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Cultural mosaic

Winkler's Canada Day celebrations Monday featured a performance from Island Breeze as part of the Culture Fest activities at the concert hall. For more photos, see Pg. 9.
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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Winkler Community Fdn. grants out \$132K

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Foundation (WCF) gave back to the area in a big way last week with the distribution of its 2024 grants.

The agency, which distributes the interest generated from the various endowment funds it oversees on behalf of the community, presented over two dozen local projects and non-profits with a total of \$132,973 in funding at a celebration held at Winkler Arts and Culture June 26.

Some of the grant recipients were selected by WCF board members from a host of applications coming in for the foundation's community and field of interest funds, while others received money through the agency, designated, and donor-advised funds.

It was most certainly a day to cele-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Representatives from dozens of local groups and projects were on hand at Winkler Arts and Culture last week to receive a total of \$132,973 in grants from the Winkler Community Foundation's various endowment funds.

brate, said board chair Barb Neufeld.

"The main reason that we're here today is to celebrate all of the amazing work that you and your organizations

are doing," she told the assembled crowd of grant recipients. "The work that you do enhances the lives of the citizens of our community and our area."

Neufeld noted 2024 is a special year for WCF, as it marks 30 years since the organization became an active entity.

"Although we incorporated in 1988 when Max Gladstone made a \$10,000 donation to start a foundation, it was our business community and the matching grant of \$100,000 in 1994 from the Thomas Sill Foundation that really kickstarted the work of this foundation.

"The first grants were [distributed] in 1996 and totaled \$8,500, impacting eight charitable organizations. Since then, over \$2.5 million has been dispersed back into the community through the various funds that we hold."

Today, the foundation has numerous endowment funds under its purview, including a multi-million dollar scholarship fund created in 2016 thanks to the bequest of pharmacist Gordon Wiebe. Today that fund generates more than \$100,000 a year for scholarships.

With the closure of the Thomas Sill

Foundation last year, the Winkler foundation received a \$1.2 million boost to its Community Fund that will have a major impact on how much it's able to give in the years ahead.

"This year we are donating or granting out about \$41,000 from our Community Fund," Neufeld said. "Next year we will be able to more than double that amount."

The foundation board has also set its sights on significantly improving its overall assets in the years to come. Currently they oversee about \$6.7 million in endowment funding.

"Our new financial goal is to have \$10 million in assets by the year 2030," Neufeld said, expressing confidence that they'll get there, with the community's support.

WELCOME SUPPORT

Among the recipients on hand for the celebration last week was Alycia Hildebrand, who heads up Industrial Eats at The Bunker. The program received \$1,000 from WCF's Kalansky Family Fund.

"Any support we get from the community is amazing for us," she said. "We're just so blessed by this community, and every little bit helps."

Industrial Eats is nearing the home stretch of being able to open its new sit-down restaurant; they hope to do so later this year.

Receiving \$1,500 from the Community Fund was Southwood School in Schanzenfeld for the further development of its new playground sand pit.

"WE'RE JUST SO BLESSED BY THIS COMMUNITY, AND EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS."

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Foundation makes \$2.5M donation to BTHC expansion

By Lorne Stelmach

Expansion of Boundary Trails Health Centre continues to progress, and the project officially got a major financial boost last week.

The Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation presented the first \$2.5 million payment of its overall \$10 million commitment to support the expansion.

"We were really excited, and it was our pleasure to finally put some of the community donations to work," said foundation chairperson Ben Friesen.

"We've been fundraising and working on this \$10 million that we committed to this project," he said. "We did a lot of fundraisers ... the community was 100 per cent behind it."

There has been a lot of personal one-on-one campaigning and many presentations, he noted, with major support from all of the municipalities in the region.

"We got fantastic support from all of the ones that we visited ... and then of course even a lot of local contributors,

businesses, companies as well as personal, a lot of personal investments.

"From the start of this project, from our fundraising perspective, the community has been one hundred per cent in support of this project."

Friesen reflected that the thought of this campaign goes back many years, and there has been a lot of meetings and a lot of hard work to get to this point.

"It just feels fantastic. You've worked for it. You know the support is there. You know the cause is good," he said. "We all want to do this for the betterment of our community."

"We always do fundraising. Our foundation operates a hundred per cent on donations, and we do a lot of other stuff. This is a special capital campaign," Friesen noted. "We work on the palliative care, the spiritual care as well as all the equipment needs ... the foundation will continue to grow. We also feel that there's a lot of other opportunities coming in."

"We're very pleased to say that we are partners with Southern Health on



SUPPLIED PHOTO

BTHC Foundation staff and board members recently presented Southern Health-Santé Sud with \$2.5 million towards the BTHC's expansion. The foundation has committed a total of \$10 million towards the multi-year expansion project.

this project," added Friesen.

Southern Health-Santé Sud CEO Jane Curtis applauded the commitment to the expansion.

"We've been working with the foundation now for many years, and they

never fail to step up to the plate when we have these types of projects. It's just really incredible the partnership that we have with them and the work that they do in the community.

Continued on page 5

BTHC Fdn. reports on a year of growth and momentum

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year was one of continued growth and momentum for the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

Reaching the \$10 million goal of its campaign to support the expansion of the regional hospital continued to be the major focus, but its other ongoing work is of equal importance, representatives noted after its recent annual meeting.

"The hospital project has been our key focus the last two years ... in the meantime, we've been running our

regular programs," said chairperson Ben Friesen.

"We keep committing funds to the palliative care ... we're paying for some of the wages for the nurses inside the palliative care," he continued. "We've got the spiritual care. We're committed to that ... we put a lot of money into the spiritual care ... the chaplain who's on staff is our responsibility."

Another key step was moving their palliative care volunteer co-ordinator position from part-time to full-time.

Continued on page 5

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Like Us On

Canola research tour visits area farms

By Lorne Stelmach

An initiative of the Manitoba Canola Growers Association is benefitting both producers and researchers alike.

Now in its third year, the association's annual research camp tour last week took a group of researchers out to farms in south and central Manitoba.

It was a great opportunity for about a dozen researchers to connect directly with producers, with local stops including that of Jackie Dudgeon-MacDonald's farm southeast of Darlingford.

"One of the big disconnects in many industries, but specifically agriculture, is researchers do great work, but it's not necessarily something that can be easily applied to our farm," she suggested.

"So having them come out here to see our farms and understand what we do and why we do it and some of the things we're facing allows them to tailor their research ... change their research based on what we need," Dudgeon-MacDonald added. "And being able to talk to the researchers and

learn from them also helps us understand what can and can't be done."

The two-day tour took the researchers to six farms. The one day brought them to the Pembina Valley, which also included stops near Kaleida and Pilot Mound. The next day took the group back towards Winnipeg, with a last stop near Starbuck.

They plan the tour to have somewhat diverse examples of different mixed operations, noted Amy Delaquis, research manager with Manitoba Canola Growers Association.

"We try to get a good range of farm types as well as growing area ... in the past we've actually even gone up to the Parkland area," she noted. "And we do have different researchers every year. We've never had the same researchers come twice."

It was established simply because they saw a need for a way to connect the researchers with farmers.

"It's to help researchers make that connection to the farm level and have that candid discussion with farmers about challenges and production practices that they have on their



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Manitoba Canola Growers Association brought researchers to farms across Manitoba last week, including one near Darlingford.

farms ... so that when they're coming and applying for funding for new research projects, they are able to better understand where the producer is going to be coming from and what's going to be valuable for them on their farm," she said. "We've had really good feedback especially because we have a lot of new researchers to Manitoba ... young researchers as well as new researchers to Canada ... so they aren't as familiar with Manitoba production practices.

"Making this connection to Manitoba farmers to help shape their research programs is really valuable to

them," said Delaquis. "If they ever need a farmer to bounce ideas off of, then they have some of those connections through the camp."

Dudgeon-MacDonald and her husband moved to their current farm location about two years ago, but the family overall has farmed in the region for a long time.

"We actually have a couple fields in the family that are century fields," she noted.

Canola continues to be an important crop for them.

Continued on page 5

SCRL receives Human Rights Book Award

By Lorne Stelmach

An award from the Manitoba Library Association is welcome affirmation for Cathy Ching and the South Central Regional Library.

As SCRL's director of library services, Ching also hopes receiving the inaugural Human Rights Book Award could serve as encouragement for other libraries facing similar censorship challenges to what has happened here in recent years. Ching and her team were praised for remaining passionately steadfast and remarkably positive throughout.

"It feels good because now we feel like we don't have to apologize ... this just kind of gives us a firm foundation to stand on and that we did right," said Ching in reference to calls made by some in the community for library materials they deemed unacceptable to be removed.

"The fact that these associations are stepping up and supporting us is welcome," she added. "It has fallen off the radar, but it's not totally gone,

so we want to stay vigilant and make sure we keep our standards and our promises to people that there will always be something for everybody."

The Manitoba Library Association noted how libraries are helping uphold the fundamental values of intellectual freedom, inclusion, and diversity despite recent calls for censorship and the harassment of library workers.

The association, alongside the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers, said it presented the first Human Rights Book Award to Ching and the SCRL in recognition of their "strong resolve in upholding human rights, inclusivity and equity in library access for their library or in the library community at a local, regional, provincial or national level."

SCRL was cited for its determination "to uphold the fundamental right to freedom of expression and the unrestricted pursuit of knowledge for all individuals, regardless of background or belief."

The nomination further noted Ching's willingness to educate and inspire library peers through conferences and workshops, helping to foster a culture of continuous improvement within her professional community.

"Cathy is an amazing example of the type of people we need in our communities and libraries now more than ever," said KC Bateman, vice-president of the Manitoba Library Association. "Her work and perseverance in the face of adversity is not only inspiring, it's a loud and bold statement that libraries will always be a safe space and will help echo the voices that need to be heard."

"Cathy Ching and the South Central Regional Library system demonstrate an unwavering commitment to keeping our libraries a welcoming, safe space for all," added Chelsey Young, representing the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers.

The award came as a surprise to Ching.

"I hadn't even realized that we were on anybody's radar for the nomination," she said. "They have supported us in our advocacy for keeping books on the shelf and just maintaining that quality of collection.

"It's validation that we did what we needed to do," she added. "There were times where it would have been easier to just say, okay fine and let it go ... we were sometimes encouraged to do that by some members of the public.

"I think what we talk about often is that it was good that it was us as South Central," Ching said. "We have lots of support, and we have a great board. If they had targeted a smaller library, it may have gone very differently.

"The glue that held it all together is what brought this award to us, so I think that's huge."

As part of the award, Ching and the South Central Regional Library are receiving 15 books from Manitoba publishers.

Decor Charity Classic announces fourth charity

By Lorne Stelmach

The annual Decor Charity Classic golf tournament aims to make a lasting difference in the community by supporting four worthy causes.

It has raised over \$1.5 million since its inception in 2004, and proceeds go to three local charities—Youth for Christ, Pembina Counselling Centre and Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre—along with the addition of a fourth charity that changes annually.

That additional charity has usually been an international organization, but this year they identified a need to support another local organization: the 500 Stephen community centre, which hosts the food bank overseen by Many Hands Resource Centre, among a number of other community outreach programming.

“We know with food prices and inflation and everything that’s been

happening in the world these days that there is more and more need for helping with the basic needs of life, such as food,” said tournament co-chair Dave Schellenberg.

“No question there’s more people struggling than ever,” he added, citing the many valuable services and resources that are supported through 500 Stephen.

“There is a great need in our community here in Morden, so we wanted to make sure that we could support that in any way that we can,” he said. “The demand is there obviously ... that’s something that we want to get involved with and help out.”

Last year’s tournament saw over \$100,000 divided between the selected charities thanks to event donations and a partial matching donation from Decor Cabinets.

The tournament itself always fills up with about 140 golfers. This year’s

event takes place Aug. 8 at the Minnewasta Golf and Country Club. The entry fee of \$200 includes the green fee and a shared cart as well as other amenities, including snacks, lunch, and dinner.

Schellenberg noted registrations are already coming in but there is still room for more golfers.

If you’d like to get involved, head to golf.decorcabinets.com to register.

Schellenberg said they value having the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of others with this event each year.

“That’s a big reason why we exist is to help local organizations as well as ones abroad as well to prosper and to do well,” he said. “We really like those organizations and how they support every aspect of life ... we can see 500 Stephen fitting in as well with that same kind of mandate ... how can we make a difference in people’s lives



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The 2024 Decor Charity Classic takes place Aug. 8 in Morden.

... that’s what we want to do.”

> CANOLA, FROM PG. 4

“Our crop rotation for many years has been canola, wheat, and soybeans as the mainstays,” said Dudgeon-MacDonald. “I think the most important thing about canola is it allows us to control our weeds better, control our fertility in our fields better as well, and when we get a good year, it’s a good year.

“There’s definitely been some hard years, but that happens with all crop types.”

She finds the association to be an important source of support.

“We know that they are out there promoting and speaking on behalf of us,” she said. “We’re farmers out in the country, and we don’t have the same reach, so it’s important for us to have their support and pushing the important messages.

“I think they’re doing a fantastic job, especially when it comes to bringing the researchers out here like this.”

The tour was a great opportunity for Manini Jayawardana, who is doing her post-doctorate studies at the University of Manitoba.

“We mostly work in the lab ... so it is really good to get to interact with the farmers and get to know their opinions and what types of challenges they are going through,” she said. “It is very good for us for our research.”

The **Voice**
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> BTHC AGM, FROM PG. 3

“She’s working very closely with the palliative care program, so it goes a little beyond just the volunteers. She’s offering a little more support to the nurses,” explained executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett.

“We’ve taken on funding that position as a full-time because we see the need for more help and more direction of volunteers,” she said. “She has so many great projects in the works for the upcoming year and more volunteers.”

The foundation recorded a strong surplus of just over \$816,000 in the past year, with revenue having increased from \$1.2 million to over \$1.8 million. Expenses increased from \$928,000 to just over \$1 million.

There were a number of successes, including the annual gala bringing in over \$97,000 and the golf tournament raising over \$88,000. In addition, other efforts like the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign brought in over \$40,000.

“All of these are people who care about this hospital and the staff that make it the best health care facility in Manitoba,” said Friesen.

“We had a really great year. Our golf tournament was a blast ... it was sold out really early. We had record numbers,” added Folkett, noting as well that the gala was a big success.

“We have all sorts of fun little

fundraisers throughout the year,” she noted, citing the example of the Carman Collegiate Movember chocolate moustaches campaign that brought in over \$18,000.

“The ones where the public take the initiative for us and donate the funds that they’ve raised back to the programs here, we really appreciate that,” she said.

Friesen likewise said they very much appreciate the complete buy-in from the region when it comes to supporting the hospital.

“It’s really encouraging because every time we come up with a new project ... we just know there’s more things coming in, and the community is in support of it,” he said.

“We supply equipment above and beyond the regular hospital care ...

> BTHC EXPANSION, FROM PG. 3

“It feels great ... this has been years and years of planning,” added Curtis. “The community is just incredible in this area. Their generosity, their community-mindedness. It’s just incredible. I can’t say enough about the people who live in this area and how much they care about their community.”

The \$100 million expansion of Boundary Trails Health Centre is being completed in phases and includes the addition of 24 acute care inpatient beds, an expanded emergency department, a new state-of-the-art operating room, expansion of the cancer care unit, dedicated space for

something that we know that yes, can the hospital survive without it, but would it make a difference to the patients that are here and will it make a difference to the staff that are working here ... that’s the way the board looks at it.

“We know that the community wants as much as we can do for more and better health care.”

Folkett also noted they have put emphasis on showing appreciation for the dedication and perseverance of the health care staff.

“We hear everyone when they talk about the worry about staff,” she said. “A big thing that we have been focusing on this last year is showing the staff how much they mean and how much we care about them.”

palliative care services, and a Level 2 nursery designed to provide services to premature newborns with complex feeding needs.

The new community services building will enable existing community services to be relocated from the existing hospital space. Services in the new building will include public health, midwifery, home care services, children and youth rehabilitation services and a centre for hope healing garden and healing courtyard.

Then, once all of that has been accomplished, work will begin on renovation of the existing hospital space.

The **Voice**

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Life is a dance

Do you dance? I like to dance but I am painfully aware of a near genetic lack of rhythm that has plagued me my entire life (imagine Elaine from Seinfeld, but substantially worse).

What this means is that when I “busta move” I am VERY focused on how I might appear to others.

“Is he having a seizure? Should we call someone?”

I know, I know, this shouldn't matter. I should give myself over to the rhythm and the beat and allow my mind to take cues from my heart, etc. and blah, blah, blah.

It is difficult.

I like to tell people I inherited my rhythm from the Irish side of my family, but I had to stop saying this once Irish dance became popular.

I could lean into the Jewish half of my family but once again there are some pretty impressive Jews out there when it comes to dancing (consider Paula Abdul and Arthur Murray, to name just two).

Clearly, it's a me issue and not a biological problem.

It's not like there weren't opportunities to dance. I mean, ever since Grade 7 there were dances in school multiple times per year and I would go to most of them. Once there I would join

about 80 per cent of the guys lined up along the gym wall watching the confident 20 per cent dancing with 80 per cent of the girls who seemed to have no problem dancing at all.

A couple of weeks ago as my wife and I were battenning down the hatches for the evening, we started talking about the different songs played at our mutual high school dances ... particularly the slow dance songs which every student looked forward to and every parent and teacher chaperone loathed due to the heightened vigilance requirement.

Eventually we talked about Sixpence None the Richer's song “Kiss Me” (look it up) and started hum-singing it since we couldn't quite get all the lyrics right. Finally, we played the song and there, in the middle of the kitchen, we suddenly began to dance with one another.

I'm embarrassed to say it had been a long time since we had danced together. I mean, we don't often get the opportunity because we were raised in environments where dancing occurred at sanctioned dancing events, not at home, spontaneously, in the kitchen.

As we held one another, danced,

and laughed together, there was something so immediately intimate and joyous in the moment, like a sacred space had been created and we were the only two people in the world to occupy it.

In such moments you are reminded of how deeply you love this person. It has become a life memory I will cherish forever. I highly recommend it.

Life can be like a dance when it is at its best. Dancing, particularly slow dancing, requires vulnerability, respect, trust, a deep sense of where the other is at, a requirement to hold on to one another, a willingness to follow, and a willingness to lead.

Too often the busyness of life can push us apart as we strive to stay afloat, and we can become like kids at a Grade 7 dance standing against opposite walls yearning to hold one another but too afraid we have forgotten what intimacy looks like. Too afraid we will make fools of ourselves, get hurt or, worse still, hurt the ones we love.

If you have the opportunity, I think you should consider dancing with your loved ones in the kitchen or the

Continued on page 7



By Peter Cantelon

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.

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• DON'T MIND THE MESS

What now?

It's June 1983. In a few weeks, I'll turn 18—the age when apparently, I'm an adult.

But I don't feel very adult at this moment. I'm in a church basement, standing in front of a small mirror, trying to adjust my grad cap so it won't mess up my hair too much. There are three others sharing the mirror with me. These are girls I generally didn't hang out with at any point during the last four years of high school.



By Lori Penner

But now, we're suddenly equals. We're graduates. Any gaps on the popularity scale have closed, and now we're just a bunch of nervous teenagers, terrified that we'll trip as we cross the stage to receive our diploma.

Finding my alphabetically appoint-

ed place in the choir loft, I gaze out at the sea of faces. Family members and friends—many are actually there because they want to be—ready to witness our big moment. A table on the stage below us holds the stacks of diplomas, the print freshly dried.

A million thoughts flood my brain. Memories of school days past. My first day of Grade 1, when I was so shy, I never spoke a word unless I had to. Everyone in school seemed to be cousins or best friends by the time I got there. I was a farm kid, and I felt wildly out of my element in those long, regimented days stuck in a desk.

The awkward adolescent years, when I shot up like a maple, and towered over all the other girls. Gangly and awkward, before my teeth ever saw braces. I felt ugly during those years, although I look at my school photos now, and realize I was kinda cute.

Funny, what low self-esteem can do.

I never quite made the grade in the "Most Friends" category, but my grades today have earned me honours.

That should mean something. I'm proud of that.

The guest speaker just told us to toss aside all our pre-conceived concepts of the world being our oyster. The world can be a cold and lonely place, he says. Life is hard, he tells us. We're about to realize that. Learn how to work for your dreams. They don't "just happen."

I wonder who hired this guy.

And then, they're calling our names. I'm somewhere in the middle, so I still have time to learn how to breathe. And just like that, it's me they're beckoning onto the stage. There are stairs. There is a glossy, polished floor. I'm in heels. I know what you're thinking. No, I didn't slip and humiliate myself. I wasn't the entertainment for the day, although anyone could have upstaged the last presenter.

I'm standing there, and the principal is handing me a very important looking document. The teacher at the mic is saying a little something about each graduate. "Here's Lori, lucky in life

and in love."

What the heck? Who wrote that? Is this a graduation ceremony or *The Dating Game*?

Embarrassed, I head back to my seat, and try not to make eye contact with anyone in my class. But they were all way too nervous to care about anything but getting out of this church without fainting.

And then, there we are. Surrounded by family and friends. Hugs and well wishes. Teachers saying goodbye. And 12 of the most challenging and formative years of my life are over.

Did I get right to work, chasing my dreams? Not really. I spent a few months sighing with relief and thanking the heavens that I'd never have to ride the school bus again.

But deep down, there was a wistful kind of longing.

For a childhood suddenly passed, and a young girl in the mirror asking, "What now?"

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

living room out of the blue. Life is too short to allow distance to grow between you.

Take hold of one another. Let your mutual guards down and enjoy the

time you have for as long as the song is playing. And remember this quote from Stephen King:

"Home is where you dance with others, and dancing is life."

Regional Connections reports on its busiest year yet

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Regional Connections Immigrant Services reported on its busiest year ever at its annual general meeting in Winkler last month.

Executive director Steve Reynolds said the region set records for both the number of newcomers moving into the area and the number of clients they were able to help with their various settlement services.

"In total, we welcomed over 1,700 new arrivals to our communities in our service area, and with all our programs and activities combined, we served over 5,000 clients this year. Those are all-time highs."

The agency has a myriad of programs designed to help immigrants adjust to life in Canada—settlement support services, employment programs, English classes, programs designed specifically for refugees, those for the parents of pre-schoolers, and for school-age kids, and more—alongside partner programs from agencies like Manitoba Immigrant Employment Council, the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership, and the Dauphin & Area Welcoming Commu-

nities Coalition.

"We do try to tie everything together in the same one-stop shop model," Reynolds said, lauding his staff for always going "above and beyond" their roles to ensure clients' needs are being met and bridges are continually being built in the communities they serve.

"It's amazing how much people, the general community, know what's happening here, or at least have some idea," he said, pointing out that most certainly wasn't the case in the early years of the agency. "Working together with the community has really grown that awareness, which is great."

Representatives from each of the organization's departments shared a report of their work through the 2023-2024 fiscal year, painting a clear picture of a very active 12 months.

The Settlement Program, for example, provided 1,715 new clients with settlement services, shared director Tina Barkman.

These newcomers came to Canada from 86 countries and speak 69 different first languages, though Ukrainian immigrants continue to make up the largest amount, with 506 new clients.

Canada continues to welcome Ukrainians fleeing the war with Russia in their home country.

"Although requests for settlement services in the first year after arrival are usually more frequent, we have found that requests from last year's arrivals have also been very high ... they need help longer, and the help they need, there are quite a few complex cases," Barkman said.

Employment Program coordinator Jessica Lopez shared their success rate has remained quite high.

They provided one-on-one support to 762 adult job seekers, including assistance with cover letters, resumes, and interview prep, as well as delivering numerous group info sessions and workshops.

As a result, 429 people found gainful employment and 89 are transitioning to additional training and education.

They also worked with over 100 internationally educated professionals to help guide them on the path to receiving Canadian accreditation, with 13 starting their licensing application process, 30 enrolling in classes to improve their language skills so they can meet licensing requirements, and 21

Recreating a special moment, eight decades later

By Lorne Stelmach

Photos taken over 80 years apart make a connection between generations of a local family and also serve as a tribute to preserving history.

In one black and white photo taken in front of the family house in 1940, a one-year-old Wes Vanstone is sitting on the family tractor with his father George.

In a recent photo recreation at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum, Vanstone is now in the driver's seat, with his great grandson Kasey Rempel sitting atop for a ride on the same tractor.

It was a fun, special moment for them, and it made Vanstone thankful that there is a place like the museum to care for the vintage tractor and to make something like this possible after all these years.

"I'm grateful for the fact that it's there and it's cared for and it will be there for eternity now perhaps ... so thanks to whoever had the foresight to start this museum," said Vanstone.

He recalled that his father had purchased the tractor from someone in Roland, and it was ahead of its time at that point with some of its features.

"The tractor was used on the farm until the 1950s," said Vanstone, who suggested back at the time it may have not gone much faster than perhaps 22 miles per hour.

"But that tractor never ever sat outside. No matter what the weather was, Dad would put that tractor in reverse and back it into the garage," he added.

He recalls stories like around 1949 or 1950 when his father was helping pull up hydro poles, and one came down on the fender, narrowly missing hitting his dad.

And Vanstone recently met someone at the mu-

seum who had family roots somewhere near the Mexico and Belize border. The woman was admiring the tractor and proceeded to share how her family would put platforms on their tractors so the family could climb on and use them to go to church.

"She said it was not uncommon at all to see a lady all dressed up, going down the road on the tractor," said Vanstone, recalling his family sometimes used the vehicle in much the same way. "We lived only two and a half miles from Rosebank, where I was going to school ... back then, there were no roads ... so with this tractor, [Dad] could run into town."

Today, Vanstone enjoys still being able to go to the museum every so often to drive the tractor in event parades.

"What I really want to do is recognize the people, the volunteers who do the work so that we, the people of the Pembina Valley, can take stuff like this family heirloom and donate it there and have it looked after so well," he said.

"The care that they take and the responsibility they take on ... I can't say enough about the men and the ladies who are involved there," he continued. "I ask to volunteer two or three times a year to go drive the tractor."

"To think that we have something like this in the Pembina Valley where everybody can come and enjoy it and take part in it ... that weekend could be an inspiration for a lot of children ... this is something special for the younger generation to enjoy."

Stephanie Rempel, mother to Kasey and granddaughter of Vanstone, said the recent parade experience was a special moment for the family.

"To me, something like this is really important to honour the family lineage and the spe-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Wes Vanstone as a child with his father George and the family tractor, and with his great-grandson Kasey Rempel and the very same tractor eight decades later.

cialness of it all," she said. "It was really special to have my son climb up on there and go for a ride on the tractor in the parade with his great grandpa. It was just a really special moment."

"It's important to make time for these kinds of things," said Rempel. "We're a very close family. It's really cool, and it's really special."

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> REGIONAL CONNECTIONS, FROM PG. 7

manner or finding someone to watch their kids has prevented some newcomers from taking jobs offered to them. Some families have made the decision to leave the area entirely due to these challenges.

But by far the biggest hurdle faced by newcomers is finding affordable housing.

"It was more of a need than ever this past year, just due to all the growth," Reynolds said, noting the rental market isn't well-suited to meeting the needs of some of the larger immigrant families settling here, with very few multi-bedroom units available.

"Some people would love to come here," he said, explaining that includes immigrant families who perhaps first landed in Winnipeg or elsewhere but then looked to

settle in a more rural area. "They have a job offer, they come here and look around and they can't find anything for housing, so we know people have turned down jobs also."

As disheartening as that can be, one thing the community is doing very right is continuing to foster a welcome atmosphere for immigrants.

"I think that's a huge difference in our communities and smaller communities in general: they're really welcoming and people are really involved," Reynolds said. "Our clients, so many say they love being here because they feel welcomed and they feel like the local community is kind and supportive."

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Winkler celebrates Canada Day



Winkler's Canada Day celebration—moved indoors to the exhibition centre and concert hall due to the rain—featured Culture Fest educational exhibits and displays, a Kids Zone offering free bouncy houses, a petting zoo, glitter tattoos, and character meet and greets,

and an afternoon of cultural performances from around the world followed by an evening of songs from The Quonset Brothers and The Seven Pines. Below: In between the music, dignitaries welcomed new Canadians to our community by handing our citizenship recognition certificates.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Morden's festivities moved to July 6

Monday's rain foiled plans for Morden's Canada Day Beach Blast at Lake Minnewasta.

The City has announced that all the festivities will instead take place at the lake on Saturday, July 6.

The lineup includes food trucks;

face painting, a sand castle competition, and a trivia/treasure hunt from 1-4 p.m., a comedy and fire show by Hoop & Hat at 2 p.m., and fireworks set off by the Morden Fire Department at dusk.

getinformed

103rd Darlingford memorial service is July 14

By Voice staff

Darlingford's annual memorial service is back for its 103rd year on Sunday, July 14.

At 11 a.m. that day, the community will gather in the Darlingford Memorial Park to honour locals who gave their lives in service to their country.

It's a time of remembrance for young and old alike, says organizer Glenn Rasmussen, sharing that the event includes participation from local children who place flowers on two crosses in honour of those who never made it home from the First and Second World Wars.

This year's guest speaker is one of Darlingford's own, Lieutenant-Commander Lee Seymour, a 22+ year veteran in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Seymour has served in the Naval

Reserve and Regular Force with postings in Winnipeg, B.C., Halifax, St. John's, and Ottawa. He's presently posted to the Naval Staff of the Royal Canadian Navy and lives in Ottawa.

The Darlingford Memorial Park officially opened in 1921 and hosted the first service that same year. The park is maintained by volunteers; donations towards its upkeep are most welcome.

This year's service is being held in conjunction with the community's 125th anniversary festivities happening that same weekend.

If it should rain, the event will be held inside the Darlingford United Church.

Following the service, lunch will be available at the Darlingford Community Hall at a cost of \$10 per person (\$5 for children under 12).



VOICE FILE PHOTO

> FOUNDATION GRANTS, FROM PG. 2

"It's a huge sand pit with about four feet deep of sand," said principal Linda Dyck. The area currently includes digging tools, a "sand kitchen" play space, and a pergola for shade. "It's a lot to do with the motor and inquiry learning projects that we do. We just found that our kids love to dig."

"This grant will allow us to add on to what we've started," she said, explaining that includes more sand-related play features.

"This just creates so many opportunities for teachers to take their whole classroom outside," added teacher Marilyn Hart. "Or for rental groups to come and use the facility and the space."

Receiving support from the foundation is a blessing, Dyck said.

"What it means to us is that they value our kids and they value our community by supporting this, even though we don't live right in Winkler, it's regional, and we really appreciate that."

Ruth Reimer from Katie Cares was on hand to receive \$5,115 from the agency-designated fund WCF oversees on their behalf.

"It started because of Kaitlyn," she said of her late daughter, namesake to the charity and its respite home, Ka-

tie's Cottage. "Three weeks before she passed away, she signed the agreement to create this fund. She knew it would help her charity."

The fund has grown steadily since then and generates a stable source of funding for Katie Cares to use for operating expenses each year.

"We use it for things that we need to get for the cottage that maybe we

put off, or certain things that we can't always get grants for," Reimer said.

"Donations don't just fall into your lap, so when we get something like this, it's a gift."

Winkler Community Fdn. grant recipients

- Community Fund: \$10,000 to Central Station for its poverty reduction plan, \$10,000 to Reinfeld Park for a picnic shelter, \$5,000 to Pembina Counselling Centre for client counselling assistance, \$3,000 to Child and Family Services Central Manitoba for the Chance to Grow program, \$2,500 to the BTHC Foundation for education days, \$2,500 to Habitat for Humanity Winkler-Morden for their new house build, \$1,500 to the Northland Child Care Centre for a playground upgrade, \$1,500 to Southwood Elementary School for its new sand pit, \$1,500 to the Winkler Day Care for a playground refresh, \$1,000 to Health Muslim Families for new office furnishings, \$800 to the South Central Regional Library for a dishwasher, \$500 to the Douglas Kuhl School of Music for new technology, \$500 to the Discovery Nature Sanctuary for its pollinator garden, and \$760 to Winkler Arts and Culture for its summer arts program.

- Dr. CW Wiebe Medical Fund: \$9,476 to the Winkler and District Health Care Board for a medical exam table.

- Darlene Peters Health Fund: \$3,000 to South Central

Cancer Resource for a skin care clinic and \$1,990 to Salem Home for its park project.

- 2014 Manitoba Winter Games Sport Legacy Fund: \$3,759 to the Winkler Whips for a new scoreboard.

- Katie Cares Fund: \$5,115 to Katie Cares for operating expenses.

- Frank and Vi Wiebe Cheerboard fund: \$3,223 Winkler and District Christmas Cheerboard for the annual hamper program.

- Gateway Resources Fund: \$56,905 to Gateway Resources towards its Main St. project.

- Winkler Fire Rescue Fund: \$981 to the Winkler Fire Department for mental health first aid training.

- Winkler Heritage Museum Fund: \$1,927 to the Winkler Heritage Society for operating expenses.

- MAP Family Fund: \$2,271 to J.R. Walkof School for the Wyatt Fehr outdoor classroom.

- Mend the Gap Fund: \$2,266 to Central Station for community housing emergency needs.

- Kalansky Family Fund: \$1,000 to The Bunker for its Industrial Eats project.

Mark your calendars for the 144th Carman Country Fair

Weekend festivities planned for July 11-13

By Ty Dilello

Following a fantastic 2023 event, which saw over 12,500 people enter the gates to enjoy the celebrations of the 143rd Carman Country Fair, the upcoming 2024 edition, which will be held from July 11 to 13, promises to be even bigger and better.

There will be plenty of entertainment, action, and displays for everyone, young and old. The familiar sights will once again greet traditional fair lovers, as will the sounds and smells of food trucks, midway carnival rides, livestock and horse events, and exhibits with amazing artwork, handcrafts, and stunning quilts lining the walls.

Education and Heritage are highlighted in the Agriculture Education Centre.

Animals feature prominently across the three days, with horse events taking centre stage through various mini-horse, heavy horse, 4-H Horse events, Open Barrel Racing, and 4-H Beef Cattle competition and auction.

"Our canine companions will also be able to showcase their talents with dog agility exhibitions,

which are always proving popular," said Bernie Townsend, president of the Dufferin Agricultural Society. "The largest poultry show in the Pembina Valley, Longhorn Steer exhibition, and many other farm animals provide a family-friendly experience. Prairie Exotics will return with their giant snakes, rare crawlies, exotic birds and reptiles."

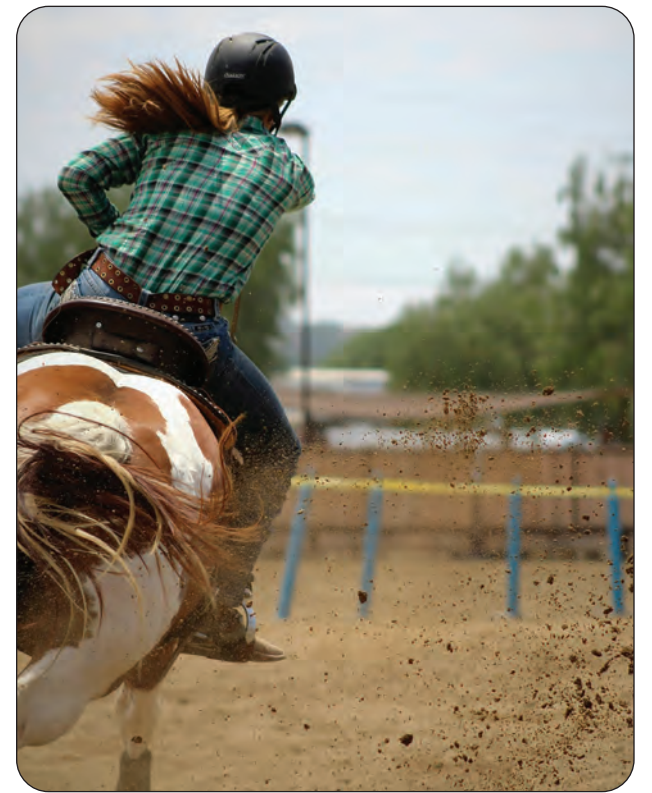
At the Carman Fair, Planes, Trains, and Everything and Manitoba LEGO users will provide interactive displays. High-powered Remote-Control vehicles will also return, providing three days of thrills, spills, and jumps.

Main Events include a Folklorama cultural experience, Red River Valley Modified Truck and Tractor Pull, and high-profile entertainers, including Richard Inman, Matt Zimmerman, Ashlee Bart, Sweet Alibi, Seven Pines, Carman's own Tayler Morgan, and many more local musical acts. The Saturday night Fireworks will also return.

Carman Handi-Van will provide a free drop-off and pick-up service for Carman residents with wellness and mobility issues.

Carman Country Fair is also pleased to announce that Carman Handi-Van and Carman Food Pantry will receive its annual profit-sharing gift.

For more information and a full schedule of events and attractions, please visit www.carmancountry-fair.ca.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Carman annual Country Fair will be held from July 11-13, with Open Jackpot Barrel Racing on July 13.

Morden chamber asks council for clarity on the city's wastewater plans

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Chamber of Commerce is weighing in on the question of what is being done to address wastewater treatment in Morden.

A recent open letter from the chamber to the City of Morden stressed a need for clarity on the plan as it cited wastewater as the single most significant constraint on business development.

The chamber wants to engage with the city through ongoing consultations with the business community, said chairperson Tyler Schroeder.

"The wastewater issue has been an ongoing concern deserving of renewed attention. It is a major topic of conversation within the business community and community at large," Schroeder said via e-mail.

He said the chamber is committed to supporting its members and is seeking ways to positively contribute and to propel the business community

forward.

One of their four primary goals is to provide a voice for the business community, and Schroeder said there is no bigger issue the community is facing today than its wastewater capacity.

"It is a generational issue that requires an urgent and aggressive solution to ensure that our community and region can remain an economic powerhouse within southern Manitoba, the province of Manitoba and Canada," he said.

The chamber's letter asked three key questions of city council:

- What specific actions has the city undertaken to address this issue, and is there anything that the business community can be doing to help?

- What options are being considered; what are the associated costs for each option, and how will it be financed?

- What is the expected timeline for implementation, and can you provide a roadmap with key milestones that will indicate progress?

"We understand that due to budget constraints, increased costs, and a flawed infrastructure funding model, the city is in the unenviable position of having to

resolve a difficult problem that lacks any readily apparent solution," said Schroeder.

"In our effort to help the city navigate these challenges, the chamber of commerce has engaged in conversations with the Manitoba Chamber of

Commerce, the finance minister, the local MLA and MP, and we have committed to drafting a policy resolution in 2025 that would highlight some of the major constraints with the current infrastructure funding model," he continued. "As we work towards achieving our goals, we will foster open communication, transparency, and will share with our members the information and feedback."

"Our goal in this instance is to collaboratively engage with the City of Morden to obtain clarity on the questions identified within our letter," Schroeder concluded. "The business community is asking for clarity on the plan to address this issue along with an understanding of where we're at within the plan to track progress and re-instill investor confidence."

The Voice did reach out to Mayor Nancy Penner, who declined to comment at this time, noting, however, she may have more to say on the matter in the coming weeks.

"IT IS A GENERATIONAL ISSUE THAT REQUIRES AN URGENT AND AGGRESSIVE SOLUTION ..."

The **Voice**

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getinformed

Winkler Arts and Culture reports on a busy year, looks to the future

By Ashleigh Viveiros

At its annual general meeting last week, Winkler Arts and Culture (WAC) looked back on a successful year of exhibitions, educational offerings, and community outreach events.

Newly-elected board chair Valerie Klassen, taking the reins from long-time WAC leader Ray Derksen, says the board was pleased to be able to bring such a varied array of shows to the gallery over the past year.

"We've had some really exciting exhibits," she said, pointing in example to the Shared Horizons exhibition featuring the work of Métis artist J.D. Hawk. "That was a fascinating exhibit. His artwork is phenomenal, but there's also stories with everything he displays, and he was willing to come out and share those stories ... we're looking forward to having him again.

"And we've had a couple other new exhibits through the year as well," Klassen continued, spotlighting to the Animation show that featured cartoon, comic, and window art from local artists. "That's a different type of artform that's gaining popularity, but not something we've readily



displayed in the gallery over the past number of years.

"And then this year too we saw the High School Art exhibit," she said. "With both high schools participating, it was just a phenomenal display. It's great to be able to get the younger students into the gallery and make that become part of their space, or a thing to do in their community as well."

The lineup for the rest of 2024 and beyond will be just as diverse, Klassen said, providing a showcase for experienced artists and up-and-comers alike.

"We're always looking for new forms of art that maybe our community hasn't been exposed to yet."

Making the Park St. gallery a cultural hub also remains a priority for WAC.

The past year saw people coming into the centre for a range of art work-

shops and classes as well as events like the Newcomer Welcome Evenings, Back 40 Festival music nights, and the Eden Mental Health Week speaker series.

"We're looking to expand on that this year," Klassen said of the ever-popular children's art classes. "And we see a need for more adult art class instruction as well, so we're looking forward to getting more classes for adults coming up this winter."

Increased programming should help WAC get back in the black for the current fiscal year. The 2023-2024 financial report showed a deficit of over \$13,000, owing to fewer grants and a sizeable decrease in donations.

"It's definitely something to work on, to get more funding coming in," Klassen said. "We did notice a drop in personal donations, but that's par for the course with this season we're in with the inflation rate and things like that."

Times are tough for everyone right now, and non-profits are feeling the pinch as well, but Klassen is hopeful some WAC fundraising events coming up this fall will help. Details are

to be released in the months ahead.

The board this fall will also be putting together a new strategic plan to guide it over the next few years.

"We're starting to collect information through surveys to see where we're at and what the community feels that they're looking for from us," Klassen said, encouraging anyone with ideas for what they'd like to see at the gallery to reach out.

"There's been lots of talk about people wanting bingo in the community," she said in example. "We just need a few more volunteers in order to get that going."

Volunteers are also needed to man the gallery evenings and weekends and help out with other programming.

"We could also use more volunteers on our board as well," Klassen added. "Even if they're not artistically inclined, we could always use someone with bookkeeping skills or other practical skills like that to bring to our board to help round out our collaboration of volunteers."

You can get in touch with Winkler Arts and Culture at winklerarts.com.

École Discovery Trails unveils its logo, team name

By Voice staff

Morden's newest school is going prehistoric with its mascot.

Western School Division has announced the "Dinos" as École Discovery Trails' team name. The K-8 school is slated to open its doors this September.

"The dinosaur logo was a common

theme amongst community responses when we were initially naming the new school and has been echoed more recently in the community and from student input," the division shared. "The number of mosasaurs and dinosaurs drawn by students gave the school logo and team name committee a lot of confidence when choosing 'Dinos.'"

The team logo incorporates a stylized Tyrannosaurus rex in shades of blue and green with the school's name across the middle.

"I wanted the logo to feel dynamic and energetic, something the students can get excited about," graphic designer Brooke Nelson explained. "I used a layering effect with the shield, leaves, dinosaur, and name so that it

feels like the dinosaur is climbing out of its environment.

"I used vibrant and bold colours to draw attention and bring the logo to life, and I chose fonts that felt bold, strong and athletic to match the style of the other elements in the logo."

The school's official colours will be released this fall when students return to class after summer vacation, the division says, though the logo provides a hint as to what those might be.

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MLB officially incorporates Negro Leagues statistics

By Ty Dilello

On May 29, Major League Baseball announced that it has officially incorporated the statistics of former Negro Leagues players into its historical records on the MLB website.

This means that legendary leaders in some categories like Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb have now been replaced in the record books by players who were not allowed to play on the same fields as them during times of segregation.

Josh Gibson, one of the greatest sluggers in the history of the Negro Leagues, is now listed as MLB's new all-time career leader in batting average at .372, moving ahead of Ty Cobb at .367. The MLB website also shows Gibson overtaking Babe Ruth in career slugging percentage.

"We are proud that the official historical record now includes the players of the Negro Leagues. This initiative is focused on ensuring that future generations of fans have access to the statistics and milestones of all those who made the Negro Leagues possible," said MLB commissioner Rob Manfred in a statement. "Their accomplishments on the field will be a gateway to broader learning about this triumph in American history and the path that led to Jackie Robinson's 1947 Dodger debut."



Teasley had been signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers and played in the Negro Leagues for the New York Cubans.

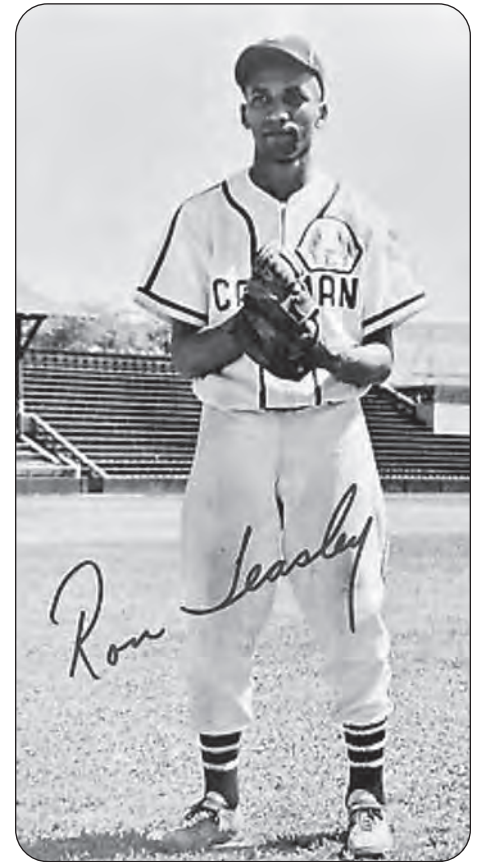
Because the Negro League's last season was in 1951, today, there are only three surviving players of the League. Those players are Willie Mays, Bill Greason, and 97-year-old Ron Teasley.

Ron Teasley is a name that some locals if they're old enough might remember as he had once suited up

for the local Carman Cardinals of the ManDak League from 1949 to 1951.

Before we get to Teasley, let's give some history and background on the ManDak League that the Carman Cardinals competed in from 1950 to 1954.

The Manitoba-Dakota (ManDak)



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Ron Teasley suited up for the ManDak League's Carman Cardinals during his professional baseball career.

League was an independent baseball league based in Manitoba and North Dakota that was founded in 1950 and lasted until 1957. It became the home for many African American and Latino players who wanted to play some semi-pro ball.

It was the outlet for former Negro League players to continue playing

Continued on page 14

"THIS INITIATIVE IS FOCUSED ON ENSURING THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF FANS HAVE ACCESS TO THE STATISTICS AND MILESTONES OF ALL THOSE WHO MADE THE NEGRO LEAGUES POSSIBLE."

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> MLB, FROM PG. 13

and entertaining fans, occupying fields with ex-major leaguers, minor league stars and some of the best Manitoba, North Dakota, and Minnesota-born players. It featured such greats as Willie Wells, Leon Day, Ray Dandridge and the legendary Satchel Paige, who pitched briefly for the Minot Mallards in 1950.

The ManDak League evolved from the Manitoba Senior Baseball League, which was established in 1948. This returned an independent baseball league to Manitoba for the first time since the Winnipeg Maroons of the Northern League folded in 1942.

To start, there were three teams in Winnipeg and one in Brandon. The League unsuccessfully sought to add a team based in Grand Forks, North Dakota. When negotiations failed, the Carman Cardinals were admitted as the fifth team in the League.

Negro League players started coming to play for Manitoba teams at this time, as Carman joined the League in 1949. They put up a 14-13 record for third place, before falling to the Elmwood Giants in the league semifinals. Elmwood's team featured the great NHL goaltender Terry Sawchuk as the team's top hitter.

In January 1950, the Manitoba Senior Baseball League added a team from Minot, North Dakota, and was reorganized into the new ManDak League. The League drafted a new constitution, deciding that its teams would wear a patch that included both the flags of Canada and the United States.

The ManDak League became a

strong level of baseball, largely in part to the Negro League players who had come up to play.

In addition to Ron Teasley, some of the other notable players who suited up for the Carman Cardinals these years included Ed Albosta, who pitched for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1941 and the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1946. And Sammy Drake, who played for the Chicago Cubs in 1960.

Lyman Bostock Sr. was a Negro League power hitter, while Walter McCoy and Gentry Jessup were Negro League pitchers. Lester Lockett and Andrew Porter were both four-time Negro League All-Stars.

NHL stars Black Jack Stewart and Jim McFadden also played for Carman in the ManDak League.

The Cardinals came close on a number of occasions but could never bring a ManDak League title to Carman.

In 1950, the Cardinals finished in fourth place out of five teams with a 21-27 record, and lost in the league semifinals to the Brandon Greys. In 1951, Cardinals finished in fourth place with a record of 29-33, before losing to Brandon in the semifinals once again.

In 1952, Carman finished in second place with a 27-27 record, but lost in the championship final to the Minot Mallards. In 1953, Carman finished in third place with a 37-37 record and lost in the semifinals to Brandon. And in 1954, Carman finished in last place with a 24-45 record before losing to Minot in the semifinals.

1954 was the last year that the Cardinals played in the ManDak League



Circa 1948, George Sisler Jr. of the St. Louis Cardinals looks on as Miami's Alymer McKerlie inks a contract to the big-league club.

before folding. A few years later, the League also folded.

Ninety-seven-year-old Ron Teasley was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. His love of baseball began as a young boy when his father would take him to the historic Hamtramck Stadium to play. It was there that he saw older athletes playing baseball, and he became their ball boy, enjoying retrieving or supplying balls and eventually playing games with them.

Teasley was an all-star athlete in baseball in his high school years and soon after was playing with semi-pro teams in Detroit, Toledo and Ypsilanti, and toured Michigan playing teams from the Negro Leagues. One of those teams, the Motor City Giants of Detroit, was an independent semi-pro team aspiring to become a member of the United States League.

In college at Wayne State University, Teasley finished with a .500 batting average, which he still holds the record for at his alma mater.

Teasley tried out and was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers of Major League Baseball after Jackie Robinson had broken the colour barrier. He was soon released by the Dodgers, but in 1948 he gained excitement as an outfielder with the New York Cubans of the Negro Leagues.

He then took his talents up north to Canada with the Carman Cardinals of the ManDak League. Teasley, who hailed from Detroit, was recruited to play on the Cardinals by none other than Pilot Mound's Black Jack Stewart, a star NHL player at the time with the Detroit Red Wings.

Continued on page 15

Pembina Valley Orioles down Altona Bisons 9-6

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Orioles picked up their seventh win of the season with a 9-6 victory last Wednesday over the Altona Bisons.

Darius Peters led the way for the Orioles by going three for four at the plate. He doubled in the second inning then hit a solo home run in the fifth and picked up another single in the sixth.

Mike Heppner also had three hits and three stolen bases for Pembina Valley, which outhit Altona 11-8 and seized the lead with a three-run third inning.

Sam Blatz earned the win in going six innings and allowing four runs on six hits while striking out six. Kasen Mateychuk took the loss for the Bisons in giving up five runs on four hits in three innings of work.

It was the only action last week for the Orioles, who improved to 7-9 and remain in fifth place in the standings.

The Bisons remain mired in the cellar. They were supposed to host the

Carillon Sultans Monday evening, but the rain foiled those plans.

This week, Altona is slated to host Elmwood Wednesday, visit St. Boniface Friday, and then head to Stone-

wall for a doubleheader Sunday.

Pembina Valley hosts Winnipeg South Wednesday, visits St. James Friday, and then hosts a doubleheader against Carillon Sunday.

Storm 2 fall to IPAC-Ukraine

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Storm 2 went up against the second-place team in their division Friday night, and left the field with a 4-0 loss to add to their record.

FC IPAC-Ukraine came to Winkler June 28 for the Manitoba Major Soccer League game. The loss brings Winkler's record to 1-4-1, good for

sixth place in the eight-team division.

Storm 2 this week play FCNW Nex-Gen in Winnipeg Thursday night. Next week Monday they square off against IPAC-Ukraine once again, this time in Winnipeg.

The Winkler Storm 1, playing in Division 1, didn't take to the field this past week but do have a game

scheduled for Tuesday in Winnipeg against Kucame FC and will host Galacticos FC this coming Sunday night in Winkler.

Storm 1 has five wins, two loses, and a tie to their names so far this summer. They were in third place behind Winnipeg FC (5-0-2) and Galacticos FC (5-1-1) at press time.

sports & recreation

> MLB, FROM PG. 14

While playing with Carman, Teasley was selected to the League's All-Star Team three years in a row from 1949 to 1951. Teasley hit .336 in 1949 with Carman in the Manitoba Senior League and then .299 with Carman in the inaugural season of the ManDak League as an outfielder.

For 97 years old, Teasley is still pretty healthy and has a remarkable memory of his ball career of yesterday and playing in Carman.

"I remember teammates like Alymer McKerlie, who was the catcher; Gentry Jessop, who was a star pitcher; and Lillard Cobb, and a bunch of guys that were great to play with as well," said Teasley. "My buddy up there was Lillard Cobb, who was an outstanding player that should have been in the Majors; he could really run."

Teasley also told this reporter that he enjoyed his paycheque in Carman compared to his other pro stops. He made \$150 a month with the Brooklyn Dodgers farm club, \$250 a month with the Negro League's New York Cubans, but got a big raise to \$450 a month when he joined the Carman Cardinals.

"I heard the ManDak League was compared to a level between AA to AAA baseball, leaning more towards AA," said Teasley. "But we had some Hall of Famers in there like Leon Day and Satchel Paige."

Teasley was excited to hear that his Cardinals teammate Alymer McKerlie, who is 98 years old, is also still alive and living in Morden.

McKerlie was the catcher on the Carman Cardinals and was one of Manitoba's all-time top baseball players.

It's even more impressive how he got to be so good at the game, despite only starting to play baseball at the advanced age of 21.

McKerlie was born in Miami on March 11, 1926. He played hockey amongst other sports growing up as baseball just wasn't readily available in the 1930s. Eventually, he got into the game of baseball and was a fast learner.

McKerlie signed with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1948 for a whopping \$165 a month and attended the big-league clubs training camp in St. Petersburg, Florida.

One of the camp highlights was playing alongside the great Stan Musial, one of the finest ballplayers of all time.

"He was quite a character and a really great player," said McKerlie. "He was one of the best, that's for sure. The first two weeks at training camp, I thought I was at a track meet and not a baseball camp, as all we did was callisthenics and running. Then I got blood poisoning and was in the hospital for two weeks."

A shoulder injury suffered at home plate shortly after he returned meant the end of his camp.

After the Cardinals training camp, McKerlie was to be assigned to the Johnson City (Tennessee) Cardinals of the Class D Appalachian League. However, the Miami native decided against a career in pro ball in favour



The Carman Cardinals in 1949.

of playing close to home in southern Manitoba.

Back in those days, MLB teams were reluctant to take Canadian players on their teams in fear of taking jobs away from American players.

"I deserved a better look, but I was a Canadian, and they didn't want anything to do with us in those years. I was only a minor leaguer in their eyes. Another thing was when I had to take out my passport and give them my age when they found out I was 23; they felt I had no years left to get better and make the team."

McKerlie was later offered a chance to manage a Single-A team in Minneapolis but turned it down as he and his wife were expecting their first

daughter.

He returned to Manitoba and began a 40-year career playing and coaching baseball in the Carman area.

He went on to play for the Carman Cardinals in the ManDak League as a teammate and a friend of Teasley and hit .333 one season. He even played a few games against the great Satchel Paige, who played briefly in the League for the Minot Mallards.

"As a pitcher, Satchel had three speeds," said McKerlie. "Fast, faster and out of sight. He was terrific."

McKerlie was an excellent umpire and hockey referee for 20+ years and was elected to the Manitoba Baseball Association Honour Society in 1987.

Continued on page 16

Winkler Whips beat Mud Hens, fall to Bisons

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Whips had an up and down week as they squared off against their rivals in Morden and Altona in Border League Baseball action.

Tuesday night's game in Winkler against the Mud Hens narrowly went the home team's way 10-9, but then

the Whips faltered in travelling to play the Bisons the next night. Altona won that one 15-12.

The Mud Hens' game against the Baldur Regals Friday night was postponed due to rain.

Coming up, the Whips host the Carman Cardinals this Tuesday and then

travel for a double-header against the Regals on Sunday.

Morden, meanwhile, hosts Altona Tuesday and then travel to Cartwright Friday night to play the Twins. Altona travels to Carman Friday night.

At press time the Altona Bisons were in first place (12-2), Morden Mud

Hens in second (7-2), and Winkler Whips in third (3-7) in the East Division. The Carman Cardinals are in last place (1-8).

In the West Division, Cartwright leads the pack (11-1) followed by Pilot Mound (5-5), Baldur (2-9), and Clearwater (3-10).

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Brandon was the host of this year's Manitoba 55+ Games June 18-20, and our region was certainly well represented. A complete list of medal winners was not yet available at press time, but the 55+ bowling team from Carman (right) made up of Randy McFarlane, Laurie Wiebe, Jacquie Russell, Bob Wilson, and David Dyck brought home gold in their event, while the Rock Lakers Slo-Pitch team from Manitou (above) won silver. The Games, hosted by Active Aging in Manitoba, are the largest multi-sport event in the province for those age 55+, bringing together athletes to compete in a wide range of sports.

55+ athletes shine



> MLB, FROM PG. 15

He was later inducted into the inaugural class of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2007, he was named to Manitoba's All-Century baseball team.

In closing, the ManDak League was a noble, albeit short-lived experiment that was made possible by the continued racial discrimination against Black baseball players in the United States.

The League was made possible for a few years because, at the time, there was a surplus of available African American talent as many short-sighted MLB owners refused to sign Black players because they were considered not as good as the favoured White players.

Because of that, talented players like

Teasley headed up north to play for Carman and were welcomed with open arms by Canadians.

"I found it refreshing and enjoyable to experience a lack of prejudice, both on and off the field, because Canadians were so welcoming," said Teasley.

Ultimately, the combined pressure of baseball's sharply declining popularity, especially after the MLB level, while operating a league over long distances in tiny markets made the end of the ManDak League inevitable in the late 1950s.

The history of professional baseball in Manitoba and North Dakota before and after the ManDak era shows that, aside from Winnipeg, the area just does not have markets large enough to support a professional baseball franchise.

Carman never came close to host-

ing a professional franchise before or after the ManDak League folded. Instead, a Carman Cardinals senior ball club exists today in the Border Baseball League.

Today, baseball historians and locals still remember the ManDak League as a treasure that combined community pride with a competitive spirit and

some strong, high-quality baseball.

"I really enjoyed my time in Carman, and I still reminisce about those days a lot," said Teasley. "I enjoyed the people there in town as they were so nice and friendly. And I certainly enjoyed the baseball. Tell the folks up in Carman that I still think about them a lot."

"I FOUND IT REFRESHING AND ENJOYABLE TO EXPERIENCE A LACK OF PREJUDICE, BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD."

The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Harrison Doell ©



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Water Treatment Plant Operator

Pembina Valley Water Cooperative is hiring a Water Treatment Plant Operator to join their team at the Letellier plant. Experienced operators or someone wanting to start a new career in water are both encouraged to apply.

Position Description:

Perform day-to-day activities consisting of the control of the water treatment process, which impacts the volume and quality of the potable water. This may include performance of day-to-day maintenance, process checks, troubleshooting, laboratory, administration, special study work or duties with respect to reservoirs and pumping stations.

- Excellent benefits package offered by the municipal government program
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- Strong support for internal training to obtain CEU's for progression
- Strong safety focus
- Participate in a rotating schedule. Consisting of some weekends, once certified.

Qualifications:

- Water Treatment Certification an asset
- Ability to work at heights, in confined spaces and in inclement weather conditions
- Valid driver's licence
- Good communication skills
- A good team player and positive attitude
- Good mechanical aptitude
- Experience in a computerized environment
- Post secondary education or experience in mechanical or electrical field an asset.

Training will be provided to obtain water plant operator certification.

Interested applicants should forward their resume to water@pvwc.ca by July 12, 2024, or call 204-324-1931 for more information.

Pembina Valley Water Coop is Manitoba's 3rd largest water utility producing potable water for 14 municipalities in south central Manitoba. Three water plants feed a network of over 9,000 square kilometers.

CAREERS



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Bunge Altona has an opening for a Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright. Work involves process equipment installation, maintenance and repair, lubrication, steel fabrication and welding.

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible.

Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

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- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
- Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
- Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
- Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience

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Starting Wages:

- Mechanic \$32.70/hour
- Red Seal Millwright: \$38.08/hour

A job description for this position can be found online on the Bunge website: <https://obs.bunge.com/>. enter "Altona" in the field "Search by Location". Click on "Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright" to read the description. Applications should be made online with an attached resume.

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CARD OF THANKS

The family of Helga Gillis extends deepest thanks and appreciation to our relatives, neighbours and friends for the many acts of kindness shown during our recent loss. We appreciate greatly the many phone calls, visits, food, flowers, cards and donations. Sincere thank you to the staff at Tabor Home, for their dignified and compassionate care. Thank you as well to Rev. Morris Vincent for his comforting support and to Jake Giesbrecht and staff at Wiebe Funeral Chapel for their professional service. Your thoughtfulness and support at this difficult time is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

-Joyce Barron
Jim and Janice Gillis
Lawrence and Dena Gillis
Allen and Shauna Gillis
and families

IN MEMORIAM

Bill L Fehr
July 4, 2000

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

- Lovingly remembered,
Linda

OBITUARY



Helga Gillis

Peacefully, with family by her side, Helga Gillis passed away on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at Tabor Home, Morden, MB at the age of 96 years.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughter Joyce Barron, and sons Jim (Janice), Lawrence (Dena) and Allen (Shauna) Gillis. Also sharing the loss of their dear Amma are her grandchildren Michael (Breyanne) Gillis, Amy (Chris) Henderson, Marni (Jared) Cormier, Lonnie (Kylie) Gillis, Jeremy (Alicia) Gillis, Jordan (Andrea) Gillis, Paige and Wyatt Gillis, and step granddaughters Cherie (Dennis) Rudd and Monica (Jeff) Suderman as well as her great-grandchildren, Ragnar, Svana, Maddie, Gisley, Gunnar and Magnus Gillis, Haylee, Laycee and Kaylee Henderson, Delia, Leo and Gusti Cormier, Rogan, Nyla and Bennett Gillis, Emersyn and Brynlee Gillis, and Everly Gillis and step great-grandchildren Ron (Tiffany) Rudd and Kaitlyn (Kyle) Kassian and Sadie, Parker and Jaxson Suderman, and step great-great-grandchildren Callie Rudd and Karenza, Amelia and Alyssa Kassian. Helga will also be sadly missed by her dear sister-in-law, Sigga Hildebrand as well as numerous nieces and nephews from near and far.

She was predeceased by her parents Gustav and Lena Isaacson, in-laws Ragnar and Salome Gillis, her beloved husband Arni Gillis, her dear son-in-law Jim Barron, her precious grandson Matthew Gillis, and brothers-in-law Ragnar (Emily), Oscar, Frank (June), Johnny Gillis, Charles Hildebrand and sister-in-law Olive (Arni) Gillis.

Helga was born April 9, 1928 to Gusti and Lena Isaacson who farmed in the Icelandic community of 1-6, SW of Morden. Being the only child, she helped with haying, milking cows, chickens and everyday farm chores. This continued when she married Arni Gillis, a neighbouring farmer, on November 22, 1947. They raised four children, Joyce, Jim, Lawrence and Allen.

Mom loved farm life. She always had a large garden, preserving everything she could. There was always homemade bread, cookies, cakes and delicious meals for whoever dropped by. She was a lifelong member of the Icelandic Ladies Aid - Fjolan.

Mom and Dad retired to Morden in 1987 where she continued gardening, baking and staying in touch with many family and friends through her love of telephone visits. After Dad passed away in 2005, Mom remained very active and independent. She loved having family and friends stop in, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Through the past two years as her macular degeneration progressed and her memory declined, the safety of living alone became a concern. She was moved to Tabor Home where she spent the last four months of her life. She was an amazingly strong woman and we her family are blessed to have had such a loving and caring mother and Amma in our lives for so many wonderful years.

Funeral service will be held at Wiebe's Funeral Chapel, Morden, MB on Friday, June 28, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Morris Vincent officiating. Private family interment will take place at the 1-6 Icelandic Cemetery prior to the service.

If friends so desire, donations may be made to the 1-6 Icelandic Cemetery C/O Mark Olafson, 29083 RD 1 N Stanley, MB R6T 0C1.

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

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

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PRESTIGE ROOFING

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> MEAL IDEAS



Prep time: 5 minutes
 Total time: 10 minutes
 Servings: 2
 Dressing:
 1/4 cup orange juice
 1 teaspoon grated orange zest
 1 teaspoon white wine vinegar
 1/4 teaspoon Dijon mustard
 1/2 teaspoon sugar
 1/8 teaspoon salt

Citrus Spring Mix Salad

Salad:
 1 package (5 ounces) Fresh Express Spring Mix
 1 navel orange, peeled and sectioned
 1 red grapefruit, peeled and sectioned
 1 avocado, peeled, pitted and sliced
 1/4 cup red onion, thinly sliced
 To make dressing: In small bowl, whisk orange juice, orange zest, white wine vinegar, Dijon mustard, sugar and salt. Set aside.
 To make salad: In large bowl, toss spring mix with salad dressing. Divide salad evenly among two plates. Top with oranges, grapefruit, avocado and onion.



Recipe courtesy of the Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association
 Prep time: 10 minutes
 Cook time: 20 minutes
 Servings: 4
 2 medium russet or Yukon gold Wisconsin potatoes or 6 red Wisconsin potatoes
 2 medium zucchini

Grilled Red Potato Skewers

1/2 smoked sausage rope
 4 skewers (12 inches each)
 1/2 cup Italian dressing
 Preheat grill to medium heat. Cut potatoes in half. Cut zucchini and sausage same width as potatoes. Skewer potatoes, zucchini and sausage. Repeat for each skewer.
 Place skewers in dish and cover with Italian dressing. Marinate 5 minutes.
 Place skewers on grill and cook 5 minutes on each side, or until potatoes are done. Remove from grill and serve.



Prep time: 20 minutes
 Cook time: 1 hour, plus 1 hour rest time
 Yield: 3 dozen meringues
 Water
 6 large egg whites, at room temperature
 1 cup Domino Light Brown Sugar
 3/4 cup Domino Granulated Sugar
 Easy Baking Tub
 1/8 teaspoon salt
 2 tablespoons Domino Turbinado Sugar (optional)
 Preheat oven to 225 F. Line three baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.

Brown Sugar Meringues

Pour 1 inch of water into medium saucepan and heat it until simmering. In heat-proof bowl, mix egg whites, brown sugar, granulated sugar and salt. Put bowl on top of saucepan and warm mixture until it reaches 125 F. Stir continuously and make sure mixture does not touch water.
 Carefully remove from heat. Using electric mixer, beat mixture at high speed 8-10 minutes. Transfer meringue into piping bag fitted with star tip. Pipe 12 meringues per baking sheet.
 Sprinkle turbinado sugar on top of meringues, if desired. Bake 1 hour. Turn off oven and allow meringues to rest inside oven 1 hour. Remove from oven and enjoy.

Expert patient here to help!



Susie Schwartz

By Susie Schwartz

If you've been to see a doctor more than once, I bet there's a chance you felt like a number or disease instead of a person with all the human needs and emotions. I've been there, too. But sometimes, I think we dehumanize our doctors as well.

What are you talking about, Susie? Sometimes, we see doctors as robots in white coats who should never make mistakes. Since the stakes are high, yes, in a perfect world, they wouldn't. But, alas, their humanness gets in the way of perfection.

Recently, I received a text from a doctor at our local clinic saying, "Congrats! Your recent bloodwork shows that since starting the statin, your cholesterol is in normal range. I suggest you continue taking this medication to keep it behaving."

Here's the thing: I hadn't just had bloodwork done, and I am not on a statin. This text was not meant for me. As much as I wanted to, I couldn't borrow this good result and celebrate. Someone out there needed to get this message.

I called the clinic and explained what had happened. They thanked

me and said they'd notify the sending doctor.

I could have felt put out by the hassle and freaked out by the mistake. My hubs was not impressed, and I get it.

But... mistakes happen, and I hadn't just been told I had cancer when I didn't, so I felt I could help correct the situation and move on. Maybe the doctor's dog had just died. Or his wife had filed for divorce. Or he had a migraine. Doctors live the human condition like the rest of us; sometimes, that works in our favour. I've had doctors hug me in celebration after a good test result, and console me with compassion after a bad one. If they didn't feel the highs and lows of life, they wouldn't be able to relate to us as patients. (Think: robot. Or June bug. Or shrimp.)

A few days later, I received another text from the doctor: "Dear Mrs Schwartz, Thank you for your kind message at reception. The issue lies with human error and coordinating multiple different software systems that work in tandem. Apologies for the embarrassing error and any inconvenience. Regards, Dr S."

What a humble and sincere apology! (See? Doctors do, sometimes at least, say they are sorry.) And he'll now remember me as the patient who helped rather than made a fuss.

So let's all try to see past the white coat and recognise our doctors are people, just like us. I promise this will make for a stronger relationship and better teamwork!

Less health stress, yes?

Susie, a published author and musician, currently lives in the UK. Find her on Instagram @medicalmiss_stress, and at www.lesshealthstress.com If you like her writing, find more on her Substack page: *The Quest For Less Health Stress*

Spicy Korean Barbecue Popcorn

Servings: 4-6
 8 cups popcorn
 1/4 cup honey
 2 tablespoons brown sugar
 1 tablespoon butter
 1 tablespoon sesame oil
 1 tablespoon gochujang (Korean chili paste)
 1 tablespoon soy sauce
 1 teaspoon garlic powder
 4 teaspoons toasted sesame seeds
 1 tablespoon gochujaru (Korean chili flakes)
 1 green onion, thinly sliced (optional)

Place popcorn in large bowl.
 In small saucepan, combine honey, brown sugar, butter, sesame oil, gochujang, soy sauce and garlic powder; bring to boil. Cook 3-5 minutes, or until mixture thickens to syrupy consistency.

Drizzle honey mixture over popcorn and sprinkle with sesame seeds and gochujaru; toss to evenly coat. Garnish with green onion, if desired. Serve immediately or cool completely.

Tip: Substitute green onion with 1 teaspoon freeze-dried chives, if preferred.

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Class of 2024

“School is about community”

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley Collegiate’s class of 2024 overcame the challenges of half their high school life taking place during a global pandemic to learn more than a few lessons along the way.

The first, shared valedictorian Beth Giesbrecht, is that perhaps those first two years—filled with remote learning and public health restrictions—are best forgotten.

But other lessons are tied to better times and fonder memories, she continued, including the importance of being on time.

“The start time never changed. It was 8:25 from the first day of Gr. 9 until the last day of Gr. 12,” Giesbrecht said, sharing that it took “some of us 724 tries to get it right ... good thing we’ve got it now, though, because whatever adult schedule we have to follow next year, we’re going to have to get it on the first try.”

Some lessons were learned in the classroom—the value of math or the importance of physical education—while others were gleaned in the times between coursework.

“School is about community, and

the patient and caring staff at GVC was what made it such a special one,” Giesbrecht said, recalling GVC staff manning the free breakfast carts or, in the case of teacher Morgan Mullin, getting students pumped for the week ahead by dancing to “Party in the USA” as the buses rolled in on a Monday morning. “Not only was the staff at GVC able to make us smile on those tough mornings, they taught us how to have fun. They made it clear that at GVC we don’t worry about what other people think. We know how to have a good time and we aren’t scared to take risks.

“We’ve learned some lessons. We’ve also made mistakes,” Giesbrecht said, recalling the time a classmate’s truck got stuck in the muddy parking lot, leading to a comedy of errors as everyone tried to get it out.

“We aren’t all adults yet, and thank goodness for that, but we soon will be. Before we know it, more pressure and responsibility than ever before will be put on our shoulders. So let’s remember that we often get it wrong. We aren’t perfect. No matter how much we think we know, there



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Valedictorian Beth Giesbrecht recalled some of the life lessons the class of 2024 learned during their time at GVC.

always seems to be so many more lessons that we have yet to learn.

“Let’s remember to put others first and treat new perspectives and different opinions as an opportunity to grow,” Giesbrecht stressed. “Most importantly, let’s stay humble.

“Winkler is a small town. I hope many of our paths will cross again, whether it’s at Co-op or cruising

Main. And if we do ever end up back here at GVC, let’s just remember this one thing: Don’t park in the mud.”

In his guest speaker address, GVC teacher Mark Wilson stressed the importance of duty and active citizenship.

Continued on page 2

“We changed and adapted ... it made us stronger”

By Lorne Stelmach

Family and friends gathered at Northlands Parkway Collegiate last Wednesday to celebrate the class of 2024.

The ceremony kicked off with Garden Valley School Division board chairperson Leah Klassen offering her congratulations on behalf of the trustees.

“You’ve shown incredible strength and determination throughout your high school journey ... you’ve proven your resilience time and time again,” she said. “Today we celebrate all of the success that you’ve had along the way.

“As you move forward, whether it’s to university, starting a career or exploring a new path, take with you the lessons you’ve learned both inside and outside of the classroom. They have prepared you for a lifetime of learning and making a positive impact,” said Klassen.

“Remember you are part of a community that believes in you, and we support you every step of the way.”



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Members of Northlands Parkway Collegiate’s class of 2024 were all smiles as the ceremony got underway.

Continued on page 7

Garden Valley Collegiate

Congratulations
to the **Graduating Classes of 2024**

Guest speaker Mark Wilson spoke on the value of duty to one's country and community.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



From Pg. 1

"This value is not just an abstract concept, but a guiding principle that can help us to live lives of purpose and fulfillment," he said, pointing to the late Queen Elizabeth II, who committed her life to serving her country at the age of 21. "Her life was a testament to unwavering commitment, selfless service, and an enduring sense of responsibility. Her reign, spanning over seven decades, was characterized by a profound dedication to her people and her country.

"As graduates, you too have a duty to our community and country. This duty is not about grand gestures or monumental achievements.

It's about the small, consistent actions that collectively make a significant impact. It's about showing up, day in and day out, with the spirit of service and a commitment to making a difference.

"There are many ways to be useful. It is up to you to find your calling and your purpose," Wilson stressed. "Duty to community and country begins with this simple act of caring.

"It means being there for your neighbours, lending a helping hand and fostering a sense of belonging. It means recognizing that we are part of something larger than ourselves and that our actions, no matter how small, can contribute to the greater good."



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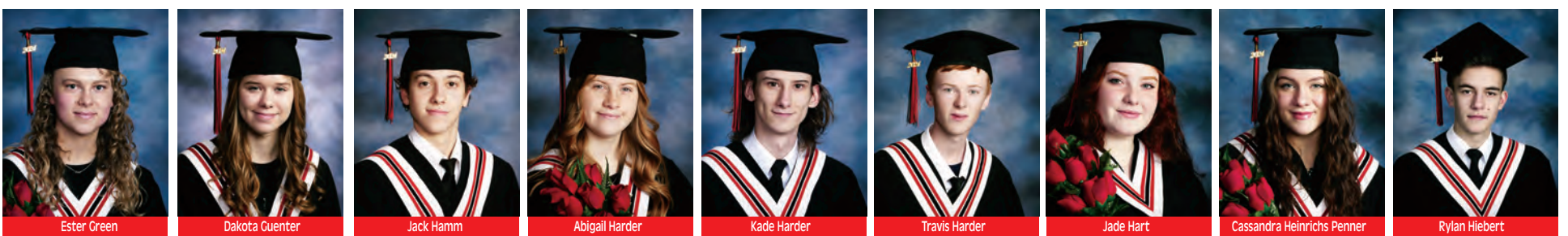
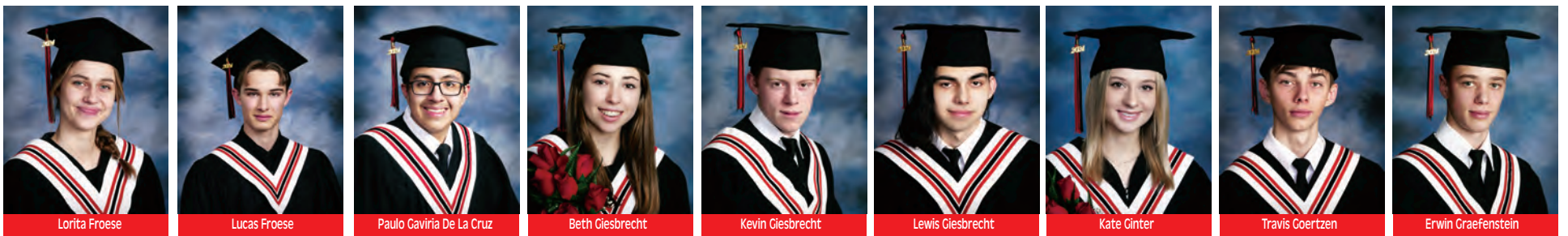
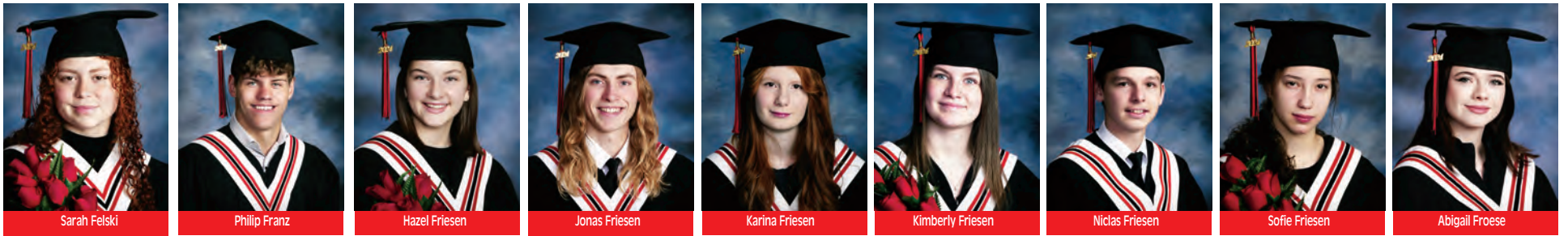
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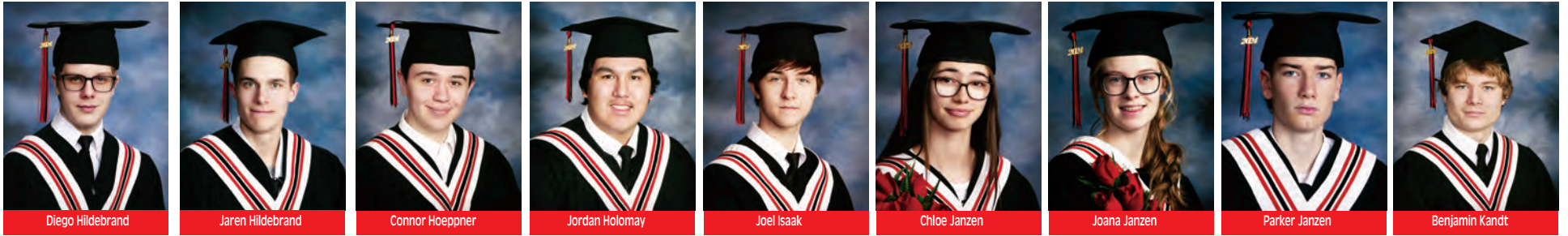
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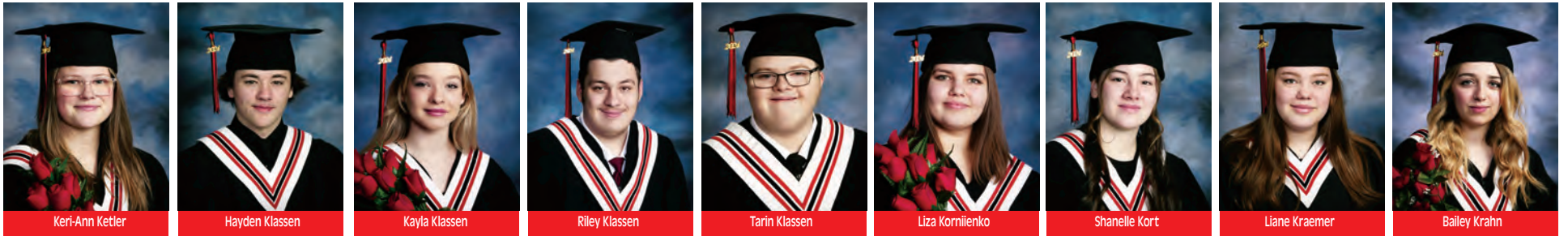
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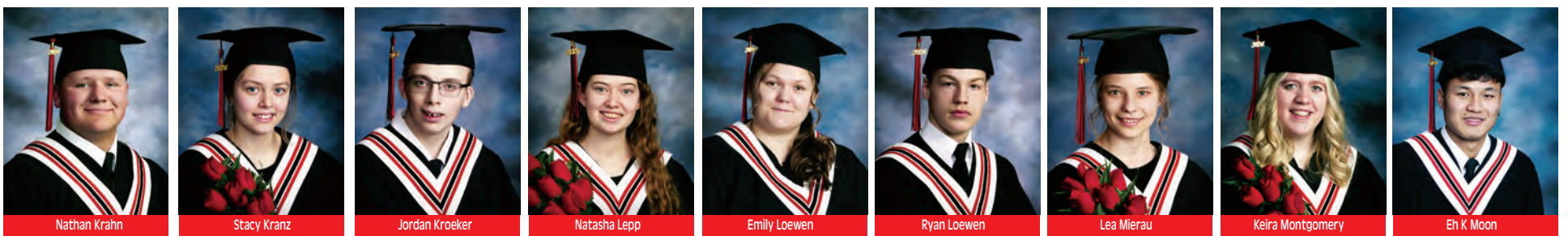
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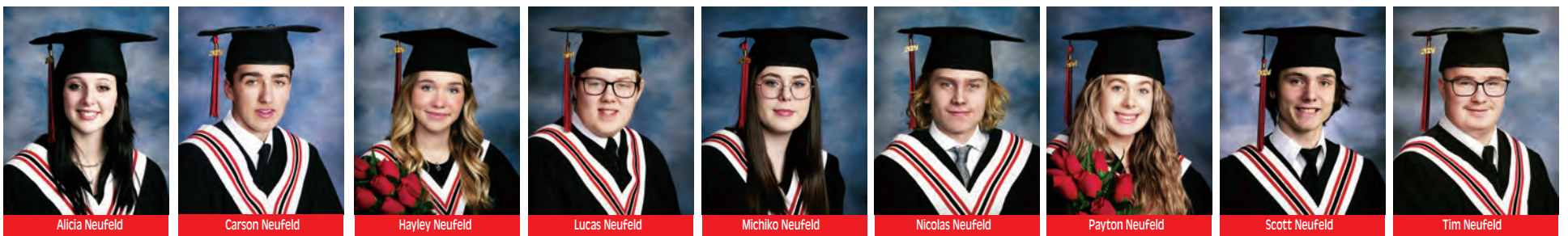
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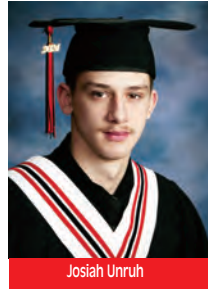
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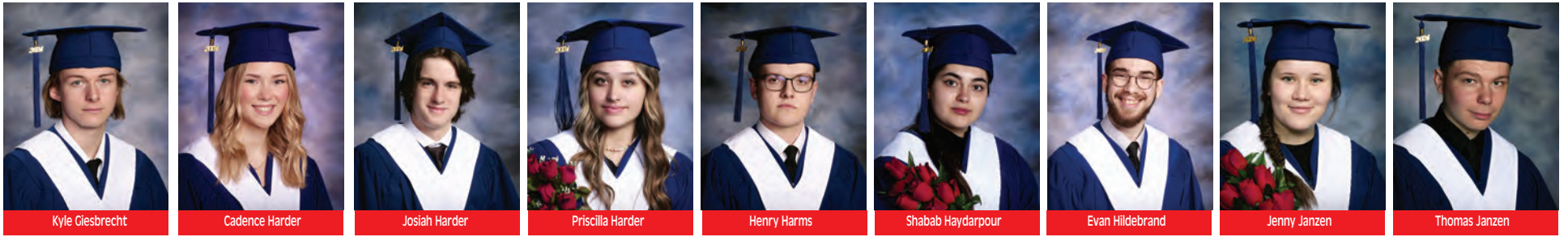
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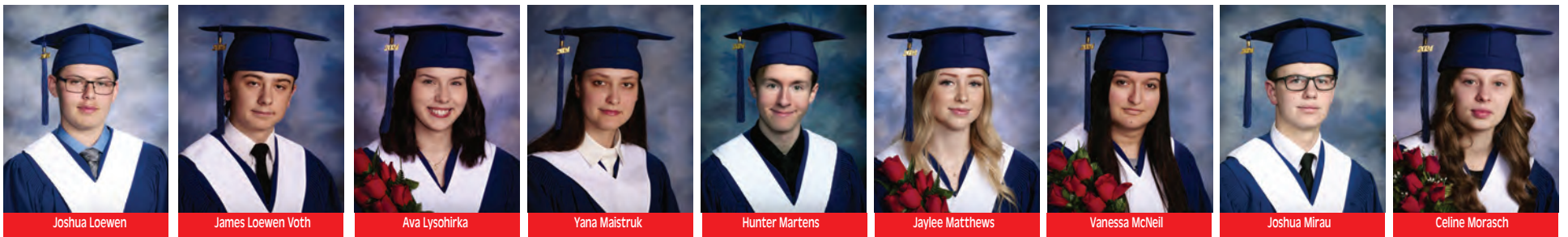
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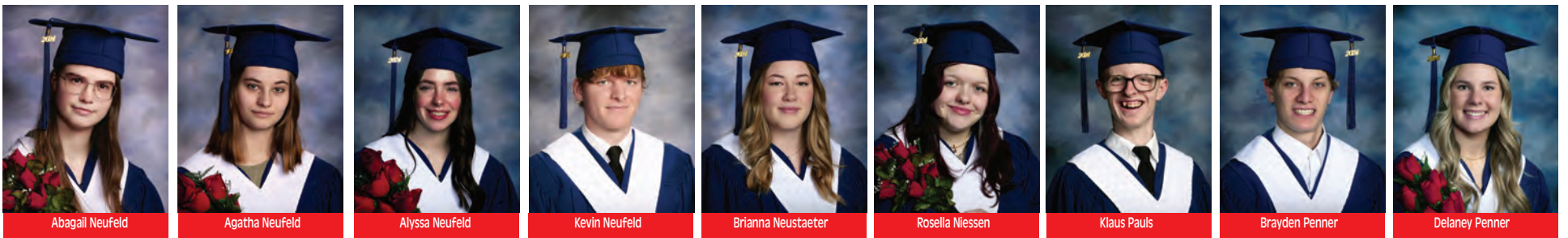
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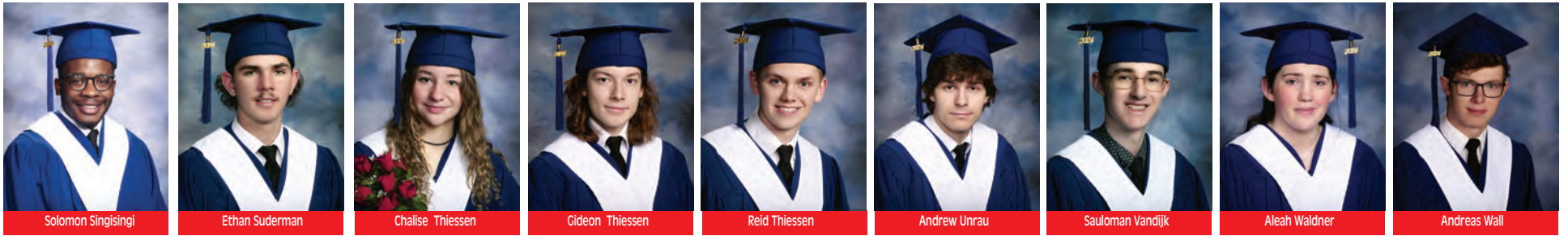
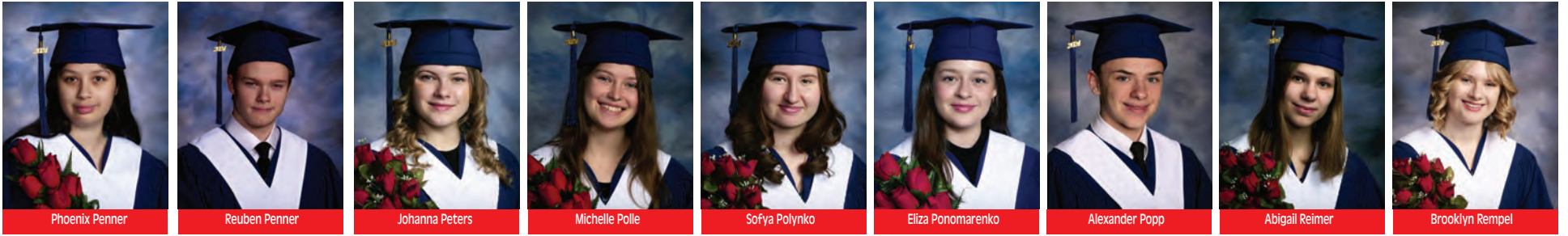
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Thank You!



Morden Collegiate

Congratulations
to the **Graduating Classes of 2024**

“My hope is that each of us will create a life that we enjoy”

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden Collegiate Institute honoured its class of 2024 at a graduation ceremony June 26 at the Access Event Centre.

The speakers began with principal Tania Sigurdson, who reflected on a special moment for her leading up to graduation.

“A tradition at Morden Collegiate each year is that the principal sits down, pen in hand, and individually signs each graduation diploma ... in an age where digital signatures are becoming more common, this is a tradition I really enjoy,” she said, recalling how she found a quiet space to go through all of the diplomas and be “thinking of each of you and your time at Morden Collegiate.

“Today, you stand all together sharing the same accomplishment. One graduating class filled with so many different stories,” she said.

Sigurdson noted life will be vast and unpredictable, filled with challenges and unexpected storms.

“What we can control is our response to these winds. We have the power to adjust our sails, to steer our course with resilience, determination and a clear vision of where we want to go.”

She also recalled the challenges posed by the pandemic.

“This was not the high school that you had dreamed of, however, you did not let that define you. You continued to strive for academic success ... you were all in ... you adjusted your sails.

“WE HAVE THE POWER TO ADJUST OUR SAILS, TO STEER OUR COURSE WITH RESILIENCE, DETERMINATION, AND A CLEAR VISION OF WHERE WE WANT TO GO.”

“Remember that the winds will not always be in your favour, and there will be times when the seas are rough and the horizon seems distant ... it is in these moments that your true character will be revealed.”

Western School Division board chair Brian Fransen noted that “there are very few events that bring a community together quite like public high school graduation ... there is something about the thought of unleashing our young people on the world that all of us need to be here to be part of it.”

He noted they work diligently to



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Members of Morden Collegiate's class of 2024 enter the arena for their graduation ceremony, which was filled with family and friends. Right: Valedictorian Nic Wiebe.

have the policies and procedures in place to make sure our schools are safe places for all students to learn and grow and for them to be individuals “who not only have the knowledge and skills to succeed but also have the hearts and minds to meaningfully engage with their communities.

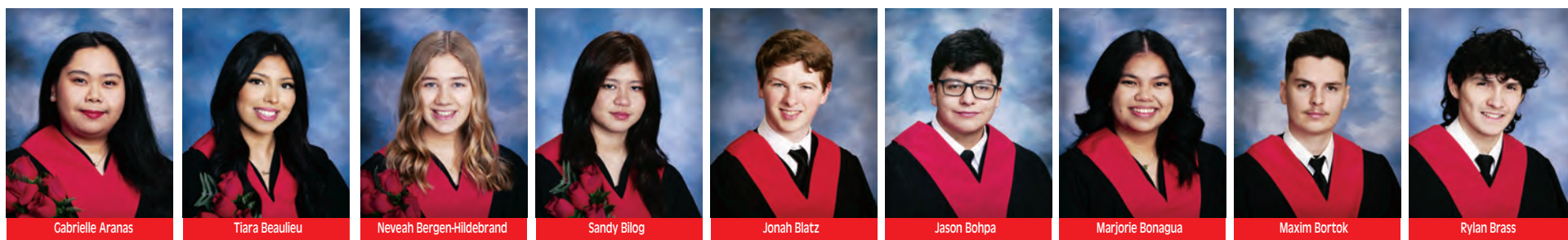
“The building blocks of what brought you here today can fuel a lifetime of success, and at the core of each success story here today is you.”

Class valedictorian Nic Wiebe called it a privilege and an honour to represent the class.

“It’s a surreal feeling,” he said of finally coming to graduation day.



Continued on page 15



Gabrielle Aranas

Tiara Beaulieu

Neveah Bergen-Hildebrand

Sandy Bilog

Jonah Blatz

Jason Bohpa

Marjorie Bonagua

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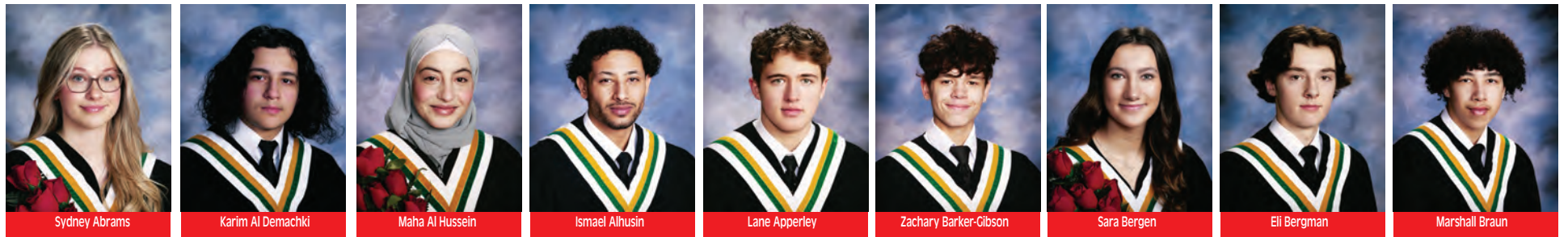
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Reese Leandlar

Meadow Letkeman

Bretlyn Loewen

Rhyco Kirby Mamangon

Janella Manuel

Malachi Martens

Zaira Denise Meracap

Adam Michaluk



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23

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W.C. Miller Collegiate *Congratulations to the Graduating Classes of 2024*

From Pg. 17

He urged the graduates to take time to nurture their relationships, celebrate their successes, and recover from their losses.



“What I miss most about teaching are the relationships with the students I taught and the people I worked with. Think of the classmates, bus drivers, teachers, educational assistants, office staff, custodians, principals, and the coaches who have been part of your life since your first day of school. Treasure those relationships.”


Quoting Food Network host Ree Drummond, Dueck said, “Buckle up. There are good times and rough seas ahead. It’s just a part of life. Enjoy the ride and laugh a lot. Life is about to unfold for you in all its forms:




W.C. Miller grad Esteban Teichroeb waves to his parents in the crowd.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE


love, heartache, disappointments, testing of faith. Life is beautiful. Buckle up and laugh along the way. It makes life fun.”


He added, “Be a person of character. Be known for your honesty, courage and integrity. Each of you has a special purpose, a gift that is meant to be given to those around you. As you set out into the future, as a citizen of this world, share your gift with the world. Live for something other than yourself. Buckle up and enjoy this ride called life, with all its ups and downs. Give of your time, nurture relationships, both new and old. Be generous in what you give to others. Be known for your character in the best possible way.”

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Regional Alternative Education Centre

Congratulations
to the **Graduating Classes of 2024**

A record-breaking grad

By Lori Penner

On June 20, 15 adult learners graduated from the Regional Alternative Education Centre (RAEC) in Altona, representing the largest graduating class in the institution's history.

RAEC offers adult learners a supportive environment, with a self-paced educational plan tailored to their individual needs.

The graduation ceremony began with a warm welcome from RAEC director Kelly Skelton, whose speech emphasized the importance of individual effort and recognition.

"Every single effort and individual matters," she said, extending heartfelt gratitude to the staff for their unwavering support and dedication to their students. "You made a difference to them."

Skelton praised the graduates for their resilience and perseverance, acknowledging the challenges they faced while balancing family, work, and community involvement.

"Graduates, your hard work, your persistence, and your belief in yourself have brought you to this very important moment. Thank you for choosing us and allowing us to be a part of your story."

The RAEC class of 2024 was made up of a diverse group of students, each with unique backgrounds and reasons for pursuing their education. Yet, their shared pride and sense of accomplishment united them.

Among the graduates was Kathy Loeppky, a grandmother of 12, who beamed with joy as she received her diploma, surrounded by her large and supportive family.

"I'm just so happy and grateful for this opportunity," she shared, holding a grandson on her lap.

Loeppky's journey to graduation was motivated by a promotion at work that required a degree. She credited her family's encouragement and RAEC's support for her success.

"The staff are fantastic. There were some challenging moments, for sure.



The RAEC class of 2024 toss their caps high.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Doing the courses online sometimes meant I had to figure things out on my own. But the courses were enjoyable, so that made it easier. And the instructors were always very helpful."

She added, "I'm so happy today, and I think I've made my family proud."

Borderland School Division superintendent Krista Curry lauded the graduates for their courage and determination.

Reflecting on their educational journeys, Curry said, "When you began your formal schooling at the young age of five, you had no idea what the educational path was going to look like for you. Your only focus was play. You were dropped off with your Kindergarten or early years teacher, and your future was nothing that you were thinking about. Whether your

Continued on page 27



Vanessa Atkinson

Arlie-Anne Chatelain

Andrea Froese Unrau

Elizabeth Giesbrecht

Kamaljeet Kaur

Judith Klassen

Katharina Loeppky

Verna Martens

Ramandeep Ramandeep



Andrej Rein

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École régionale Saint-Jean-Baptiste

Congratulations
to the **Graduating Classes of 2024**

Saint-Jean-Baptiste award and scholarship winners

École régionale Saint-Jean-Baptiste celebrated the members of its graduating class of 2024 with a ceremony at the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church on June 21. Students honoured with awards and bursaries included:

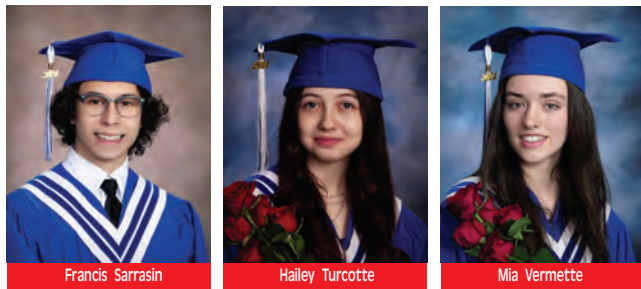
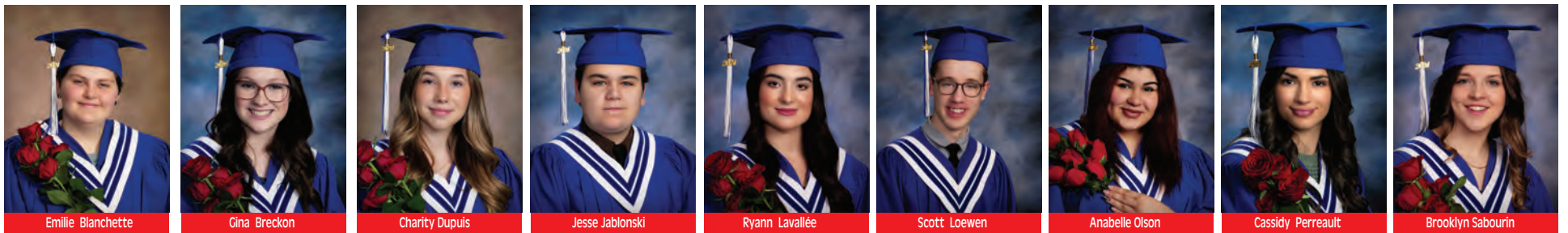
- Emilie Blanchette, Bourse Lavallée Gravel Bursary.
- Gina Breckon, Bourse GJ Chemical Bursary.
- Charity Dupuis, Bourse AGT Foods Bursary.
- Ryann Lavallée, Bourse Comité scolaire ERSJB,

Miller Environmental Scholarship, and Bourse Lavallée Trucking.

- Scott Loewen, Prix Dylan Bérard and the Bourse Jablonski Carpentry Bursary.
- Anabelle Olson, Bourse Rempel Insurance Bursary.
- Cassidy Perreault, Bourse Municipalité Montcalm Bursary and the Bourse Morris Bigway Bursary.
- Brooklyn Sabourin, Bourse Chevaliers de Co-

lomb Saint-Jean-Baptiste.

- Francis Sarrasin, Bourse Chevaliers de Colomb Saint-Joseph and Bourse Seed-Ex Bursary.
- Mia Vermette, Bourse Caisse Groupe Financier, Miller Environmental Scholarship, Bourse Division scolaire franco-manitobaine, Bourse Morris Bigway Bursary, Bourse Denis Clément et Guy Gagnon, Médaille Académique du Gouverneur Général/ The Governor General's Academic Medal.



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Municipality of Emerson-Franklin

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Roseau Valley School

Congratulations
to the *Graduating Classes of 2024*

A new chapter begins

By Lori Penner

Roseau Valley School (RVS) was the scene of celebration on June 22 as 26 graduates received their high school diplomas.

Vice-principal Jennifer Colette and principal Jason Mateychuk presented a star blanket to each of the graduates on behalf of the Smith and Atkinson families.

"In Anishinaabe culture, when a star blanket is placed on an individual, it is wrapping the individual with respect and admiration," explained Colette. "Receiving a star blanket brings good dreams, prosperity, and protection."

"Each of you will continue in your own educational journey. Some of you will continue in another school environment, some of you will travel, and some of you will work full-time. No matter where you find yourself, keep learning. Keep moving forward and making the community around you a better place. Wherever you land, always remember where your roots are, and don't be afraid to ask for help. There is a village here, ready and willing to support you."

"The good news is... you're on your own now. The bad news is ... you're on your own now," quipped Meaghan O'Hare, as she and fellow teacher Alex Mirza offered the class their advice and well wishes.



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Above: Valedictorians Natalie Chubaty and Morgan Hildebrand. Right: Cap toss.



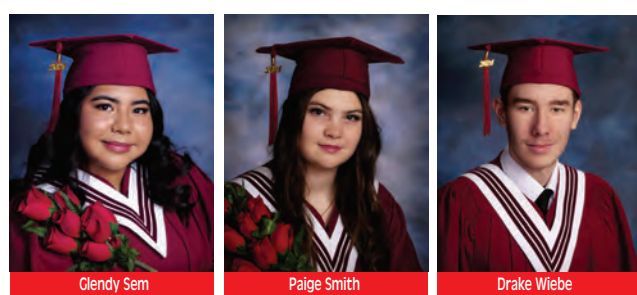
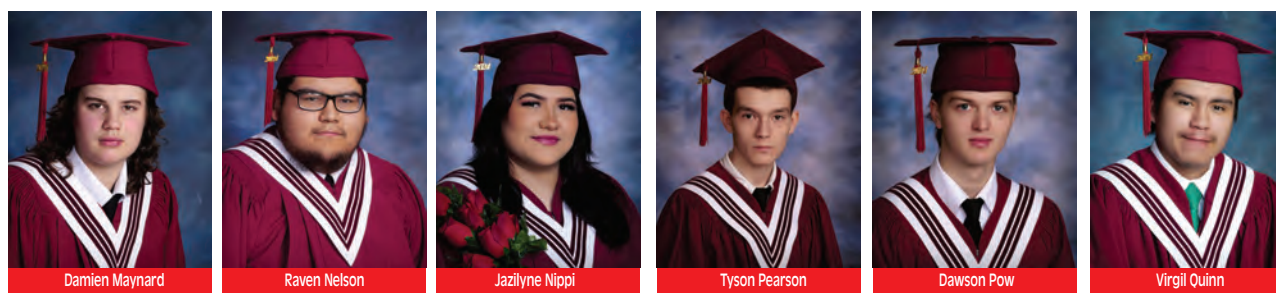
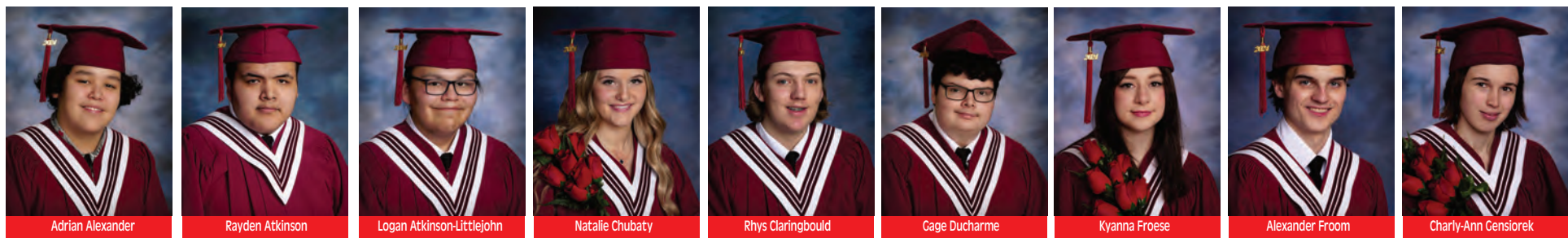
They encouraged the grads to lean on the lessons they've learned since Kindergarten.

"Today marks a milestone in your lives, one that is the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Each one of you has faced challenges, both academic and personal, and today we celebrate your resilience and determination," Mirza said, adding

that their lives as adults may be filled with trials that will test their strength. "As you move forward into the next chapter of your lives, there will be obstacles, troubles and moments of doubt, but it is through these challenges that you will find strength."

Continued on page 27

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

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Rosenort School

Congratulations
to the **Graduating Classes of 2024**

The high school hero's journey

By Siobhan Maas

The 17 graduates of Rosenort School were confronted with a challenge by principal Arlin Scharfenberg in their June 25 graduation ceremony. They were challenged with the notion of choice.

The main theme of the ceremony revolved around a saying from Gandalf in J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."

Scharfenberg applauded the students in their personal discoveries, gained knowledge, and formed friendships through their school years while encouraging them to look "beyond the walls of learning."

"The question of what to do with your time isn't about the rest of your life," he said, "but how you will contribute to the world, how you will make your mark, how you will define your legacy. This decision isn't made once, but continuously as you navigate through the complexities of life."

He focused on the fact that life's

journey is never set in stone, but is affected by one's own choices, actions, and determination. The graduates take their years of experience and lessons learned with them as they head out into the world: the importance of perseverance, the value of kindness, and the strength of community.

"Approach each day with purpose and passion, knowing that your time matters not just for yourself, but for the entire world. Today we celebrate the limitless possibilities that await you."

Guest speaker and 20-year veteran teacher Samantha Sansome also spoke of using time wisely, with a basic literary overview of the hero's journey. The universal pattern of adventure, transformation, and triumph used so often in stories resonates, she stressed, because it mirrors many of the tribulations we face in life.

Sansome took the high school grads/heroes through the childhood "departure" stage and the high school "initiation" phase, "testing their inner



PHOTOS BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

Above: The Rosenort School class of 2024. Right: Valedictorian Lexie Kroeker encouraged her classmates to stay true to themselves.



strength and resiliency to learn that failure isn't the opposite of success but a crucial part of the journey" and to "celebrate the victories and value of friendship, community, and mentors."

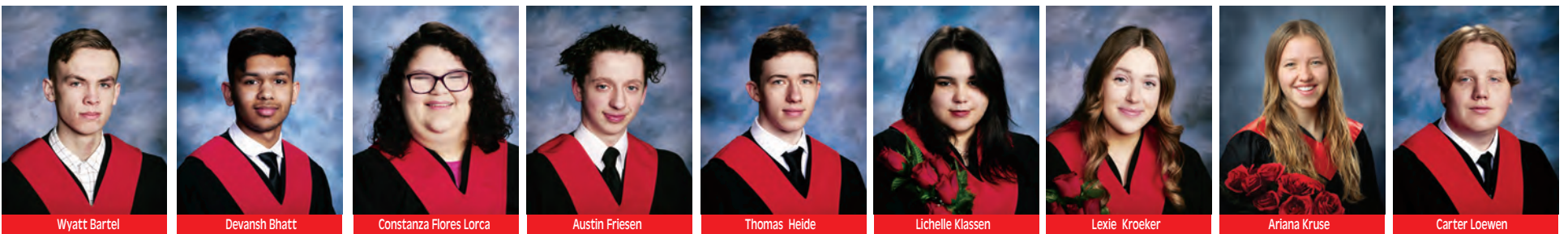
She pointed out their journey brought them full circle, transformed, to graduation day, wiser and more prepared for "the return" to share knowledge, wisdom, and skills learned with the greater community and the world.

"You are the hero of your own journey that is just beginning," she said. "Within you lies the power to create your own destiny. May your adventures be filled with purpose, passion, and endless possibilities."

Valedictorian Lexie Kroeker focused on the unique qualities of the graduating class, including its reputation for being different and eccentric.

Continued on page 27

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Wyatt Bartel

Devansh Bhatt

Constanza Flores Lorca

Austin Friesen

Thomas Heide

Lichelle Klassen

Lexie Kroeker

Ariana Kruse

Carter Loewen



Rachel Loewen

James Plett

Mia Salfi

Cameron Shearer



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Morris School

Congratulations
to the **Graduating Classes of 2024**

From Pg. 26

The students faced unique obstacles, he noted, especially with pandemic restrictions, but the “challenges shaped you into who you are today.”

Watson concluded by saying, “As you step into the world beyond these walls and halls, it’s impor-

tant to remember that graduating doesn’t mean that you need all the answers.”

He encouraged the graduates to be open to new experiences and contribute to life by volunteering, helping a neighbour, getting involved in their community.

“Sometimes in the small, every day actions you will find your true purpose. You can never be

wrong by being of service to others. The world needs your talents, your creativity, and your passion.”

School staff sent congratulations to the graduates in the form of short video clips in a slide presentation. “Come back and visit us!” and “Find something that brings you life and joy” were among the well wishes.

> ROSEAU VALLEY, FROM PG. 24

“The only people who don’t fail are people who never tried anything. The best way to grow as people is to take risks,” O’Hare concluded. “Any experience that comes your way will give you another tool in your toolbox. And remember, the only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary”

In their valedictory address, Natalie Chubaty and Morgan Hildebrand thanked school staff for their time, patience, understanding, and encouragement through the years.

“We could not have made it without all of you. You may not have always felt appreciated, but please know, it did not go unnoticed,” Chubaty said.

As they reflect on the past, and face the future, Hildebrand encouraged her fellow graduates to keep adding experiences to their life stories.

“Graduation marks the end of another extraordinary chapter in our life. As this chapter closes, I’m sure many of us are already anxious about starting the next one. Unlike an English novel, we can’t skip ahead in the

pages to see how the next chapter will be,” she said.

“But each of us gets to narrate our own adventures. Luckily, as RVS graduates, we’ve been given all the paper and ink we need to write our own stories. And with the love and support of our families and friends, and fellow graduates, our stories will be bestsellers.”

> ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION, FROM PG. 22

first day was 13 or 30 years ago, it doesn’t matter. Today, we all sit here and honour you, the biggest RAEC graduating class ever.”

Curry continued, “You have adapted, you have persevered, and you are here today. Ready to get your diploma and move on to the next chapter.

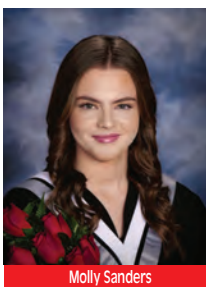
There’s no script, there’s no correct path; each of you is on your own journey. And no matter where your path went, we are grateful that it landed at the RAEC door. We are so proud of each of you, and your accomplishments. Congratulations on the culmination of your success.”

> ROSENORT SCHOOL, FROM PG. 25

“We are not your stereotypical class,” she said. “We are all our own people, yet all on a journey to graduate.”

Kroeker noted the impact of the pandemic on the class, creating unprecedented challenges in their first few years of high school.

“We can’t always be in control but can appreciate our time spent together,” she said. “Live in the moment. Worry less. Have fun. It is important to stay true to who you are and what you believe no matter what obstacles you face in life.”



Molly Sanders



Carol Simeonidis



Isaiah Smith



Tyrel Suwala



Rula Tambal Musa



Ashton Thompson



Haley Wesley



Annika Wiebe

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

Mennonite Collegiate Institute

Congratulations to the *Graduating Classes of 2024*

“Each of us will be able to make a difference”

By Lorne Stelmach

The 19 students of Mennonite Collegiate Institute’s class of 2024 were celebrated at the Gretna school’s graduation ceremony June 23.

Valedictorian Milo Klassen described his peers as a diverse group.

“We’re certainly an interesting group. Each of us has our idiosyncrasies and opinions, which had led to some interesting situations,” he said.

“It has been a whirlwind of amazing experiences,” Klassen continued. “I’ve seen growth in everyone in our class, whether that means putting in hard work for classes ... or stepping out of their comfort zones and trying new experiences.

Klassen expressed appreciation for the support and guidance of their families and teachers, and then looked ahead at what the future will bring the class.

“After today, we will all be stepping off on to our own paths, facing new responsibilities, experiences, and decisions to make,” he said. “The uniqueness of everyone is one of the things I find most interesting about the human race ... each of us is a com-

pletely different person, and yet there are commonalities that run through all of us. We are all made in the image of God ... our similarities and differences are both extremely powerful assets.

“I strongly believe that each of us will be able to make a difference in the world, wherever our lives take us.”

Guest speaker Roxanne Friesen began her address with a salute to the teachers.

“They have invested countless hours in teaching, nurturing and encouraging you through challenges. They have inspired you to grow as individuals, and I know they are proud to see you standing here today.”

She then paid tribute to the parents and family of the graduates.

“They’ve been your first teachers, your cheering squad, and your unwavering supporters ... they’ve been by your side every step of the way,” she said. “Your teachers, parents, friends, and family have played instrumental roles in shaping your lives in profound ways ... shaped you into the individuals you are today.”

“Today marks both an ending and a beginning ... a culmination of your



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Valedictorian Milo Klassen and guest speaker Roxanne Friesen address the MCI class of 2024 at the school’s graduation ceremony June 23.

hard work and a start of a new journey filled with endless possibilities,” she concluded. “As you navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, hold fast to the truth of God’s word.

Let this truth anchor your identity and give you confidence as you step into the future ... remember that God has a plan and a purpose for your life.”

> NELLIE MCCLUNG COLLEGIATE, FROM PG. 16

In their valedictory address, Ava Sanders and Tony McKay shared personal recollections of each of their classmates, generating plenty of smiles and laughter and painting a vivid picture of the people they travelled through their school years alongside.

“Now that you know a little bit more about our class and the journey that got us here today, we’d like to thank our wonderful classmates for all the memories you’ve created and wish them all the best in the future,” Sanders said in conclusion.



Nial Anderson

Jordan Braun

Neveah Giesbrecht

Kai Hiebert

Benjamin Hiebert

Cohen Hildebrand

Milo Klassen

Seth Klassen

Rheana Letkeman



Micah Loewen

Tex Nelson

Payton Peters

Whitney Peters

Samuel Regehr

Presley Schroeder

Yellie Torres Murillo

Cyrus Wang Chiu

Gabriel Ward



Ethan Whale



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024