Word got out fast that there were baseball games going on and lots of fans came out to watch. It showed how Altona minor baseball and the people of Altona worked together to make this a success."

Voth, who just turned 70 this month, is looking forward to having a little more free time in his summers now that he has retired from coaching baseball.

"I'm not sure why I retired but felt it was just time. I can golf more in the summer, and I still have three sons that are playing competitive baseball, so I will watch more of them play."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Altona's Ken Voth is retiring after coaching teams for the past 27 years.

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The Winkler Morden Voice connects people through stories to build stronger communities. Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday? A young entrepreneur starting out?

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

The *Winkler Morden*
Voice

Winkler Storm battle Luso to a tie

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm's record stands at 1-2-1 after last weekend when they battled the Luso Canadian CCS to a 2-2 tie.

The Sunday night match in Winkler saw Jan Heide and Amjad Kissaniye score for the home team.

The Storm are currently in second-last place in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's Premier Division, ahead of only the 0-2-1 Canadian CCS but with a game or two in hand over the teams above them in the standings.

This and next week Wednesday they travel to Winnipeg to play first the NKMB Saints and then Luso once again. Their next home game is against the Saints on Sunday, July 10.

On the women's side, the South Central Hurricanes are still looking for their second win of the season.

The ladies dropped at 5-1 decision to Heat FC last week Tuesday to put their record for the summer at 1-5-2, good for last place in the Winnipeg Womens Soccer League's Second Div.

This week Tuesday they play at the Winnipeg Storm and next week they face Hornets SC.

Morden Collegiate gives back

Morden Collegiate drama teacher Chicago Dyck and art teacher Dawn Rigaux presenting Ang Braun (centre) of Genesis House with a donation of \$1,065. It was the proceeds from the school's Artstravaganza event. In addition to the money raised, the school also collected several boxes of needed supplies for the shelter, which provides safe haven for the victims of domestic violence. The Artstravaganza celebration included an art show and performances from the high school's drama, band, and choir students.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



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The Office Administrator
Pembina Parish - St. Paul's United Church
353 Thornhill Street
Morden, MB R6M 1M8

Questions can be directed to the Office Administrator at 204-822-4508 Mondays to Fridays



THE GARDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE Additions to the Voters List and/or Personal Security Protection Requests

In accordance with Section 36 of The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act (MCSBEA), The Garden Valley School Division Voters List is open for changes or revisions.

- Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the Local Authority of The Garden Valley School Division can have his or her name added to the Voters List, or have any information about the voter on the Voters List corrected.
- Any person can request to have his or her name and address obscured from the Voters List.

A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. That person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the Senior Election Official, in person, by e-mail, fax or mail to:

Name of Local Authority:

The Garden Valley School Division
Address: Box 1330, Winkler MB R6W 4B3
Phone: 204.325.8335
Fax: 204.325.4132
E-mail: gvsd@gvsd.ca

The next General Election takes place October 26, 2022.

Kevin Vovchuk
Senior Election Official

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The *Winkler Morden* Voice

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF
STANLEY BY-LAW 13-22
Being an AMENDMENT to the
R.M. OF STANLEY ZONING BY-LAW
8-18, AS AMENDED.**

HEARING: R.M. of Stanley
Council Chambers
LOCATION: 1-23111 PTH 14, SW 7-3-4W
DATE & TIME: July 7, 2022 at 9:05 a.m.
General Intent: To re-zone a portion of a parcel of
land in the RM of Stanley
From: "AG" Agricultural General
To: "GD" General Development
AREA: Part of Lot 1, Plan 600
Village of Friedensfeld West

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Melissa Groening,
Planning and Development Officer
Rural Municipality of Stanley
1-23111 PTH 14, Stanley MB R6P 0B1
Phone: (204) 325-4101
Email: mgroening@rmofstanley.ca



A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from, upon request.

For further information, please contact the Planning and Development Officer at 204-325-4101 or mgroening@rmofstanley.ca.

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> GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles?
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the moment you
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sharpen your
pencil and put
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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	9	8	1	2	5	7	4	6
7	1	4	6	9	8	2	5	3
2	6	5	7	4	3	1	9	8
8	4	3	5	7	2	6	1	9
9	2	6	4	3	1	8	7	5
1	5	7	9	8	6	3	2	4
4	8	9	3	1	7	5	6	2
5	3	1	2	6	9	4	8	7
6	7	2	8	5	4	9	3	1

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer



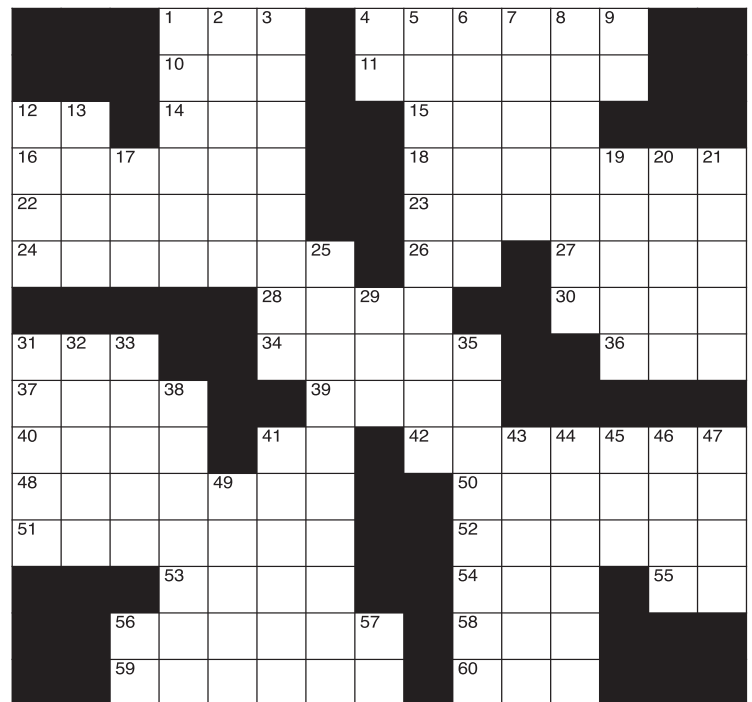
CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Basics
- In a new way
- Paulo, city
- Jailhouse
- Expresses surprise
- Trigraph
- A small stream
- Dissimilar
- Promote
- Gives a boost
- Lawmaker
- Orthodox Jews
- Actor Harris
- Wild cherry
- Participate in democracy
- Opposite of begins
- A Brit's mother
- Set of moral principles
- Very fast airplane
- Czech river
- Private school in New York
- Israeli dance
- Electron volt
- Adjusting
- Duct by the bladder
- Small burger
- Begin again
- Unstuck
- Jai __, sport
- Get free of
- For instance
- Hotel chain
- A team's best pitcher
- Extracts from various sources
- Indefinite period of time

CLUES DOWN

- St. Francis of __



- Supported
- United in working
- It cools your home
- Predicting
- Irritated
- Popular talk show host
- Fabric edge
- A resource for employees
- Broadway's Jackman
- Small water buffalo
- City of Angels: __ Angeles
- Asteroids
- Tailless amphibians
- German expressionist painter
- What drives you
- N. Vietnamese ethnic group

- Gold coin used in British India
- Have deep affection for
- Ponds
- Breaks between words
- Hairstyle
- Print errors
- Family of iron alloys
- Sidelined in bed
- Many couples say it
- Brazilian hoopster
- Allman Brothers late frontman
- German city
- One hundred grams (abbr.)
- One billionth of a second (abbr.)

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IN MEMORIAM

Bill L Fehr
July 4, 2000

Precious memories keep you near,
As time unfolds another year.

-Lovingly remembered,
Linda



OBITUARY



Abe Froese 1954 - 2022

It is with heavy hearts and deep sadness we say goodbye to our husband, dad, papa, and friend to many. Abe Froese, 67 years of Winkler, MB passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia; daughter, Amanda (Josh) Hildebrand; three grandchildren, Gabrielle, Gavin and Quinn along with his sisters, brothers and many nieces and

nephews.

He was predeceased by his father, mother, sister, Marge and brother, John.

Abe was born August 10, 1954 to John E. and Helen J. Froese. His dad passed away when he was very young and he quit school to help out on the farm. He had very fond memories of his childhood, the fun and the trouble they got into. He was self employed and hauled loads to and from Winnipeg for 37 years for Winkler Meats. He was an avid farmer working hard to provide for his family whether it was hauling bales, sugar beets, or helping neighbours and friends in his spare time. Abe was always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need and offered his advice freely. Abe was loyal to his commitments whether they were work related or family. He was a hardworking, devoted man. We will always remember him for his love of life, joking around and making us laugh. He always had a good story to tell. On September 8, 1982, Abe married Cynthia Renton of Morden and started their married life south of Winkler. They were blessed with one child, Amanda. From the day of her arrival, she was the apple of her dad's eye and stole his heart right away. The feeling was mutual. There was nothing Amanda would not do for her dad. Abe loved his family very much and his grandchildren were number one. He could not get enough of them. He loved to spend time teasing, playing and visiting with them. If anything was wanted, they would seek out their papa! Thank you, Abe, for loving us. We will miss you dearly but look forward to reuniting with you in Heaven.

We would like to thank the staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre for the care that was received.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
In care of arrangements
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Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

OBITUARY

Edwin (Ed) Dueck 1954 - 2022



It is with mixed blessings and sorrow that we announce the passing of Ed Dueck, beloved brother, brother-in-law, son-in-law, uncle and friend.

Ed was born April 29th, 1954 in the Altona hospital. He was the oldest son of Peter and Tina Dueck. After a courageous battle with cancer Ed passed away at Boundary Trails Health Centre on Friday evening, June 18th. Ed grew up on the farm at Kleinstadt near Altona with two brothers and two sisters. Ed got his education at Kleinstadt school for the first few years and later in Altona. Ed was baptized in June 1975 at the Altona Sommerfelder Church. He married Eva Friesen on July 19th, 1975. They lived in Altona for the first few years of their marriage until they moved to Manitou in

1982. Ed had gotten a job as a diesel mechanic and this is where he began his journey to obtain his diesel mechanic license, an accomplishment that he was proud of. In 1987 Ed and Eva moved to Winkler where he resided until his passing. Ed worked at the school bus garage and enjoyed both the work and the people he worked with. Ed loved playing golf and watching both baseball and hockey every chance he got. At family gatherings you would often find Ed discussing hockey or baseball with his nephews. If you needed to know the stats on the Blue Jays or the Jets, he was quick to tell us. Even though he never pronounced the players names the right way, it always gave us a chuckle. Although he loved the Blue Jays and the Jets and watched countless games, the Toronto Maple Leafs always remained on top. Just a few weeks ago when I went to see Ed in the hospital, one of the first things he asked me was how are the hockey playoffs going. I told him and he was quick to remind me that the Tampa Bay Lightning were a very strong team. May 3, 2018, I enjoyed an evening I will never forget. Ed, Trevor, Dan and I went to a Jets playoff game. Ed was beaming from ear to ear and said that it was an experience of a lifetime, a memory I will always cherish.

In 2019 Ed's life changed forever. Eva was diagnosed with cancer. This was devastating for Ed. Eva passed away February 15, 2020. One month later COVID started and Ed entered a very lonely time in his life. My brother Don sat with him many, many evenings. The rest of the family and Eva's family did what they could, but COVID always made it hard. Tracey often picked Ed up and snuck him into her home, so he didn't have to be alone and he always got a good meal to boot. We as a family were so proud of Ed that he learned to do a lot of cooking. He made many a breakfast for Albert, Don, Jake and myself; eggs, pancakes, farmer sausage and waffles. The summer of 2021 Ed found a special friend, Lillian, who he could share the heartache of loss with as she had lost her husband. They soon found they both shared the love of golfing. He had a great summer golfing with Lillian and as fall came they both shared many evenings watching hockey. It was so good to see Ed smiling again. As 2021 progressed Ed seemed more tired and was later diagnosed with bladder cancer. He had surgery in January, and he said, "I can beat this". As the months progressed, we started noticing Ed was not himself. He had been working for Napa, 2-3 times a week delivering parts, and while at work had slipped on ice and hit his head. From there things changed a lot as he was forced to stop working and just got weaker. From the fall he had suffered a brain bleed, at the time they discovered this they also discovered that the cancer had spread to his brain. With the spread of the cancer to his head he became very unstable which resulted in many falls. He went to the hospital for two weeks and was so happy when he was able to go home for a two week stretch. We quickly discovered that he no longer could be at home alone and after that two week stretch never came home again. When I took him in for the last time he shared with me that all the things he had didn't matter anymore and that he was ready to leave this world. The next couple of weeks were very hard for him with lots of pain and confusion. But Wednesday morning when Tracey went to see him, he was excited that Albert was home from his trip and that he would soon see her (meaning Eva). We never spoke again after that. We will miss you Ed more than we can say, our gatherings will be quieter now as there will be another empty chair at our table. We rejoice that Ed is pain free and that he is reunited once again with his loved ones.

Ed was predeceased by his wife Eva in 2020; his dad, Peter Dueck in 2011; his mom, Tina in 2013 and his sister, Hilda in 2015. Ed was also predeceased by his father-in-law, Diedrich Friesen and his brother-in-law, James Friesen.

Ed is survived by two brothers, Albert and Ang and Don and Sharon; one sister, MaryAnn and Don; and one brother-in-law, Jake and Agnes and their families.

Memorial service was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at the Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church with interment prior to the service at the Rudnerwiede Cemetery.

Thank you to the staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre for their kindness and care. Thank you to Wiebe Funeral Home, Art Wiebe and the Sommerfelder Church for assisting with the service. Thank you to everyone who had a part in the service today and for those that have been praying for us in this difficult time. Thank you, Tracey, for going above and beyond for uncle Ed. Thank you also to the Friesen family for helping us care for Ed, it was much appreciated. Donations may be made in Ed's memory to Adult and Teen Challenge.

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"Art has been probably my saving grace"

Third Thursdays art talk tackles the topic of hope

By Lorne Stelmach

Darlene Hunt was an apt choice to speak on the theme of hope in relation to art.

The artist touched a bit on her own personal journey and the sense of hope she found through her work as part of the Third Thursdays series of art talks hosted last week by the Pembina Hills Arts Council.

"It's one that I feel quite passionate about," said Hunt, who spoke on having a disability which has presented her with some challenges in life. "And art has been probably my saving grace through my recovery."

Hunt recalled the impact of a childhood experience, which she sees as having perhaps foreshadowed her

own future state of health.

A great uncle had severe rheumatoid arthritis (RA), an autoimmune and inflammatory disease, and she was diagnosed with childhood RA.

"He was the one who taught me to draw wild horses," said Hunt. "I fondly remembered that story and how he managed to still have hope speak to him through his art ... and how it could serve me as well."

"So that's why [this art talk] spoke to me," she continued. "It's been a constant throughout the years and then a recent battle that I've been recovering from for the past three years. My RA has come back, plus there's other health issues as well."

"So I was trying to figure out how hope played into this for me ... and the conclusion was that art truly has been a source of hope through it all."

"Art had always moved me ... I grew up drawing, but life got in the way. You have family, you have children, you have jobs ... I hadn't really picked



it up for some time."

She thought back to a period where she faced two emergency surgeries.

"I found myself lying in a hospital room, and I didn't really feel despair or feel saddened or anything. I was just searching for a pen and paper," she recalled. "Don't ask me why ... it just seemed to be an overwhelming feeling."

"Once I finally did return home, then it actually became a flurry," said Hunt. "I seemed to feel compelled when I finally did return from the hospital and to the point where it was



Artist Darlene Hunt, whose work includes *Veil of Grief* (left) and *When Life Gives You Lemons* (above), shared her thoughts on the role of art and hope in overcoming life's challenges at a talk at the Morden gallery last week.

almost a driven passion.

"It just became an absolute need, and it was a flurry of activity," she continued. "I was working with fabric ... and drawing on anything that I could get my hands on."

She continues to create today, largely working with fabric and more recently is painting Belgian linen tapestry.

"It is a very powerful thing," concluded Hunt, who voiced the hope that perhaps sharing her story can help others. "Perhaps it could serve as inspiration to others as well."

Letters from the past

Ed Falk, archivist at the Winkler Heritage Archives, uncovered and translated several letters from early settlers to our area to loved ones back home in Russia, providing an interesting glimpse into life way back when.

This one, dated Sept. 1, 1875, is from a couple living in Blumenfeld:



Heritage Highlights

Dearly beloved parents!

The hours and days rush by as if we are in a fog. It seems that there is hardly any time to sit down and write, but because you are our parents and because our hearts yearn almost without pause to be with you again, I have found time

to write and describe for you our trip. May the good Lord grant that these few words may find you in good health in both body and soul!

I wrote a letter while we were in Hamburg, but I don't know whether or not you received it.

After we left Hamburg, on the North Sea we had a horrible experience because we were all sea-sick, but we arrived safely at Hull after that 39-hour voyage.

We spent the night there and then left, in awe and fear, the next morning for Liverpool where we arrived quite safely.

After waiting there for three days, we boarded that big ship and headed out onto huge and wild ocean. We had had a terrible time on the North Sea but here we had the feeling that we need not fear but rather felt that if we trusted in God then there was nothing to fear. That is not to fear death or trials because one needs to completely trust God and not live in fear.

At the beginning of the trip our food was of poor quality but towards the end of the trip the food was fairly good. But I would advise that you bring bread with you so that if you if

the worst happens you will still have something to chew on.

Even when things go very well there can still be hard times and unimaginable difficulties to face. But those who emigrate for reasons of conscience should not feel any weight of the cross they bear.

I am not going to describe our trip in detail because of the limited supply of paper, but I need to tell you that although we exchanged our money at an unfair exchange rate we got our money back in Toronto without a problem.

Six days of travel later we arrived in Duluth, where we buried the Heinrich Harder's daughter, Katharina. Aside from that we have suffered very little illness during our travels to reach this place.

Just now I am reminded of just how much distance separates us right now! The only consolation we have is that all of you will join us here next spring.

Dear parents! It is hard to imagine how we would hold on to you when we get to see you again. But we don't want you to worry because things are good and we want for nothing. We

have an ample supply of bread and meat. When we run out of food then we go to get more. There is food here for those with money and for those without money.

The firewood we get from the forests for free. The trip to get the wood takes from five to six hours. We use oxen, but they are expensive to buy. A cow sells for \$40 and we purchased oxen at \$21 each. The food is free of cost.

Right now I still [have] \$10 but other than that, my chests are empty. But in spite of that we have no worries, for the Lord does not desert those who rely on Him.

Many greetings to you and greet all our friends. May the blessings of the most Mighty be on you all!

Your children,
Franz and Katharina Klassen

Heritage Highlights, supplied by the Winkler Heritage Society, introduces readers to the people, places and things that still impact us today. Learn more about the society's work and how you can support it at winklerheritagesociety.ca.

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