

The *Winkler* *Morden*
Vo*ice*

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Sean and Sonya Richmond were in Morden-Winkler last week as part of their quest to walk part of the Trans Canada Trail. For the full story, see Pg. 5.

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Some groups left out of vaccination card program

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It's been over a month since the provincial government launched its COVID-19 immunization card, making it possible for Manitobans to carry proof of vaccination both digitally and in their wallets.

But Callum Morrison is still waiting to find out when and if he'll be able to get one.

The wait isn't because he's not vaccinated—it's been well past two weeks since his second shot—but because Morrison is an international student.

As such, he doesn't have the Manitoba health card required to apply for the COVID-19 immunization card.

He's in the same boat as soldiers and temporary foreign workers serving and working in Manitoba, both of whom are eligible to get vaccinated free of charge but are either not issued provincial health cards or must wait months to get one.

It's a piece of bureaucracy that leaves the Altona area resident scratching his head.

"There's actually a large number of people who are perfectly legally entitled to be in Manitoba, who live here, who don't actually qualify for Manitoba health cards," Morrison said. "So now we have this system where even people who are vaccinated can't access these [COVID] cards. It seems madness to me, really.

"The only things on these cards is supposed to

be your name and a QR code that says you've been vaccinated. So I really don't understand why a health card is needed at all."

Morrison moved to Canada from Scotland in 2017. After a stint working for a seed company in Morden, he went back to school to pursue a PhD in agriculture. His studies into cover crop usage have made him a familiar face across the Pembina Valley.

But that familiarity won't allow him to eat at a restaurant with someone from outside his household, even if they're both vaccinated, nor get him into a hospital or care home should he need to visit an ailing loved one. For that, he'll need to show proof of vaccination.

The government has said that those not eligible for the immunization card can get their vaccination record from a public health office.

But with the vast majority of Manitobans about to be carrying around these new cards, Morrison is concerned trying to prove the same with an unfamiliar paper vaccination record is going to cause more hassles than anything.

"First of all, I've yet to actually be able to get that vaccine record anyway," he pointed out. "But when I'm speaking to local businesses they're telling me, 'Well, I've never heard of this vaccine record.'

"It's on me every single time to try and explain

Continued on page 8



Callum Morrison is an international graduate student in Manitoba, which means he is not eligible to get a COVID-19 immunization card—something he expects is going to cause headaches when he tries to prove his vaccination status.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

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Mordenite launches petition for on-call animal control officer

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden resident is hoping to help convince council that the city needs to take steps to have on-call after hours animal control.

Tanya Rempel is motivated not only by seeing that this as a need in the community but by a desire to try to do something about the issue rather than just complain about it.

"I think there's a few of us in Morden who have become stray animal magnets," said Rempel, who has been circulating a petition to present to city council.

"I've been seeing a lot on social media that people find a lot of strays, and we complain about it a lot, but no one has actually gone to city council and tried to do something about it. I wanted to do more than just post about it online and see if they would consider making a change.

"I thought I would go a little bit further and try to get signatures to show it's a concern that a lot of people have ... it's just to show that people care about it."

Currently, there are little or no options for people in dealing with stray animals on evenings or weekends, Rempel explained.

Many will post online and hope to connect with the owners, but otherwise people have to keep the found dog in their house or yard for the time being as the pound is not available after hours.

"It's not always doable for everybody," she noted. "There is some risk if you're going up to a random dog ... you don't know if it's friendly ... it can be kind of scary ... I feel like it can put community members in an awkward position."

And while some people might choose to just turn a blind eye, Rempel feels it is hard to just ignore it not only out of concern for the safety and welfare of the animals but for residents who might encounter them as well.

"IT KIND OF SEEMS ODD TO ME, TO HAVE SUCH A BIG AREA HERE AND NOT HAVE ANY ACCESS TO THIS KIND OF SERVICE."

"I also looked to see what other towns do," she said. "The Town of Altona is probably at least half our size, and they have an on-call animal control officer."

"It kind of seems odd to me, to have such a big area here and not have any access to this kind of service ... and this is a big animal-loving community," Rempel said. "I think it's something they need to consider, especially as it gets bigger here, it's just going to be more ... the bigger we get, you can't expect people to house random animals."

The petition is available for people to sign at Fittwell and Town & Country.

Rempel said there have been a few naysayers who don't see this as a concern, but otherwise the feedback has mostly been positive.

"I'm hoping to have it for the August meeting of council, so I'm looking at the end of July to have the petitions done," she said.



Tanya Rempel with her dog Sadie.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



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Dr. Reimer addresses concerns about COVID-19 vaccine development

How were they created, approved so quickly?

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba's task force co-lead Dr. Joss Reimer took some time last week to address those Manitobans who have not yet chosen to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

"Today I want to talk to some of the people who still have questions, who may not be sure, and may not be confident in the decision to get the vaccine," the Winkler native began at a press conference in Winnipeg July 7.

"There are two top reasons that we hear most often, and they're somewhat interconnected: concerns about

how quickly the vaccine was developed and concerns about how quickly it was approved for use."

Some people worry the speed at which this happened means corners were cut, making for potentially unsafe, untested vaccines.

Reimer stressed that is simply not the case.

She acknowledged that vaccines are often years in the making, but the COVID-19 vaccines are unique in that work was already underway on developing vaccinations against other coronaviruses long before the pandemic broke out.



Dr. Joss Reimer, co-lead of the province's vaccination task force, took time last week to address a few concerns people hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccines often ask about their development.

SCREENSHOT

"Fortunately, scientists and other experts around the world were not starting from scratch. While this coronavirus is new, it is not the only coronavirus we have dealt with," Reimer said, explaining that it took scientists a matter of weeks to map the COVID-19 genome after it was first discovered. "That told us what kind of vaccine we would need in order to stop the virus. "The scale of international partnership and collaboration that was needed to develop a vaccine was unprecedented," she continued, noting multiple vaccines were created in countries all over the world by companies taking different approaches (the normally substantial financial risk to do so offset by government support). "That in and of itself is unique and gives the world a much larger pool of vaccine candidates. A larger pool means the odds were better that some of them would prove to be effective."

The groundwork for all these vaccines had already been laid by previous research, Reimer said, noting viral vector vaccines (AstraZeneca) have been used for decades while mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) are using a relatively newer technology but one that had been well tested long before COVID-19 showed up.

"In fact, human trials of cancer vaccines using the same mRNA technology have been taking place since 2011. And work is underway on a new rabies vaccine using this technology," she pointed out, adding Moderna had even developed an annual influenza mRNA vaccine a few years ago. "So we were able to take something

that was already in development and adapt it to the COVID pandemic."

When it came to testing these vaccines, once again the unprecedented nature of this pandemic worked in our favour.

"The steps that are truly important, and the ones we care the most about, are the underlying science, the medical evaluation, the clinic trials where the vaccines were tested on animals and on people who agreed to participate," Reimer said. "Those all happened as they needed to, as they would for any vaccine. What changed was the pace."

It can normally take years to deal with all the red tape that comes with getting medical trials approved, securing funding, and finding test subjects.

But with the entire world motivated to find a solution to the pandemic, that timeline was able to be condensed significantly.

"For example, it was very easy for the studies to recruit participants," Reimer said. "Volunteers were very eager to take part all around the world."

"It was also much easier to study how well the vaccine protected against the virus because there was so much virus present around the world," she continued. "Normally, you have to wait quite awhile before a large number of your participants are exposed to a virus that you're studying ... this time, the exposures were happening to participants regularly, and so it did not take very long to get that information [about effectiveness]."

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Manitoba ahead of schedule with vaccination milestones

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba as a whole is blowing past its vaccination milestones weeks ahead of schedule.

Premier Brian Pallister announced last Wednesday that we've already hit our Aug. 2 goal of seeing at least 75 per cent of eligible Manitobans with one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 50 per cent with two. As of Monday, the rate was 76.3 per cent for the first shot and 57.2 per cent for the second.

"Manitobans are making the right choices to roll up their sleeves," Pallister said. "Not once but twice many Manitobans have already taken that step, but we need more. We need more to participate. Together, that's how we beat COVID."

New public health orders relaxing restrictions in recognition of the increased number of protected Mani-

tobans were expected sometime this week.

Pallister noted reopening will continue to be slow and steady and made on the advice of medical professionals.

"I think everyone wants their lives back, but we all don't want a yo-yo effect," he stressed, pointing out we've seen that happen before in earlier waves of the pandemic. "We're going to take, no pun intended, conservative steps here to get our lives back."

"We're going to do it with caution in mind and the learnings that have come about as a consequence of the way we've dealt with this unprecedented situation over the last year and a half."

In a bid to encourage people to get their vaccinations, this week Wednesday, July 14, all vaccination super sites are hosting only walk-ins—no ap-

pointments necessary.

More than 20,000 vaccines will be available that day, including approximately 8,000 Pfizer vaccines earmarked for young people aged 12 to 17.

Our nearest super site is at the Access Event Centre in Morden, which has been accepting walk-ins regularly alongside booked appointments for weeks now.

Manitoba's next milestone, set for the September long weekend, is to have 80 per cent of eligible Manitobans with their first dose and 75 per cent with their second.

To reach that, the province needs to see approximately 33,000 more first doses and 100,000 second doses.

"We can do this," Pallister said.

At a briefing held later that same day, vaccination task force co-lead Johanu Botha noted that demand for

first doses has begun to decline even as the number of available vaccines is on the rise.

"I think it's fair to say that for the first time, we're likely going to see that our vaccine supply is going to consistently be more than the daily demand," he said, noting the province is expected to receive hundreds of thousands of doses from the federal government over the next few weeks. "We have our vaccine distributors systems in place and ready to administer these ... but we can only get vaccines in arms when there are arms at these sites."

"The reality is that if you want a dose and don't have an appointment yet, we have one for you and we have one for you now."

Appointments can be made online at protectmb.ca or by calling (toll-free) 1-844-626-8222.

“Come walk with us”

By Lorne Stelmach

There is personal motivation that led them to their current journey, but Sean and Sonya Richmond also have the greater good in mind as they venture across the country.

Their dream of a 24,000 kilometre hike on the Trans Canada Trail aims especially to inspire youth to reconnect to nature and particularly the rich diversity that Canada has to offer to all.

So far, they had hiked more than 6,500 km across the Maritimes, Quebec, and Ontario before landing in Manitoba and arriving in the Morden-Winkler area last week.

“A lot of people think we’re nuts, but it’s an idea that may stick in people’s heads, and it’s been an absolutely fantastic journey,” said Sonya, who was an ornithological researcher before leaving her job and home behind in 2019 and donating her possessions to fund the hike of the world’s longest pathway: the Trans Canada Trail.

She said they had very much tired of their old routine, always being at a desk and staring at a screen, but there was also more behind the idea to venture out into something new.

“We also had a younger family member who was really struggling with addiction to online video gaming and social media,” she noted.

“The other part of it was we had walked across France and Spain and Portugal on the Caminos, and we absolutely loved that,” Sonya added. “When we were out there, we met a lot of people who were basically asking us why aren’t you walking across Canada? It’s such a beautiful country.

“So we thought let’s get out there, let’s do it, let’s see what Canada has to offer. At the same time, we wanted to share our journey with others to try to inspire them to get outside and to experience Canada for themselves, especially younger people.”

Sean reiterated that they see their experience as a way to maybe help encourage people to become conservation stewards wherever they are in the world.

“One of the things we were encountering being part of nature groups and hiking clubs was that a lot of these groups are ageing out, there’s no more people coming in, so they’re

actively trying to get youth engaged and involved as well.”

They discovered a passion for hiking while at university together in southern Ontario, and they have spent as much time as possible since then hiking, kayaking, travelling, and camping across Canada.

Sonya’s love of birds, nature, and the outdoors led her into a career in environmental conservation, while Sean has transitioned into freelance writing and landscape photography. They take every opportunity to get outside and explore, and to disconnect from the digital world and recharge.

They completed their first medium-distance hike in 2016 when they walked 800 km along the Camino Frances from St. Jean-Pied-de-Port, France to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. They followed that up with a 780 km hike along the Via Podiensis from Le Puy-en-Velay, France to Roncesvalles, Spain in 2017.

In 2018, they walked 250 km along the East Coast Trail in Newfoundland, which is also part of the Trans Canada Trail, following with a hike across the length of Portugal the in 2019.

That same year they began tackling their next big adventure by starting out in Cape Spear, NL June 1, 2019

en route west to Victoria, B.C. After Victoria they plan to head north from Fort Saskatchewan to Tuktoyaktuk, NT.

Over the course of the next few years, they are inviting people across Canada to “Come Walk With Us” either by joining them for a few kilometers on the trail, following their progress online, or even asking them to give a presentation.

Their efforts led to them being nominated to become a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society as well as be supported and carry an official flag as a RCGS expedition.

Along the way, they are shooting a lot of photographs and posting regular updates about the trek and growing life lists of birds on their blog at www.comewalkwithus.online. You can also find the couple on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

A journey like this can seem daunting, but you approach it in a practical way, the duo explain, planning the logistics.

“We took about a year before we sold our house to come out, and we



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Sonya Richmond out on the trail last week.

‘Google’ walked the whole trail. There are no guide books that are up to date anymore because it’s so vast, and it keeps growing,” said Sean.

“So you plan it out, and when the plans fall apart, you plan it day by day as you go,” he continued. “Even with all the planning, a lot of the adventure happens on the spur of the moment and the unexpected, and there’s a lot of unexpected.”

Sonya noted their progress “completely depends on the terrain and the weather, but usually we try to aim for about 25 to 30 kilometres a day ... or we just run into a place that has tons of birds and wildlife, and we end up spending a couple hours there just enjoying it.

“We’ve had days that were five kilometres long, and we’ve had days that were over 50 km. It all depends on what we find—we never know before we get there.”

“It’s slowed us down, but it’s been delightful,” agreed Sean.

Much of the joy as well has been in the people they have met along the way.

“In person, the reaction to our hike has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Sonya.

“It’s absolutely incredible ... one of the things that’s blown us away is just random acts of kindness from strangers. We would not have gotten this far without the help of others,” she said. “Meeting people along the way has been amazing. People have been absolutely fantastic in helping us and encouraging us and supporting us.”

Sean also noted that they initially

thought the journey might be more difficult in smaller communities with less amenities, but they have actually discovered the opposite is often true.

“In fact, the trail has reversed that, and the bigger cities are the bigger problem for us,” he observed. “It’s much harder to find places to camp and to stay, so the rural communities have in fact been the bastions for us and we’ve discovered more about Canada because of it.”

And he ultimately hopes it might inspire others to explore and discover what is more often than not very close by for people.

“Eighty per cent of Canadians are within 30 minutes of [the trail],” he noted. “So that means it goes through a lot of cities, but it also goes through 15,000 smaller communities as well, so this gives us an opportunity to see a lot of the country that most Canadians don’t see or they just drive through,

and it’s kind of unfortunate.”

At the beginning of another new day last week, as they prepared to set off, both considered how difficult it might be someday to go back to a more normal life.

“It really shifts your perspective, and I don’t know how you go back,” said Sean. “Given that we’re photographing the length of the trail ... our thought is to start writing about it and promoting the trail more ... it’s time to get Canadians to realize what wonders we have in Canada.”

“YOU PLAN IT OUT, AND WHEN THE PLANS FALL APART, YOU PLAN IT DAY BY DAY AS YOU GO.”

“IT’S TIME TO GET CANADIANS TO REALIZE WHAT WONDERS WE HAVE IN CANADA.”

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getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

The most important question

It occurs to me that if a doctor cannot convince a person on their death bed of what they are dying from (as has been seen lately) than perhaps you cannot convince a person of anything.

I admit this is a rather bleak, cynical perspective leading to the obvious question of why bother seeking to communicate knowledge and information if there is no willingness to receive and believe?

Of course, the most annoying aspect of such perspectives are that they mirror the same frustrations. There is as much frustration from the "other side" with the so-called thinking person's inability to grasp their own perspective.

It is like Newton's third law of motion but applied to communication: "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction"

"For every perspective there is an equal and opposite perspective."



By Peter Cantelon

As a child I would take on an aggressive form of this law with my sisters by taking the opposite stance of their own on literally everything and to ridiculous extremes.

"Mum, I'm hungry," one sister would say.

"No, you're not," I would reply.

"You don't know me!" would come the angry response.

"Yes, I do," I would reply simply, and so it would go until she would stomp away in anger and frustration or Mum would come out and yell at me.

Over time this contrarian perspective refined itself through academic debate, but the basic source/motivation was the same: it was a pleasure to tick people off.

Clearly, I was a jerk.

Repeatedly telling people you disagree with that they are wrong, making fun of them amongst like-minded friends, and periodically trying to change their minds by simply stating the opposite of what they are saying does not change anything, no matter how self-gratifying it might be.

It is not enough to know and delight in the fact that you are right and the other person is wrong, even if this is so. The problems that arise from such division have more to do with the resultant broken relationships than the wrongness of a particular group.

The best response to such circumstances is to ask one critical question:

Why? But in order to ask the question why you have to care enough about the other person or people to want to know the answer in the first place. One of the biggest barriers to this kind of understanding is not enough people care enough about others to pursue this line of thinking.

Of course, the key to caring is relationship. We care more about the people we are in relationship with than they ones we are not.

The problem this raises, somewhat ironically, is that we tend to relate best with the like-minded. Birds of a feather flock together. We gravitate toward the ones who act the same, look the same, like the same things, think the same and believe the same.

Sometimes, when love arises before understanding, as it often does in families, we will actively force ourselves to change our perspectives to match family members or partners in order to sustain and protect that love. We hear about it all the time in comments like "ever since so-and-so met such-and-such they are different."

We are most compassionate toward those most like us and least compassionate towards those least like us. It is liking riding a bike down one hill and up another—one is easy, the other is hard. But it is the hard work that builds us up and makes us healthy.

Continued on page 7

Letters

TIME FOR BULLYING TO STOP

I am responding to the issue of the bullying that has been happening between our communities as of late.

I am tired of people making their own conclusions as to how people are to react to the vaccine, and as to whether or not they are or should be vaccinated.

I believe we still have the freedom of choice in this country and so if you wish to "roll up your sleeve" that is your right. If you do not wish to do so, again that is your right. Everyone has the right to choose and decide for themselves.

It is not right to be bullied into doing something you do not believe in. Nor is it right to be bullied for believing you are doing the right thing

for yourself.

People have forgotten how to act to one another. We need to show kindness and understanding regardless of their decision. Judging others is not our place and it's time to keep opinions to yourself and allow everyone to get on with living.

Wendy Wiebe,
RM of Stanley

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

Morden's Oke House gets a helping hand

By Lorne Stelmach

A small but historic home in Morden which is getting a second lease on life is one that could have easily been lost to the community not so long ago.

Known as the Oke House, the quaint little home at 216 9th Street now not only has protection as a Municipal Heritage Site but has also received a provincial grant for its upkeep.

Credit for the preservation of the building goes to its owner, who recognized its value upon purchase.

"When the property was sold, the real estate agent had said that it was a tear down, and most people would agree with that," said Lester Krieger, speaking for his brother and homeowner David, who is currently teaching English in Asia. "That's not the way he saw it. He took a liking to it.

Built in 1895 for retired farmer Edward Oke by his brother Sam, the home with what was described as a neo-Gothic style received an investment toward a new roof and foundation last week as part of the province announcing \$683,740 in funding to support community-based projects for the preservation and enhancement of heritage sites.

The funding included \$25,000 for foundation repair as well as \$2,275 for foundation assessment.

Krieger said his brother appreciated

the heritage of the Oke House, given its connection to a family that moved here from Ontario.

"It's representative of a humble immigrant's abode that they would have constructed at that time," he said.

"It looks like a church window up in the attic," Krieger said, noting that his brother is keen on restoring the property the best he can. "The house was in very bad shape. It had an addition on the back side which looked really ugly. He could see that there was value in the original structure, so he tore off the back side and he kept the original structure.

"He's been working on it and improving it. He gutted the inside to clean it all out, and he then repaired the exterior as much as he could and painted it so it looks good ... if you saw it the way it looked before and the way it looks now, you would say, wow, that's a big change.

"There's still a lot of work that needs to be done, but right now preservation is first and foremost," Krieger continued. "It seriously needs a new basement ... and I think next year they're going to look at the roof."

Other projects in the area receiving funding included the Darlingford Consolidated School Museum (\$21,000 for window replacement), the Kingsley School at La Rivière (\$15,335



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen (far left) with Heritage Minister Cathy Cox and Lester Krieger, whose brother David owns the historic Oke House in Morden.

for foundation, roof, and window repairs), and St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Manitou (\$12,610 for masonry repairs).

The money comes through the Heritage Resources Conservation Grant program, which provides funding to community groups, volunteer organizations and heritage organizations to support projects that demonstrate a commitment toward the conservation and long-term sustainability of heritage resources that are legally pro-

TECTED under the Heritage Resources Act.

"We continue to work with community groups, local governments and property owners to protect these links to our province and country's past while at the same time showcasing the historic connection in communities across the province," said Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Cathy Cox in announcing this year's recipients.

Winkler man arrested in Patterson Pits stabbing

By Voice staff

A Winkler man is facing a charge of aggravated assault after an incident at Patterson Pits over the weekend.

On Sunday, July 11 at approximately 12:30 a.m., Pembina Valley RCMP re-

sponded to a report of a stabbing in the RM of Roland, northeast of Morden.

When officers arrived on the scene, they encountered a large gathering of people and located an injured 23-year-old male from the RM of Stanley. The

man was transported to Winnipeg hospital with serious injuries.

Police say their investigation has determined that the victim and an 18-year-old male got into a physical altercation at the party. When the fight broke up, the victim had suffered wounds from what appears to be an

edged weapon. No weapon has since been recovered.

The 18-year-old has been arrested and charged. His first court appearance was Monday.

The investigation continues.

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

We learn to love on the downhill with family, friends and the like-minded, and we apply that momentum, that love, to others on the uphill.

To use the family analogy again, it does not matter how many times and ways your father tells you that you should love your neighbour, and it does not matter how many ways you parrot the statement to others; if you do not enter into a real, genuine, re-

lationship with them you will not love them.

If you do not love them, you will not be in relationship with them which means you will not care for or understand them or why they think and act the way they do.

Ultimately this is what leads to the divisiveness that makes it easy to argue, fight, and hate—which never achieves anything constructive.

Eden's Recovery of Hope has had a busy year

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year amidst the new reality of COVID and the resulting restrictions has obviously posed many challenges, and the need for people to adapt in so many ways has particularly had an impact with a counselling service like Eden's Recovery of Hope.

With over 5,000 counselling sessions, the past fiscal year was the busiest yet for organization, which recently brought on another counsellor and anticipates a further addition later this year.

"Since very early on with COVID, we've had a steady increase in the amount of service," program director Brad Unger said last week. "We anticipate a continued surge in demand for our services and particularly as we open our services to in-person. We want to be prepared to meet the needs of as many clients as possible.

"We certainly have experienced growth overall. There is strong demand for our services in our Winkler office ... and we actually have some plans for expanding our capacity further," said Unger. "It certainly seems like there is a strong demand, and we're really looking forward to moving into hybrid versions of this so that we can still do more in-person as it's safe as well as continuing with the phone and online. We see that coming and are preparing for it."

Making so many adjustments in the past year has been challenging for the entire staff, noted clinical director Terry Warburton.

"We all had to do some quick transitions," she said. "It became very clear that we were in this for a long haul. A lot of us prefer working in person; we like to see the person we're in front of ... such a high percentage of our communication is non-verbal."

The service initially had some clients who cancelled early on when restrictions took effect, but the numbers did soon increase and have remained consistent, noted Unger.

"There was a lot of work we did on the administrative side to make our service as available as we could ... but there was a lot of uncertainty," he said. "It was almost like setting up a new service, a new business, and it involved a lot of work in the beginning."

"Everyone has really had to adjust," said Lori Giesbrecht, a new counsellor who is taking on clients.

She sees the past year as having brought on a lot of issues and concerns for people, whether it be increased anxiety and fear associated with the pandemic, stress related to



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Lori Giesbrecht is Recovery of Hope's newest counsellor.

the economy and job stability, isolation and loneliness regarding restrictions, or grief and relationship issues that may have come up over the last several months.

"There's definitely increased fear about what is going on in the world. We're having to deal with issues that our generation hasn't dealt with personally," Giesbrecht said, noting for example there has been a rise in ad-

dictions and increased drug and alcohol use.

"It's a way for people to cope with really difficult emotions," she said, noting it is also believed there has been an increase in self harm and suicide because of the increased isolation. "All of those things were prevalent in the world before COVID but now we're seeing an increased rate of those things."

"A lot of people are struggling and it's just made everything worse ... and some people have not been able to adapt ... especially with people not having many of the resources they normally have to help them cope and to adapt and to talk about what's going on and to talk about what they're feeling.

"There's also been different opinions on the public health rules and vaccines ... and there's family members and friends with different opinions," Giesbrecht added. "The conflict that's creating is in addition to everything else.

"So it's just that everything in their life has become more complicated and more stressful. There's just this whole other level that we're all dealing with."

Giesbrecht suggested a key thing for people to remember is to "continue to reach out and get support. Thankfully, now with the restrictions lifting and continuing to lift, people can meet ... they can have those face to face con-

"SINCE VERY EARLY ON WITH COVID, WE'VE HAD A STEADY INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF SERVICE."

versations that, unknown or not, people have been craving and missing."

She also encouraged people to seek out the services of a counsellor to learn important coping tools and techniques.

"They can gain different perspectives. They can start to transition back to their old schedule ... and even help them deal with the fears and the worries that may come with it as well."

Warburton added that it is important for people to realize that they are not alone in what they are thinking and feeling.

"I think a big part of the work with clients is normalizing. It's connecting ... we can all very easily feel like we're going crazy," she said. "Look at what we're all going through, and just that message can change how somebody feels ... and then have a place to talk about what that's like," she concluded.

Learn more about Recovery of Hope online at edenhealthcare.ca/roh.

> IMMUNIZATION CARD, FROM PG. 2

what it is and that it's valid. And I guarantee you that this will eventually cause problems."

He doesn't blame people simply trying to follow the rules for looking askew at someone without a vaccination card, but he does feel the government needs to do more to address this issue.

"The government has put in basically a two-tier vaccination system where almost every single person in the province gets a vaccination card and then a very small percentage gets this record," Morrison said. "To me, it seems like it should be one of the easier fixes ... why not just issue everyone the card?"

"If the government wants to actually incentivize vaccines, it's a funny way to do it where certain groups of people are [excluded like this]," he continued, voicing his worry some won't bother to get the shots at all as a result.

"I would have gotten vaccinated ei-

ther way, but I have spoken to some international students who said they didn't even know they could get the vaccine," Morrison said, pointing out that one of the first things asked for when booking an appointment online is one's health card. He was able to book his vaccine shots over the phone—a much more timely process, he found—and then spent even more time at the vaccination site as staff tried to figure out what to do when he wasn't able to show a health card upon arrival. "The poor people whose job was to do it hadn't been given any training [on this matter]."

Morrison has reached out to every serving Manitoba MLA about this issue and has thus far only heard back from a few NDP members, including leader Wab Kinew.

"The Conservatives, sadly, haven't gotten back to me," he said.

"At the beginning, I thought these things would change very quickly

because I had faith it was just teething problems," he said. "I do feel like after a month of these cards they could have at the very least said, 'We admit that there are these problems, we're going to look into them, we're sorry' ... that would have put a lot of people at ease."

Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief public health officer, was asked at a media briefing last week whether any headway has been made to address the fact international students and others without Manitoba health cards can't get the immunization card.

"There is work being undertaken right now," he replied. "I don't have any specifics to share or an exact date on when we can announce anything, but there will be something upcoming."

As of press time, no new details on the matter had been released.

Most now hospitalized with virus not vaccinated: Dr. Roussin

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba's top doc on Monday announced the lowest one-day jump in new COVID-19 cases in months.

At a briefing in Winnipeg that day, Dr. Brent Roussin announced 31 new cases of the virus, alongside 150 cases that were identified on Saturday (87 cases) and Sunday (63).

Two new deaths were also reported along with one from Sunday, bringing the number of deaths due to COVID-19 to 1,162.

As of Monday morning there were 1,025 active cases of the virus in Manitoba and 54,733 recoveries.

The current five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate was five per cent provincially and 4.1 per cent in Winnipeg.

A total of 138 Manitobans are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, including 30 in intensive care here and three at hospitals in Ontario.

Officials note that 74 per cent of the 412 COVID-19 hospital admissions between June 1-30 had no vaccine doses. Twenty-two per cent did have one dose, but two weeks had not yet passed since that dose—the time needed for the vaccine to take full effect.

Furthermore, of the 90 patients ad-

mitted to ICU in June, 77 per cent had not yet received a dose of the vaccine and three per cent had just one dose.

"We don't bring this up to blame or to shame anyone ... for the reason of their illness," Roussin stressed. "We're here showing the power of vaccine. We see very few people being admitted to hospital, really, after a single dose but especially after two doses.

"As we see less and less Manitobans that are unvaccinated, we're going to expect to see that translate into less and less need for hospitalizations and ICU admission," he said, noting they will be reporting this data regularly moving forward. "You can see the incontrovertible evidence of the value of vaccines right here in Manitoba.

"We know some Manitobans are hesitant to get vaccinated," Roussin continued. "If you have questions, please contact your health care provider. You trust them with a lot of discussion and information—trust them with this."

Breaking the numbers down further for Monday, Southern Health-Santé Sud reported two new cases of the virus for a total active caseload of 154. There were 29 people in hospital in the region with the virus, includ-

Free provincial parks entry through Sunday

By Voice staff

There's still a few days left to enjoy this month's free provincial park entry.

The Manitoba government last week extended free entry to provincial parks beyond the traditional Canada Park's Day to a full week July 12-18.

"We have been listening to how much Manitobans love their provincial parks and when the idea was raised by members of the public to expand the free access, we enthusiastically embraced it," said Conservation and Climate Minister Sara Guillemard. "All Manitobans should have the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors and we are pleased to offer free park entry for a full week this summer."

Sunday is the last day vehicle permits will not be required to enter

any provincial park, though overnight camping fees are still in effect if you're planning on camping out (head to www.manitobaparks.com or call 1-888-482-2267 to find open sites).

Government officials remind Manitobans that COVID-19 public health orders must be followed in the parks. This includes gathering limits.

Park visitor centres and museums are currently closed under public health orders, though interpreters offer a range of guided experiences at several parks. Trail hikes, historic site tours, and guided paddles are available throughout the week.

Information on park events can be found at www.manitobaparks.com and under the events tab on the Manitoba Parks Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MBGovParks.

ing two in ICU. The death count for Southern Health was at 189.

In the Pembina Valley, Red River South has 47 active cases, Lorne/Lou-

ise/Pembina 20, Winkler 11, Morden seven, Stanley four, the Altona area three, Morris two, and Carman and Grey one each.

No steps skipped in vaccine approval: Reimer

From Pg. 4

The vaccines that proved effective in trials then moved on to be approved for use by Health Canada.

"Again, for COVID-19, the same processes were followed as for any other vaccine," Reimer said, explaining all new medications and vaccines must complete three trial phases before approval. These phases include a variety of different sizes of test subject pools and test appropriate doses, potential side effects, and efficacy.

"The science didn't change," Reimer stressed, "but, again, the timeline for all of the administrative processes that support the science were condensed."

Health Canada normally asks companies to submit their data for phases one, two, and three at the same time for evaluation. Given the ongoing health crisis, the agency in this case

expedited the process by evaluating each phase as it was completed.

"So while the same review occurred, it meant that less time was required at the end of the phase three trial in order to get approval, because phase one and two had already been reviewed," Reimer said, explaining Health Canada was able to do this by prioritizing the COVID-19 vaccines over everything else in the approval queue.

Even once approved for use, the vaccines continued to undergo evaluation in the same way all new vaccines do.

"Canada has one of the best vaccine monitoring systems in the world," Reimer said. "And we use the information that we gather and the information from countries from all over the world to guide our decisions."

That process is what led to the discovery of rare side effects like blood

"THE SCIENCE BEHIND THESE VACCINES IS SOLID. IT'S BUILT ON TECHNOLOGY THAT WE KNOW AND THAT WE UNDERSTAND."

clotting with the AstraZeneca vaccine, for example, which impacted public health officials' recommendations on who should or should not receive that vaccine.

"I know it can be a challenge to wade through all of the information out there about vaccines, especially when you have questions, but I do want to correct the information and make sure people know that these vaccines were tested, they were approved, and they were shown to be safe and effective in the same way as other vaccines," Reimer said. "The science be-

hind these vaccines is solid. It's built on technology that we know and that we understand."

The speed of their creation will perhaps be food for thought once the pandemic is behind us.

"Now that we've seen how the world can come together to solve a health crisis, the real question may be why other vaccines and other medical interventions take so long," Reimer observed.

If you've got questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, talk to your family doctor or head to protectmb.ca.

News or sports tip? E-mail news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

New logo for Morden Corn & Apple Festival

By Lorne Stelmach

As it plans ahead for its return next year, the Corn and Apple Festival is being rebranded for the first time in its 54 years of existence.

Festival directors introduced a redesigned logo that features a familiar colour scheme but with brand new graphics aimed to resemble a street sign with stylized cobs of corn and apples forming the ampersand between "Corn" and "Apple."

The change came about for both practical and esthetic reasons, explained festival executive director Tim Hodge.

"The reason the process started about a year and a half ago was our current logo was optimized more for print, and we found our logo digitally didn't always look the

best at varying sizes," he said.

"It's had a consistent look for more than 50 years," Hodge noted. "We felt it was just time for a change, especially given the pandemic ... we thought it was the perfect time. We had the time to be able to devote to a project like this."

"We are Manitoba's largest street festival, so having our main logo resemble a street sign is a wonderful connection, and the visual of the corn and apple ampersand allows us the versatility to use our branding at a variety of scales," he continued. "We are one of the province's most popular festivals, so while we wanted to update our image, we thought it was important to retain familiarity with the colours."

Meanwhile, though the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the festival to be postponed until 2022, Hodge noted work is underway on a number of events and activities for this summer.

Like last year, musical performances will be streamed online for people to enjoy from home.

"We are really excited with our plans for this

summer. We'll have several livestreamed concerts in August," said Hodge, noting dates and acts will be announced soon. "People will still be able to get their Corn and Apple entertainment fix in August. It will all be livestreamed on our Facebook page."

The festival has also launched its first video contest, inviting people to submit a brief video clip "telling us what they love about the festival, why it's important to them and what they miss about the festival" for a chance to appear in a promotional video series.

Missing the tastes of Corn and Apple? The festival is taking care of that as well this summer by selling gift baskets filled with corn, apple cider, and festival-branded merchandise through its website for pickup in August.

"We wanted to make sure they could still have a way to enjoy that," said Hodge.

You can visit cornandapple.com for more information and follow the festival on Facebook for continued updates.

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SUPPLIED IMAGE

The Morden Corn and Apple Festival unveiled its new logo in a variety of different forms last week.



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Morden student selected for MB advisory council

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden youth is among a diverse group of students from all corners of the province who will be part of discussions on the future of education in Manitoba.

Bijan Salimi, a Gr. 11 student from Morden Collegiate, was named last week as a member of the new student advisory council.

Salimi was one of 29 students selected from close to 200 applicants for the council, which is being formed as part of the province's far-reaching overhaul of the education system under Bill 64, and he acknowledged there is a need to go into this process without bias.

"I'm not pro-Bill 64; I'm not against it, but what I am pro is pro-change. We need change as long as it goes in the right direction," he said. "We should listen to our teachers, listen to our principals and most importantly we should listen to our students and make the changes that are necessary."

The 29 teenage students selected for the committee represent the diversity of the people in Manitoba, Salimi noted, coming with a range of interests,

identities, backgrounds, and perspectives.

Council members will serve a 12-month term starting in August. In that time, they will meet (in person or virtually, depending on restrictions) with the minister of education, government staff, and education stakeholders.

Announcing the student advisory council last week, Education Minister Cliff Cullen said Manitoba students are at the heart of the education system, so their opinions should play an important role in the decisions that affect them.

"The government is looking forward to ideas from youth on what is needed to improve student outcomes and well-being," he said. "Council members will provide insights and advice on issues and topics that are current and emerging for Manitoba Kindergarten to Grade 12 students. "The council members will share their experiences and valuable insights and have input on education to ensure a vibrant future for Manitoba's education system."

The opportunity to have the voices of students heard was welcomed by

Morden's Bijan Salimi has been selected to serve on the province's new student advisory council to weigh in on changes to the education system.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



Salimi, who suggested it is perhaps overdue.

"I find it ironic that, even though we are the ones that are being directly affected by the education system, our voices truly have not been heard until now," he said. "Being from a rural community as well as a first generation Canadian, I felt that my voice as well as rural community voices are clearly not heard. We often lack resources, for example, when it comes to advanced placement programs or when it comes to resources such as

technology.

"I felt like I could be a good advocate considering my experience being part of student council, as well as being part of my community as a whole," Salimi concluded. "I felt like I could be a good representative for all my fellow students and my community."

"I really am honoured and I am thankful for the Manitoba government for giving me the opportunity to help advocate on these issues, and this is truly a historic moment."

Man killed in ATV rollover near Winkler

By Voice staff

A local man was killed Saturday when his ATV rolled over just south of Winkler.

Pembina Valley RCMP were called to an accident on Municipal Road 22 West in the RM of Stanley just after 7 p.m. July 10.

When officers arrived on scene, medical personnel were providing care to the injured 34-year-old male driver. He was transported to Winnipeg hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

Initial investigation has shown that two ATVs were being ridden on Road 22W when one lost control on the gravel road. The driver was not wearing a helmet.

Police continue to investigate.



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Your FARM



PHOTO BY MARLIN REMPEL

Mounding potato plants in the Rivers Region of southern Chile.

A short history of the potato

By Marlin Rempel

It's one of the most common staples that we find on our tables in baked, boiled, mashed, and french-fried forms.

Here in southern Manitoba, we are not only consumers of potatoes but producers, with family farms and large companies dedicated to their cultivation through investments in irrigation and drainage, in addition to specialized equipment and processes.

On the scale of global production, the potato occupies a proud position behind only wheat, rice, and corn.

Despite their importance, the origins of potatoes may not often be considered, or even known.

Upon investigation we find that they have

travelled the globe for hundreds of years to arrive at our plates today. And that's only considering its movement in the hands of Europeans and their North American descendants.

Spanish conquistadores were the first Europeans to come across the tubers in Peru in 1532 and were quick to note its importance to the Incan empire, consisting of 12 million inhabitants from over 100 ethnic groups at its peak.

The Incans had already developed techniques of freeze-drying potatoes into the chuñu form which allowed for storage of up to 10 years, a strategy that would protect them against crop failure and lead them through thin times.

It is estimated that the potato was first

Continued on page 13



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Your FARM



> POTATOES, FROM PG. 12

domesticated in the Andes of southern Peru some 9,500 years prior to that Spanish encounter, also feeding the Huari and Tiwanaku civilizations who rose to a height of half a million people around 500 AD.

In 1570 the tubers were brought back to Spain where they were cultivated mainly as food for livestock. As the potato spread throughout Europe it was generally regarded as unfit for human consumption and it was only in France in the late 1700s where it gained widespread acceptance, starting with the upper classes.

A similar situation can be observed in North America where the potato was introduced as a gift to the governor of Virginia in the 1620s but did not gain acceptance until Thomas Jefferson gave his presidential seal of approval at the beginning of the 1800s.

Its reputation was augmented by the inflow of Irish immigrants, who also popularized potato cultivation in the Maritime provinces of Canada during that same period.

While the now prevalent potato allowed Europe to overcome its frequent famines and led to population expansion, the incursion of the potato blight in the 1840s severely affected that stability in northern Europe, particularly in Scotland and Ireland.

It was at this time that strains from the Chilean potato hearth began to

replace those of Peruvian origin, and as the 19th century ended, they began to dominate European foodstuffs. It is estimated that over 99 per cent of all potatoes produced today contain genetic markers that directly tie it to those Chilean strains.

One of the characteristics of the Chilean varieties, which come from the lowlands of south-central part of the country, was that their tuberization response is a factor of daylength, not altitude as is the case for the Peruvian varieties. As a result, the Chilean types tends to tuberize better in the latitudes of Europe and North America.

Current genetic research has shown that all potatoes originate from the Peruvian complex, meaning that the Chilean varieties were posteriorly hybridized from this source. That said, it is interesting to note that the oldest specimen of wild potato (*Solanum maglia*, dated to 13,000 years before present) was found at the first human settlement of the Americas known as Monte Verde. This famous archaeological site is located near the southern port of Puerto Montt at the gateway to the Chilean Patagonia and the archipelago of Chiloe.

The region of southern Chile has developed modern agriculture in the areas of dairy, grains, and oilseed production that we would recognize

"BY PLANTING THESE TUBERS IN OUR GARDENS AND FIELDS WE NOT ONLY FEED OURSELVES AND THE WORLD BUT ALSO PROPAGATE ITS STORY INTO THE FUTURE."

in Canada today, but small-scale production of the potato is still held in great esteem, in part because of its importance to local diet.

Modern hybrids such as Puyehue potatoes are planted on hillside fields tilled by oxen, while more exotic and colorful varieties are grown in gardens and sold at markets such as those in the city of Castro on Chiloe Island.

So important are the potatoes to the culture that they have made their way into local lore, along with cattle which are equally essential to the regional economies.

The potato is also very relevant to our regional culture and economy—

potato production in Manitoba was second only to P.E.I. on a national scale in 2018.

Its importance is only increased when we consider the historical contexts and routes that have brought it to our plates today.

By planting these tubers in our gardens and fields we not only feed ourselves and the world but also propagate its story into the future.

Marlin Rempel spent over a decade working in hydrogeology (groundwater) in Chile, during which time his interest in the history of the potato was sparked. He now lives in Morden, MB.

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Your FARM



Grasshoppers and heat a disastrous combination

By Patricia Barrett

Grass is running low, crops are being destroyed and cattle are heading to auction in the Interlake as a lethal combination of persistently high temperatures and drought-loving grasshoppers moves in.

The repercussions on farmers and farm families are serious enough, but the unfolding disaster could also have devastating spinoff effects on local economies.

Leroy Loewen is part of a family-run farm in the community of Silver, just south of Arborg in the southern part of the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton. He said pastures in the area have been decimated.

"With the heat and the grasshoppers combined, the pasture behind our place is brown. It looks as if we've sprayed weed killer on it," said Loewen by phone last week.

Grasshoppers hatch well during a dry year and the situation looks dire for all farmers, he said. He feels particularly bad for beef producers as they're very vulnerable right now; there should be "no question of running out of grass," but they are.

"THE PASTURE BEHIND OUR PLACE IS BROWN. IT LOOKS AS IF WE'VE SPRAYED WEED KILLER ON IT."

"At this time of year, we should have tall green grass and it should last for the cattle for a number of months yet. But we're getting to the point where producers are going to have to supplement hay when pastures should be supporting animals 100 per cent," said Loewen. "There's probably going to be a need for hay here to supplement pasture feeding. This is dire for beef producers."

Along stretches of Highway 7, where it passes through Silver, Loewen said the pavement is discoloured from hordes of grasshoppers squished on



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

the road.

"You can see that the highway is a different colour from the grasshoppers that have been driven over," said Loewen. "There are other places like this, but in Silver it's really noticeable."

In the northern part of Bifrost-Riverton, Ledwyn-area grain farmer Gordon Klym said the grasshoppers are mowing fields clean.

"They've devastated the pastures and they're moving into grain. Farmers are spraying, but a couple of days

later they've got to spray again," said Klym by phone. "The grasshoppers were bad last year, and I think they'll be worse this year."

As far as his own land is concerned, he said he's not sure how things are going to play out in terms of a harvestable crop.

"At this point in time it's hard to differentiate between how much damage the drought is causing and how much the grasshoppers are causing," he said. "We see the grasshoppers and we go out and spray. We see flea beetles and we spray. But at the end of the day, if you've got no crop growing because it's too darn dry, are you really doing any good?"

Bifrost-Riverton farmers are doing what they can to get a crop, he said, but it seems as though they're "fighting a losing battle."

For a second year running, Interlake municipalities are declaring a State of Agricultural Disaster, which triggers requests to both the federal and provincial governments for immediate assistance for things such as paying freight costs to bring in feed, compensation to drill new wells and tax deferrals. The municipalities of St. Laurent and Coldwell have already declared disasters, and last week Bifrost-Riverton issued its own declaration.

In addition to "severe drought" and a "critical grazing situation," the recent manifestation of grasshoppers has resulted in "severe crop and vegetation

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Paddling seeing a resurgence in Lake Minnewasta

By Lorne Stelmach

Paddling is enjoying increased interest, and the local Morden Paddle Club is playing a role in helping promote it.

The low water level at Lake Minnewasta which led to a ban on power boats has also proven to be a boon for paddling activity here this summer, noted City of Morden staff last week.

"We've seen a big increase in the amount of people who paddle here," said beach and campground manager Brian Thiessen. "In the last few years, we've really seen it grow, and this year with the low water and the boat restriction, it just brought out that many more paddleboarders and kayakers.

"And it's at all times of the day, too. It's quite a neat thing to see; what we thought was going to be a quiet year on the lake has ended up just turning into an influx ... and that's wonderful to see."

The Morden Paddle Club has been operating in the area under the umbrella of the Manitoba Paddle Asso-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

With power boats kept out of the lake due to drought conditions, people are finding other ways of enjoying the water, including paddleboarding. A workshop was held at the lake on Monday night.

ciation for a number of years now.

Its focus has more so been on rentals, but of late they've been doing more organized camp activities such as the kayaking camp for adults that began July 2 and runs weekly until the end

of August.

The club is also open to new members, with an introductory offer of \$50/month, which gets you access to equipment such as the kayaks, SUPs and lifejackets during the club's open

hours.

Club staff also offer training sessions and guided tours on the water for \$40 for groups of four.

This past Monday, Nature's Edge Tourism was in town to offer an introduction to stand-up paddleboarding. Thiessen said it very much fits with the club's goal of getting more people to try paddling and to get more comfortable with it.

"It's all to give the sport a higher profile in the whole province," he said. "It's a healthy activity to do during the summer that you can do even with COVID restrictions.

"If you've never been on the water before, the whole idea is just to get you to a point where you can feel confident that you can go out by yourself," Thiessen added.

For more information on the paddle club and the rental opportunities at the beach, call 204-822-4991 or email bthiessen@mymorden.ca. You can also find the Morden Paddle Club on Facebook.

> GRASSHOPPERS, FROM PG. 14

damage," states the resolution. Producers are now having to sell off their livestock because feed and the cost of freight is prohibitive.

Keystone Agricultural Producers' District 10 (Interlake, north of Selkirk) representative Paul Gregory said the region is in its third year of drought. The Interlake is no stranger to dry conditions but "not this early in the year and not with this ambient heat." Apart from the October 2019 snowstorm, the Interlake has had little moisture.

And grasshoppers are the product of dry cycles, he said. A warm, dry spring this year came on the heels of a mild winter and has allowed the eggs and the insects to flourish.

"Grasshoppers eat grass, but when they get hungry, guess what? Anything will do, including canola, trefoil crops and even alfalfa," said Gregory, who is also president of Interlake Forage Seeds in Fisher Branch. "This is anecdotal, but my brother-in-law told me he found dead grasshoppers before he sprayed; there are so many grasshoppers competing for food that some are starving."

It's not only the grasshoppers going hungry, but so too are cattle. As Interlake pastures wither from the heat and the voracious insects, one thing people can count on is "more cows for

sale," said Gregory. It makes "no economic sense" for producers to shell out for expensive hay and feed.

"There's nothing for the cows to eat. There might be some pastures that are in OK shape right now, but very quickly with this coming weekend's heat [July 10-11] it will be 32, 34 Celsius and they'll be done. There won't be any pastures in good shape after this. For anyone north of the Trans-Canada Highway, it's looking tough."

The disaster will naturally have a domino effect on rural communities, he said. Big farm producers will get through, but 10-15 small farm families could go bankrupt if they can't make ends meet. That means there will be fewer people to help support local businesses and keep towns ticking along.

Retail sales for his company, which exports seed to China, the U.S. and Europe, are important, but what's more important is the "future of our towns," he said. Fisher Branch, for instance, used to have multiple farm dealerships, lots of stores and a couple of banks. But "that's all done now" because of an exodus of people from agriculture.

"We saw the negative effect on towns when BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] hit. It changed

towns like Fisher Branch, Ashern, Eriksdale and other towns along Highway 6. They would be different today if they had more cattle producers," said Gregory. "A number of my friends who had cattle told their kids to go to Alberta and don't come back to Manitoba because it's too risky and there's no money in farming. If we had a safety net back then or something that would have helped farmers out, there would be way more people in our towns."

The current "safety net" for disasters such as this is a federal-provincial support program called AgriStability. The federal government pays 60 per cent and provinces pay 40 per cent of "eligible" agriculture losses.

The only problem is the program got "watered down" over the years to the point where coverage is "fairly marginal," said Gregory.

The federal Liberal government under Justin Trudeau reached out to Manitoba and other western provinces in 2020, wanting to "tweak the program a little more in our favour" and "bring coverage back to where it could help producers." After about six months of negotiations, Manitoba rejected it.

In a January news release, KAP said it was hoping the province would

support enhancements to AgriStability's reference margin limits and increase the compensation rate from 70 to 80 percent. President Bill Campbell wrote that the program can, with some adjustment, provide "effective support" for producers, and if the province failed to support the enhancements, it would "represent a failure to protect producers and jeopardize the agriculture industry into the future."

Gregory said farmers are in "desperate straits" right now.

"We need long-term safety nets," he said. "We're competing on a world stage. European and American farmers have security. When there's a climate disaster in those regions, farmers are supported. And that means farm families will be there further down the road to pay taxes."

To the best of his knowledge, Gregory said he's not aware of any provincial ad-hoc support for Interlake producers at this time.

"I think the province is well aware of the seriousness of what's going on in this area," said Gregory, "but as far as any hard cash or ad-hoc assistance, I know of nothing yet."

The province's agriculture department acknowledged the Voice's request for comment on relief, but did not provide answers by press time.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Winkler Royals win first match, have high hopes for season

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Royals got a big win in their first cricket game of the summer earlier this month.

The team, who play in the Manitoba Cricket Association's outdoor league in Winnipeg, got a victory of 272-179 in their first outing of the season, which is getting started a fair bit later than usual thanks to COVID restrictions.

"We had a good start," said team captain and Winkler Cricket Club president Deepak Saini, who notes they'll be playing nine more matches through the rest of the summer and into fall.

With last year's season affected by the pandemic, all teams this summer remained in the same divisions as the year before. That means Winkler is still in Division 1, though Saini is hopeful they can work their way up to Premier for next season.

"It all depends on the facilities that we have and whether we're able to source more players locally," he observed, noting they currently have several Morden-Winkler area players and a handful of Winnipeg ones to help round out the team.

"We are looking for more people," Saini stressed, encouraging local cricket players to contact him at 431-451-9528 or through the Winkler Cricket Club Facebook page for detail on suiting up for the team.

The Royals are sporting brand new uniforms this summer thanks to sup-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Winkler Royals are sporting new jerseys this year thanks to sponsorship from Meridian Industries.

port from Meridian Industries, who have also expressed interest alongside other local supporters in sponsoring the creation of Winkler's first cricket field.

That will be a game-changer for the team and the club.

"We need the grounds so we can invite people to watch, so we can play here," Saini said. "That's the only thing that is stopping us, is stopping

the community from really getting involved in cricket."

With any luck, the new field will be up and running before summer's end. It's set to be located beside Northlands Parkway Collegiate.

Once it's in place, the community could see a few exhibition games this year already and a more regular schedule of games and tournaments next summer as well as workshops

to introduce people of all ages to the sport.

Considering how popular baseball is in our area, Saini feels like cricket—also a bat and ball game—could do very well here.

"I've talked with a few guys who play baseball and they definitely want to try it out," he said. "Once we have grounds here they can come in and see and feel what the game's like."

Orioles drop Bisons, crushed by Giants

By Lorne Stelmach

The pandemic-delayed Manitoba Junior Baseball League season finally kicked off this past week with mixed results for the Pembina Valley Orioles.

It was a promising start with a 9-6 win over the Altona Bisons in Morden last Wednesday, but the Orioles then dropped both games of their Sunday doubleheader in Elmwood to the Giants 8-1 and 7-0.

Pembina Valley had a tough time against defending champion Elm-

wood, which is now 4-0, but general manager Jim Odlum was encouraged by what he saw in the opener with the Bisons.

"The boys were excited to be out there and finally get things going," he said. "We came out happy to be there and had a good game. I was pretty happy. The boys haven't had much opportunity to practice, not throwing the ball a lot."

Odlum sees a lot of potential in a roster that offers a good mix of veteran and younger talent this year, and

he liked what he saw on the mound against the Bisons with Kyle Dyck starting followed by Austin Clyne before Thomas Titchkosky closed out the game.

"I was pretty pleased with the pitching ... and as far as the hitting, we started off pretty quick. We put up five or six runs right off the bat," he noted.

"We also had a couple young guys who had great games for us," Odlum added. "And TJ Matuszewski, at the end of the game, made a great catch. Things could have changed if he

didn't make that catch, but he came through for us."

The team hopes to build on what had been a promising season last year before it came to an end in the first round of playoffs.

Pembina Valley ended the summer in third place with a 14-7 record behind Altona in second and Elmwood in first. The pandemic-shortened season then came to a premature end for the Orioles when they bowed out

Continued on page 18

Williams takes home seven titles on opening weekend

By Becca Myskiw

And they're off—Manitoba Harness Racing has officially begun for 2021.

Hosted in Miami all summer long, the sport is hoping to bring in bets and viewers from all over Canada with the help of simulcasting.

June 26 marked the first nine races of the season, and president of the Manitoba Standardbred Racing Industry Trevor Williams cleaned up. He had horses in eight of the nine races and brought home a title in seven of them.

"It felt really good," said Williams. "We have put in tons of hours, so to come out like that is super rewarding for sure."

Driving for Williams in a good chunk of those races was Glen Drew, who was coming off of a four-year layoff. He won six.

"He was a good driver before the layoff, so we weren't too worried about him," said Williams. "But I did think he'd have some rust to shake off



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Trevor Williams had horses win seven times of nine races on opening weekend.

... but he won the first race of the day and went on to win four consecutive ... and won two later in the card ... so he shook off the rust early I'd say."

Of Williams's horses, Read The Proposal, Farmerstrikesfame, Lisplaced,

Filly, and Buck Rogers got first. Pure Addition got second and Dawns Night Owl got third. Other first place winners were Cereal Killer, owned by marc Fillion and Wanda Howlett, Millies Million owned by Richard Rey,

Bold N Sporty owned by Aurel Vodon, and Two Shoes owned by Denis Chapelaz.

The only thing that could have made that weekend better for Williams would be having fans there. Though Manitoba's restrictions have loosened a little, they still don't allow horse racetracks to have any fans present.

So, Manitoba Harness Racing is working off of simulcasting and collecting bets online. On June 26, they took in bets from people in seven different provinces, which is good news, said Williams, but it's not the same.

Having fans at the races and betting in person typically produces more money for the sport and, in Manitoba, that's the only way the racers make their money. Though they'll continue simulcasting for the rest of the season, Williams is hoping the province starts to allow at least some fans to come.

"Every day I'm just refreshing my email and waiting for that health order update," he said last week.

Morden-Winkler had a very active June

By Lorne Stelmach

Neither Morden nor Winkler made the cut in a competition to find the most active communities in the province and across the country, but organizers feel they still achieved their most important goal.

Both communities were promoting fitness challenges this past month to tie in with the ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge, a national physical activity initiative that encourages Canadians to get active.

In Winkler, the CW Wiebe Medical Centre teamed up with Winkler Recreation for the Winkler Activity Challenge to see who could achieve the most activity minutes June 20-26.

Morden was also doing its own bonus fitness challenge throughout June in addition to the ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge where Morden and Stanley residents were encouraged to submit a weekly activity tracker.

"It's not really about getting up to the top," said Stephanie Dueck, recreation programmer for the City of Morden, which did manage to just sneak into the top 20 in the province. "It's about getting people active, which is so beneficial for our health and well-being ... it's one of the best prevention tools that we have, and we know that you feel better when you're active, but we

"IT'S NOT REALLY ABOUT GETTING UP TO THE TOP. IT'S ABOUT GETTING PEOPLE ACTIVE ... IT'S ONE OF THE BEST PREVENTION TOOLS THAT WE HAVE."

have a hard time acting on what we know."

"We were really happy with it ... and we're really hoping to build off it next year," said Nolan Turnbull of the CW Wiebe Medical Centre on how Winkler's challenge went.

Nationally, there was a total of 395,636,113 minutes of activity logged, with Winnipeg, Arborg, The Pas, and Pipestone leading the way in Manitoba to become our province's finalists.

A total of fifty finalist communities across the nation were invited to submit an application explaining why they deserve to be Canada's Most Active Community, earning a grand prize of \$100,000. The winner will be announced later this month.

Winkler is still relatively new to the initiative, so this year provided them with something to build on, Turnbull suggested.

"There was quite the variety of activity," he noted. "We wanted this to be inclusive, so it wasn't just moderate to vigorous activity that you might typically see ... we really wanted it to be anything. There was golf, there was

biking, swimming.

He added that they would like to "work more closely with both Morden Recreation and Winkler Recreation and maybe involve the Menzies clinic to have some sort of contest.

"I really hope that next year we can build on it and hopefully get Winkler and/or Morden a shot at winning the whole thing. We would like to do a collaboration with Morden ... we can help promote each other," he said.

"We want to make sure we can get more events and make it inclusive ... the challenges of COVID made things

a little harder, and hopefully next year we can do in person events."

"I'm happy with the participation that we had ... we were glad to see people were participating and we look forward to participating next year again," said Dueck. "Maybe next year we can have in person events, which would make it more fun as well and engage a bit more on some activities.

"It can take a while for an event like this to get traction, but this is an annual event, so we can gear up more for it each year."

> ORIOLES, FROM PG. 17

in three games in their quarterfinal against Interlake.

Looking forward, Odlum noted one key thing that he saw his team as needing to work on at the moment:

"We've got to cut down the little errors. We had a few errors there that were uncharacteristic. We've got to cut those down, that's the

big thing," he said. "We clean up on those, we'll be okay. We've got a lot of talent, some good bats, and I think we've got good pitching."

This week, the Orioles are scheduled to host St. James Wednesday, visit Winnipeg South Friday, and then welcome Interlake for a Sunday afternoon doubleheader.

My year as a permit teacher

By Dora Hildebrand

After Gr. 12 at the Lowe Farm High School and a six-week summer school course at the Normal School in Tuxedo, I was ready to be a permit teacher! This was 1954-55.

I got the school through my dad, who knew a Mr. Rogers, the official trustee for all Hutterite and Indian schools (that's what we called them at that time).

I taught grades one to three in the James Valley Hutterite Colony near Elie, MB and had 24 pupils in a one-room building which had only a few windows.

The other teacher and principal, who taught the remaining grades to grade eight and supervised the few who were taking grade nine by correspondence, was in another building which looked more like a school than mine did.

I had eight pupils in each grade and the new grade ones couldn't speak any English, so they had them start at the age of five so they had time to learn the language.

I found it very hard to have the kids stick to the English language in school as it was so easy to slip into their Hut-

terite tongue and of course I didn't have a clue what they were saying.

Discipline was another thing that I had to handle.

"You are the teachah" is what the mothers said and they expected me to handle all squabbles, even when they were on lunch break at home or before school. I made it plain that it was their duty then.

But I did put my foot down when some of the bigger girls were missing school and I found out that they were babysitting the little ones when their mother was in the laundry room. Mrs. Fitzpatrick, the principal, told me that they had the grandmothers for babysitting. One day I marched into the laundry room and I explained it to the mother and she complied and said, "You are the teachah."

Then there was the day when I got a love note from Harry who was in Grade 3. Again, I went to the principal and she got me through the situation as well, but I need not have worried because next thing I got a note from a girl that Harry had been kissing so-and-so. Enough of that!

Every day at the last recess a mug of hot coffee and some sweets from the kitchen were delivered, as they thought my 98 pound frame needed something to help me through the day. Not a bad idea, but I never liked their strong coffee.

I didn't have to worry about janitor duties, as many teachers had to,



Heritage Highlights



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The author with her students during her year as a permit teacher.

as someone was assigned to have the stove burning, the floors clean, and so on. We only did the blackboards.

After school the kids went over to the church, I believe, to study German. They spoke in a Hutterite dialect as a rule.

My salary was \$160 a month and they took \$8 off for the Teachers Retirement Fund, which I never collected. My room and board at the Swenson's across the road was \$40 a month.

If I could keep my expenses down to \$12, I could save \$100 every month. Of

course, I had to dig into my nest egg at Christmas time and in spring when my wedding was planned.

I married Hank Hildebrand from Sperling that July 30th and that ended my teaching career. He always claimed that he rescued me.

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

RCMP looking for youth advisory council members

By Voice staff

The Royal Canadian Mountain Police are looking for new members for its National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC).

Canadian residents ages 13 to 21 are invited to apply by Sept. 10, though those who get their applications in by July 30 will be a part of the first selection round and have a better chance of being selected.

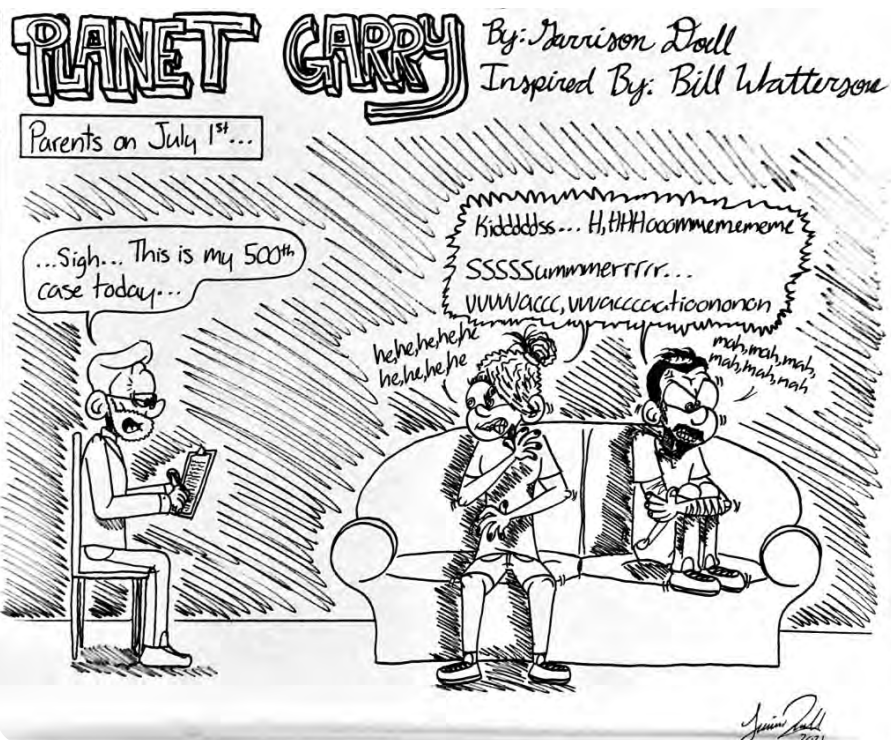
NYAC members interact with participants from all over the country and discuss important issues they

face in their respective communities. They share their thoughts about youth crime and victimization topics and help shape RCMP programs and initiatives. NYAC members can also receive reference letters and volunteer hours.

This commitment requires approximately two to four online hours per month, from October to June.

For more information or to request an application package, email RCMP. Youth-Jeunesse.GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

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FARMLAND TENDER

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER MUNICIPALITY of RHINELAND

Title #	Legal Description	Total Acres
2326730/4	The SE ¼ of Section 16-3-2 WPM Exc the Sly 1320 feet perp.	80

When submitting an offer, please note:

1. The highest, or any, offer will not necessarily be accepted.
2. The date of closing and possession may be selected by the purchaser, provided it be after the 2021 crop has been removed.
3. The date of adjustments will be January 1, 2022.
4. You must provide a certified check or bank draft in the amount of \$10,000.00 payable to Cole & Mace Law Office. The cheques accompanying unsuccessful tenders will be returned.
5. You must rely on your own research of the property.
6. Tenders are binding upon acceptance and not subject to any conditions precedent.
7. Tenders may only be submitted in the form provided by Cole & Mace Law Office; a form of tender may be requested from Cole & Mace Law Office in person at the address below, or by emailing: adam@colemacelaw.com.
8. The Vendor will be responsible for the taxes on the property up to the date of adjustments.
9. The Purchaser will be required to pay GST unless the Purchaser is registered for GST and agrees to self-assess.
10. Title to the land will be transferred free and clear of all encumbrances and liens, excepting Caveat No. 1119404/4.
11. The Vendor will also give consideration to tenders which include an offer to lease the Sly 1320 feet perp of the SE ¼ of Section 16-3-2 WPM (80 acres).

Signed and sealed Tenders will be received up to 4:00 p.m. on July 20, 2021 at:

Cole & Mace Law Office
26 Centre Ave. East, Box 2039, Altona, Manitoba, R0G 0B0
Attn: Adam Mace

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AUCTION



34TH ANNUAL CONSIGNMENT AUCTION IS COMING UP!

Yard opens for receiving, July 22
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MORDEN COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS
ESPECIALLY CASHIERS, AND HELPERS IN THE BACK
Days/Hours Flexible
Application forms can be picked up at 202 North Railway, Morden
Call 204 822 3435 for more info.
Store Hours:
Tuesday – Saturday 10 – 4
Donations Are Appreciated
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Monday – Saturday 8 – 4

PUBLIC NOTICE



**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

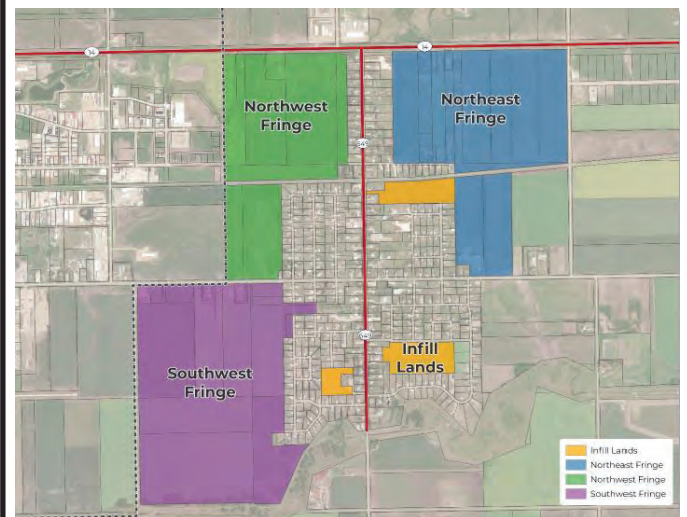
On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY BY-LAW 18-21
Being the adoption of the Reinfeld Secondary Plan

HEARING LOCATION: R.M. of Stanley Council Chambers
1-23111 PTH14, SW 7-3-4W
DATE & TIME: July 29, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

GENERAL INTENT: To adopt a secondary plan for the fringe areas of Reinfeld as well as infill areas shown on the map below. A Secondary Plan is a land use policy document that contains guidance on land use, infrastructure, servicing, and future zoning related decisions for the specific area.

AREA: Future growth areas within Reinfeld highlighted on the map below.



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

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

****Please note: If you wish to provide comments regarding the application, we ask that you consider submitting your comments in writing to our office by email or mail (drop off box also located at the office). We encourage those wanting to participate to contact our office two days in advance to sign up to attend electronically. Due to limited seating, if you wish to be present at the hearing we will require you to contact our office a minimum of 2 business days prior to the scheduled hearing so that we can ensure we can meet the physical distancing requirements. Anyone attending the office will be required to wear a face mask. Please contact mgroening@rmofstanley.ca or call 204-325-4101 two days prior to the hearing. Thank you for your understanding and patience.



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ANNIVERSARY



Joan and Lyle Switzer
60th Wedding Anniversary
Married July 15, 1961
-Congratulations, love and best wishes
from your family,
Glenn, Greg, Mechelle and Jacob
We hope to celebrate together soon.

IN MEMORIAM



Ray Plett
August 13 1952 - July 16 2011
In Loving Memory
I have been without you for 10 long years...
I have shed many silent tears...
You and I were like Fireworks and symphonies
exploding in the sky...
With you I was alive...
Like all the pieces in my heart were in align...
Without you I'm broke...
Like I'm half of a whole...
Without you I have no hand to hold...
These feelings will pass I'm told...
Without you I feel torn...
Like a sail in the storm...
Without you our family is not complete...
Without you I feel defeat...
I know you are in a better place...
But I miss seeing you face to face...
And one day I'll see you again...
I miss you, my husband, my best friend...
I know it is a part of life...
But I wasn't ready to say goodbye...
Your memory lives on...
Without you I'm just a "Sad Song"

-Forever and always
Sherry

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of
P. Doreen Cox
(nee Lucking)
February 8, 1944 - July 26, 2020



"I cried endlessly when you died,
but I promise I won't let the tears
mar the smiles that you gave me
when you were alive."
-Will always be lovingly remembered by
her husband, her children,
her family and friends!
Soar with the eagles and swim with the loons,
Doreen.

AUCTION



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

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

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

OBITUARY



Dale Wayne Stewart
February 5, 1939 - July 5, 2021

It's with great sadness that we share the peaceful passing of our Dad, Grandpa, and Great Grandpa "Pop".
He leaves to mourn sons, Richard and Josie Stewart of Morden (Sheralee and Darrell Forsyth and their children, Jayden, Ty) and Colton Stewart and Lisa Deng; daughters, Cathy and Mark Sandercoc of Morden (Dylan Croll, Meghan) and Colleen and Ken Stelmach of Airdrie, AB (Cole). He will also be missed by his siblings, brother Duncan (Colin) and Joyce, sister, Glenda Bayliss, and brothers, Doug (Nola) and Graham (Marg), sister in-law, Gloria and Dale's dear friend, Catherine Buyarski of Morden. Dale was predeceased by his parents, John and Joyce Stewart, loving wife, Marilyn Stewart, brothers, Brian (Kenneth) and Donald (Joe), brother in-law, James (Jim), nephew, Kenny and in-laws, John and

Verna Hodgson.

We will fondly remember him for his amazing sense of humor, his willingness to listen when you just needed an ear and his surefire way of always telling you what you needed to hear, whether you knew it or not. He always had a story to share, which you may have heard before, but yet he seemed to make more entertaining the second time. Anyone who knew him knew of his passion for farming, his quest for a perfectly cooked roast beef, his delight in finding an overly aged cheese, his respect for the military and his soft heart that would always help a friend in need. Dad always loved to learn something new and had a child-like wonder while visiting any museum, of any kind, anywhere. It brings us great comfort in knowing he enjoyed his last day out "crop inspecting" around the community he loved and grew up in.

In Dad's memory we would love for you to do a simple, random act of kindness for a senior citizen in your community or the next time you're in line at Tim's, buy a coffee for the person behind you. Dad always loved that.

A private graveside service for immediate family was held at Dunston Cemetery on Saturday, July 10, 2021 officiated by Rev. Brian Minaker.

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



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PLUS PST/GST
Stock #21U070



2015 EXPLORER LIMITED 4WD

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STK W10353A

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JUST IN!

2020 GMC SIERRA 2500HD AT4 CREW 4X4



STK W10324A

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