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The Pantry puts call out for volunteers

Sandra Banman (left) and Phyllis Kroeker at The Pantry, the twice-a-week open shelf program that began earlier this year to give more people access to rescued food items. For the full story, see Pg. 3.
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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Volunteers keep nature sanctuary looking spiffy

By Lorne Stelmach

A team of volunteers turned out at the Discovery Nature Sanctuary in Winkler last month to lend a hand with weeding its gardens.

The crew included a number of City of Winkler summer staff as well as several volunteers, including some from the Pembina Valley Watershed District.

Paul Goossen, chairperson of the Discovery Nature Sanctuary committee, stressed the importance of volunteers to the development and upkeep of the expansive nature preserve in northeast Winkler.

"We're fortunate that the City of Winkler has helped out here a lot, but certainly a lot of work is done by volunteers," he said. "It can be a little tough these days to try to get volun-

teers to come out to do this work ... we would always welcome more volunteers."

The overall development and maintenance of the site is an ongoing effort, but a lot of their focus last week was on the pollinator garden area to control the weeds

"THIS SPACE OPENS UP WITH COLOUR."

"We've got beautiful plants that are blooming here right now including Goldenrod and Bergamot and Yarrow and a variety of other plants," said Goossen. "We basically have this set up as a place where pollinators can come and gather nectar ... and just provide a nice habitat. The other thing we've got here is the shrub garden, and it's a great habitat as well hopefully birds find it accommodating."

"It's all turned out quite nice, and I think people enjoy it. You come



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Discovery Nature Sanctuary hosted a weeding day last month, in which volunteers came out to clear the pollinator garden.

around the corner and you see a lot of greenery and shrubbery, and this space opens up with colour."

Goossen encouraged people to consider getting involved as volunteers with the sanctuary.

"It's a great opportunity even just to come out and see the beauty of the garden and the sanctuary and also just to do something for the benefit of the environment and also just for

other people who come by and enjoy it as well.

"It's amazing that we have this right here within the City of Winkler ... for some, it's probably still a bit of a hidden oasis that they're maybe not aware of ... it's always great to see people coming here."

You can find more information online at discoverynaturesanctuary.ca.



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"If you need food, you qualify"

The Pantry is getting rescued food into the hands of more people in our community

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new program aimed at tackling food insecurity in the Winkler area is having a big impact on local families, but they could use a few more dedicated volunteers to keep things running smoothly.

In February, The Pantry, which is run under the umbrella of the Winkler and District Food Cupboard in its space in the Central Station Community Centre on Main St., started up an open shelf system twice a week where everyone is welcome to stop in and supplement their food supplies.

Unlike the weekly food cupboard program, which runs on Wednesdays and asks recipients to come only every other week, The Pantry does not require a referral or registration. Anybody is invited to stop by on Mondays from 5-6:30 p.m. or Fridays from 3-5 p.m. to pick up a selection of the food available that week at no charge.

The shelves at The Pantry are wholly stocked with items from the Winkler Food Rescue program (all monetary donations and food drives organized on behalf of the Winkler Food Cupboard still go specifically to that program; The Pantry is rescued food only).

All of Winkler's major grocery stores participate in the rescue program, donating products that have been overstocked, discontinued, or are nearing their best-buy dates but are still perfectly edible.

This food is put to good use by several schools for their breakfast programs, Central Station for the hot breakfasts and lunches it offers, the Genesis House women's shelter to feed the women and children in their

care, and the food cupboard to supplement the staple grocery products it purchases for its clients.

But the sheer amount of rescued items weekly far exceeds those needs, so The Pantry was launched to ensure no one in our community needs to worry about going hungry when there's so much available food around.

"We had so much food rescued that it felt like it could go to even more people," says Phyllis Kroeker, a volunteer with the food rescue team and The Pantry. "The hope was to open it up more to the community, and we really do feel we've accomplished that."

The Pantry sees representatives from between 85-110 households stop in to pick up groceries each week.

"It's for anyone in the community, anyone who is open to getting rescued food," stresses Kroeker, noting the service area is roughly defined as being the Southern Health-Santé Sud regional health authority catchment. "Our hope would be for it to reach people struggling with food insecurity, but we don't ask questions ... we want to see good food going into bellies instead of out to the landfill."

By keeping the program broadly accessible, volunteers hope that people who might hesitate to ask for help from the food cupboard, for example, even if they could use it, will feel comfortable coming to "shop" at The Pantry.

Volunteer Carla Hamm says they do see some overlap between families who regularly use both food programs.

Continued on page 5



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Sandra Banman (left) and Phyllis Kroeker were all smiles as they stocked the shelves of The Pantry last week.

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MCC Thrift Shop distributes \$45K to local non-profits

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Non-profits across the region are benefitting from the success of the Winkler MCC Thrift Shop.

Board member Dr. Don Klassen began making the rounds last week to distribute grants to 11 Morden-Winkler area charitable organizations.

"We have a local grants budget each year," he explained. "It was \$35,000, I think, last year and we upped it to \$45,000 this year."

As a fundraising arm of Mennonite Central Committee, the bulk of the shop's profits go to relief efforts and programming all over the world—about half a million dollars this past year.

But it's important, Klassen said, to also give back to the community that has supported the store for over 50 years.

"You're allowed to, up to a certain percentage, do local granting, and we've pushed the envelope on that to maximize it," he said.

"It all happens by people bringing

donations to that back door," Klassen stressed of the store's downtown location, where donors keep the shelves stocked with gently used, resalable goods.

While the thrift shop has a handful of paid employees, it very much relies on the 300+ volunteers who come in regularly to sort and fix donated goods, price and get it all out on the shelves, and man the tills.

A volunteer board of directors oversees the big-picture stuff, including making decisions about the annual local grants.

Klassen will spend the next few weeks distributing those cheques. His first stop last week was at Katie's Cottage, which received \$5,000.

Katie Cares executive director Ruth Reimer said she applied for the support because she feels their work lines up well with the values of MCC.

"I wrote in my letter that I felt our mandate and the MCC mandate were so similar in how we operate. We operate with transparency, with integrity, just like MCC does. And it's not



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Dr. Don Klassen presented Ruth Reimer from Katie Cares with a \$5,000 donation last week towards the Katie's Cottage breakfast program. It was one of 11 grants issued from the MCC Thrift Shop in Winkler.

just about giving a handout, but it's a hand up to somebody," she said, explaining respite home guests pay a modest fee for their stay—enough to keep the facility operating but not so much as to be a burden on families dealing with health challenges. "So you're making them feel good, not like they're getting something for nothing. It gives them their dignity."

Likewise, MCC's global programs help people not just in emergency situations but also by providing sustainable solutions to ongoing problems,

observed Klassen.

"A small farmer in Cambodia, for example, somebody who was always flooded out and now grows their crop on a trellis because somebody gave them a few dollars to do it," he said.

Katie Cares will use its donation to support its breakfast program, which provides Katie's Cottage guests with a free meal to start their day.

"It's one less thing for them to worry about," Reimer said

Continued on page 7

Central Energy U15 earns silver, heads to nationals as host team

After a highly competitive U15 AAA season that included more than 40 regular season games and two tournaments, Central Energy captured the silver medal at the Manitoba Softball Provincial Championships—securing their berth at the 2025 Softball Canada Nationals.

The accomplishment is especially meaningful for the team, as they will also have the honour of hosting the Canadian Championships for the first time in Winkler and Morden. Central Energy will be joined at nationals by two other Manitoba teams: the gold medal-winning Eastman Wildcats and the bronze medalist Interlake Phillies.

Central Energy is led by a dedicated and talented coaching team that has committed countless hours to practice and goal-setting with this group of young female athletes.

Coaching staff (Top left photo, L-R):

Todd Folkett (Morden) – longtime high school coach, 1st year with Central
Jenai Buchanan (Crystal City) – Central alumni, 1st year coaching with Central
Kylyn Shindle (Portage) – Central alumni, 4th year coaching, 1st year as head coach
Morgan Miller (Portage) – Phillies alumni, 4th year coaching with Central
Kevin Convery (Morden) – 2nd year coaching with Central

"The coaching staff was very proud of how the team performed at provincials, achieving their goal of finishing in the top two," said assistant coach Kevin Convery. "We feel like we're in a good place heading into nationals in a few weeks. We're looking forward to hosting this amazing event and hope to meet our next team goal—qualifying for the A-side playoffs."

From Aug. 13 to 17, 2025, the softball diamonds in Morden and Winkler will host the 15U AAA Female and Male Softball Canada National Championships, welcoming 31 teams from across the country for a celebration of sport, unity and youth achievement.

Event details and schedule:

www.softball.ca/u15womens

www.softball.ca/u15mens

Instagram: @u15_canadian_fastpitch_2025



Coaching staff



getinformed

A welcome support

From Pg. 3

"There's some familiar faces for sure, but there's a lot that aren't," she says.

"The goal is to offer a dignified kind of shopping experience," Hamm continues. "They come in here and they can choose from whatever we have that day. It's always different, but they can pick their own stuff."

The item limits per household depend greatly on what kind of goods they have on the shelves—sometimes it's 10 items, other weeks it might be 15.

"Ten adds up pretty quickly, so we don't know if we've figured out the formula yet, but we're trying it out," Kroeker says. "It's meant to be a supplement [to regular grocery shopping or the food cupboard hampers families receive]."

People are often invited to take as many fruits and vegetables as they can reasonably use, while dairy and meat products are often restricted to one or two per household to ensure there's enough for everyone.

"Our hope is that if anybody is experiencing hunger and they don't have enough to get by, just come," Hamm says. "We want to see everybody fed and nourished. If you need food, you qualify."

"It's about moving food into people's homes. It's nothing more than that," Kroeker says. "We all need food to eat and we've got excess here and we're sharing it."

Many people start lining up hours before the doors open, though Kroeker stresses that isn't necessary—there's plenty of food to be had, and more in the back to restock the shelves if they should start to empty.

"I would say every 15 minutes or so we're bringing out more," she says. "All the good stuff doesn't go out at [the start] ... we're trying to keep it equal throughout the time that we're open."

They're still working out some of the kinks in the program. Ideally, rather than having people line up outside, they'd like to figure out a way to stagger people's arrival or perhaps even set up a comfortable waiting room space at the community centre where shoppers could relax and chat. For that, though, they need more volunteers.

Right now a dedicated group of volunteers set up The Pantry each Friday afternoon, taking it all back down Monday evening so that the food cupboard program can fill the space a few days later.

"After Monday we pack everything away and make it so it's ready for them on Wednesday," Hamm says. "It's a lot of work."

"We're slowly acquiring more and more volunteers, but we're open to more," she says, noting that if they could get a couple of teams going it would lessen the burden on any one group.

If you'd like to get involved, stop by or give Central Station Community Centre a call (204-325-0257) and they will put you in touch with The Pantry team.

"I LOVE THIS INITIATIVE"

During a recent session at The Pantry, a few of the shoppers shared what the program has meant for them and their families.

Floyd Robles came to the area from the Philippines nearly a year ago. He heard about The Pantry through Central Station and has become a regular there in recent months.

Robles' wife is still back home; he's trying to save as much as he can to bring her to Canada.

"Since the pandemic, it's hit hard, we're still trying to cope, to get back on our feet," he says, noting his company has also felt the financial sting of recent tariffs by the U.S.

The Pantry has been a godsend, Robles shares.

"This has been very helpful," he



A dino-mite day at camp

It's been busy at the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre this summer with the Dino Day Camps going on each day. It is for kids aged 6 to 12, and there can be between eight and twelve kids each day. "We're all about dinosaurs here," said summer instructor Ariana Dueck, who noted they do a wide array of arts and crafts with everything from flower pot painting to making volcanoes to creating hanging squids. "The kids love the sandbox a lot. They love the idea of digging for fossils," she noted. "And we go to the splash park every week as well. They love that, and we do a tour through the museum."

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

says. "I always recommend [it] to the Filipino community here because it has helped us so much."

Soukaini Rochdi moved to Winkler from Morocco with her husband and two daughters last summer. He works at a local fast food restaurant and she has a part-time job in retail.

They've come to love their adopted city.

"I feel like we live in a big family here," Rochdi says. "Everyone wants to help everyone. This is what I love in this city."

Making ends meet has been a challenge for the family as they deal with skyrocketing grocery costs and high rental rates. When all is said and done, she has just a few hundred dollar to spend on groceries, Rochdi shares, so she needs to stretch that as much as possible.

"So this is why I come in here all the time," she says, noting the money they save on food is money they

can save for the future or put towards the other costs that come with raising two young children. "They help me so much just to feed my family. I love this initiative."

The fact that it's rescued food bothers Rochdi not in the slightest.

"Even if I can use [produce] for just one or two days, it's so helpful and useful," she says, noting sometimes when there's been an excess in the produce section on a given week she's taken a bit more to pass along to her neighbours or friends to ensure it's put to good use. "Why throw it out?"

One day, Rochdi hopes to thank The Pantry and the community of donors and volunteers that make this program possible.

"In the future, if I found a good job and I can feed my family, I would not need to come back [to shop], but I will come back here just to give a donation for other people."

Check out the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

The things we carry

Once I was in the artillery. It was a while ago. I was honorably discharged after four years.

Among the many forms of training was a grueling event in midsummer that required us to stay awake for 72 straight hours.

They didn't even tell us this prior to the event. We thought we were going on a three-day exercise that included sleep.

So, on day one, we set up our tents, stripped naked (it was insanely hot and humid at this base along the shores of a great lake), and climbed into our sleeping bags ... blissfully ignorant of the future.

Then, at about 2 a.m., we were shocked awake by the sound of artillery simulators exploding next to our tents.

(ASIDE: An artillery simulator sounds like the firing of an artillery gun and can reach more than 170 decibels. For reference, sounds above 150 dB can be life-threatening—170-200 dB can cause lung damage, pulmonary embolisms, or even burst lungs. Much of what we endured is no longer legal in the strictest sense. In hindsight, it was still fun, and, BONUS, no one died.)

So, shocked awake by artillery simulators and screaming corporals, sergeants, and warrant officers, we rapidly got dressed in a panic, packed up

camp, and stood in formation.

Dress consisted of fatigues, heavy combat boots, helmet, thick socks, belt, large backpack filled with extra clothing, camp supplies, food, weapon (approximately 4.5 kg or 10 pounds), several magazines of ammo (0.68 kg or 1.5 pounds) etc.

Overall, the average kit weighed between 36 to 45 kg or 80 to 100 pounds.

Orders were received. We were the good Canadian artillery (in infantry roles this week). Our officers and senior ranks comprised the enemy (somewhere out there).

Our role was to patrol the area and set up trenches on high ground surrounding a new camp before day's end. Then, we would vigilantly guard the camp through the days ahead.

Temperatures reached well over 30 degrees. Our senior ranks intentionally made us belly crawl through poison ivy. I left the experience infested with it. No showers. Warm water in our canteens.

Most of us were exhausted before day one even came to an end.

Before sunset, we were digging trenches in the heat with crappy combat shovels through almost two meters of shale.

The evening consisted of night at-

tacks by "the enemy" filled with flares, artillery simulators, flash bangs, rifle and machine gun fire, and shouts of orders over the noise.

Rinse and repeat for three days without sleep. Clearly, I survived, and while I hated almost every moment of it, time has turned it into a good memory.

The point of this story? Throughout the whole experience, I wanted nothing more than to strip to my shorts, throw away my helmet, and run away.

In a real combat experience this would have gotten me killed. This can be the same in life.

Often, the greatest weights we carry, the burdens we want to shed, are there for good reason. People, responsibilities, and experiences—they can keep us alive, they can keep us going, even when we may want to shed them the most, often, especially then.

When we are depressed, for example, we want to shed things that feel like burdens. We don't want to get out of bed. We don't want to shower or brush our teeth. We don't want to get dressed. We don't want to see other people. But these are often the very

Continued on page 7

Letter policy

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

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

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

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"It's like a homecoming every year"

Winkler Harvest Festival is on this weekend

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's largest community celebration is on this weekend.

The Harvest Festival takes over the Parkland fairgrounds Friday through Sunday, offering a little something for everyone.

Coordinator Karina Bueckert is most looking forward to this year's stage acts, which include up-and-coming country crooner Owen Riegling on Friday, '90s rockers Big Sugar on Saturday, and Christian band Tenth Avenue North on Sunday.

"I'm excited about all of them. We have some pretty big names coming, and we also have quite a variety of

local Manitobans taking the stage as well," she said, pointing to opening acts like Joe Wilson and Catie St. Germain Friday, The M'Ladies and Link and the Moustaches Saturday, and the Quonset Brothers and The Color Sunday.

The rest of the festival schedule is full of familiar favourites: the Fawn & Cub market, Prairie Exotics displays, a host of children's activities (the petting zoo, obstacle course, and more), board and video gaming competitions inside the exhibition centre, the Saturday morning parade, entertainment in the beer gardens, a Strong Man competition, free swimming at the RCU Aquatic Centre, the community worship service, the car show, fireworks, and, of course the Wonder Shows midway filled with rides and games.

This year you can avoid the lines for midway wristbands by picking them up at the Meridian Exhibition Centre offices during business hours in the days before the festival.

"Those lineups are always so long, so I'm excited to see how that will play out," said Bueckert, noting you can buy a band for any specific day of the festival for \$40, which gets you unlimited rides.

Speaking of the midway, Bueckert notes they're once again offering a quiet morning from 10 a.m. to noon. Though all are welcome during this time, the rides and games will operate without any music or bright lights to help those with sensory challenges



VOICE FILE PHOTO

There's something for everyone at the Winkler Harvest Festival this weekend.

feel more comfortable.

"We did it for an hour last year and this year we've built it into a two-hour morning during the parade," Bueckert said, adding it was pretty well received last year and they hope to grow the attendance at it this and future years.

With construction ongoing at the Winkler Centennial Arena, Bueckert reminds festival-goers that parking is going to be even more limited than usual in the Parkland area this weekend.

"We're asking for a little grace from people," she said, urging anyone who can get to the fairgrounds without a car to consider doing so.

However you get there, come ready to celebrate and to greet all the old friends you'll most likely

run into at the festival.

"There's so many different people that come out. It's like a homecoming every year," Bueckert said. "Everybody comes home and gets to see everybody again."

"That's what I love about being the director is I remember when I was a kid, all those memories of the festival, seeing everyone. Being part of it now is very cool for me."

You can learn more about the weekend's schedule at visitwinkler.ca/harvest-festival.

> MCC, FROM PG. 4

"We do all our own baking here," she shared, noting they source all their supplies from area growers and stores. "It's important to us that we support local."

Also receiving MCC funding over the next few weeks will be the Central Station Community Centre (\$6,000), Tabor Home (\$2,000), The Bunker youth ministry (\$5,000), Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley (\$2,000), Genesis House (\$5,000), the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre (\$4,000), Segue Career Options (\$4,000), Gateway Resources (\$4,000), Sixteen13 Ministry (\$4,000) and the Winkler-Morden chapter of Habitat for Humanity (\$4,000).

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

things that stave off depression and lift us from it.

There were so many moments I wanted to drop everything and run. But I couldn't ... they were there to keep me safe even when I hated the burden. Not only that, I was there to keep others safe.

No different than a firefighter's heavy clothing, helmet, mask, and oxygen tank. Brutal burdens, but imagine if they were discarded in a moment of frustration; injury and death would soon follow.

What are you carrying with you that you want to toss? Is it people? Responsibilities? Existence? Before doing so, consider the reason the burden is there. They may just be keeping you and others alive.



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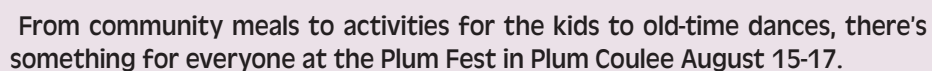

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"We plan our stuff, or the majority of our stuff, so that you can attend everything. You don't have to miss out on one thing or the other or have to split up a family to go to different activities," she said. "This year, we wanted to have stuff for adults, teenagers, and for kids ... so you can be

On Saturday, following the pancake breakfast, there will be a parade along with the traditional duck race at 1 p.m. and the firemen's rodeo at 2 p.m. Legends Car Club will also be there for a show Saturday afternoon.



Continued on page 2

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Then the evening will feature a farmer sausage dinner and stage entertainment from The Dueling Pianos, Dark by Three, Janzen Boys, Low Stake Affection, and Vinyl Revival.

The day wraps up with the old-time dance followed by fireworks at dusk.

"We try to keep with as many local bands as possible," noted Dyck. "We want to support local."

Sunday will include a community worship service as well as Jordan Janzen on the main stage and then a cornhole tournament.

"Every year we always talk about

maybe going down to one day, but we just keep getting a little bigger," said Dyck.

She sees it as perhaps helping draw people to come back to Plum Coulee again and again.

"And Plum Coulee has continued to grow," she noted. "It's growing by leaps and bounds, so it's nice to see that it's not a dying small town."

"We have huge support. We have lots of sponsors from within Plum Coulee, and without them, we wouldn't have a festival at all."

You can check out the full festival schedule online at plumfest.com/.



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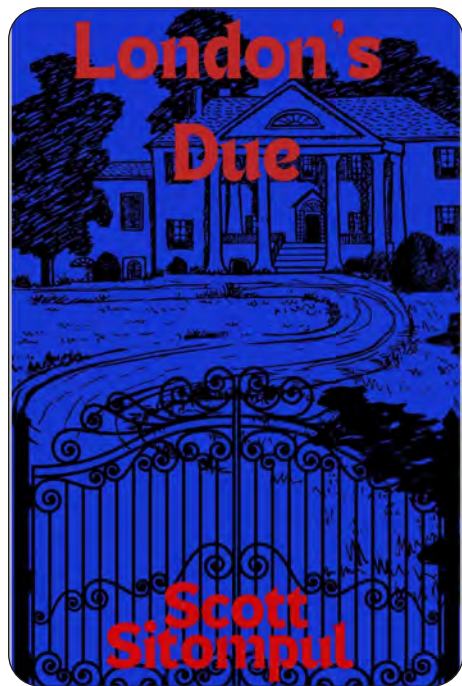
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Local author releases second book in series

By Lorne Stelmach

A Mordenite's writing career is continuing to take off with the recent



publication of his second novel.

Scott Sitompul has published *London's Due*, which continues with the central character in his first novel, *London Calling*, and he is buoyed by the support and encouragement he



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Scott Sitompul's second novel, *London's Calling*, is out now.

has received for his work.

"I think the reception was very good from the community and from friends and family ... that was all I needed to start on book two."

Sitompul shares that he has been long drawn to writing.

"It was a way to help my imagination grow, and it was a good way for me to express myself."

He's always had a knack for the written word and had initially done a bit of writing for public speaking engagements before tackling the challenge of writing a book.

It was a welcome surprise then a few years ago when his novel was accepted by a publisher.

"It was exciting starting down that route of becoming an author," said Sitompul.

The first book revolves around a woman named Constance who finds out that she is related to Jack the Ripper. She finds letters written by her uncle, the notorious serial killer, and learns of a blood feud going back centuries and how he had been caught up in it. Now she must finish what he started.

Sitompul feels drawn to writing mysteries or thrillers based on history.

"Ever since school, I've really been into history and been trying to learn as much as possible ... and through that, I learned about London, and I learned about Jack the Ripper and just all the fascinating history that comes

with learning about the past."

He admitted it was a bit of a challenge to find a different twist to writing something involving such a well-known character.

"I wanted to do my own spin on it," he said.

The second book in the London series continues with Constance as the main character.

"She's kind of working through some issues, and she's just trying to figure out what her place is in the grand scheme of things," said Sitompul.

He feels drawn to the character, perhaps in part due to having strong women in his own life, he suggested.

"From there, she just kind of took on her own style ... she was kind of fierce and wouldn't take no for an answer, and she was willing to do whatever it took to get what she needed done."

He looks forward now to going further with the character.

"I kind of knew I wanted to do a series, but I just didn't know which direction at first ... I kind of really fell in love with the character that I created and wanted to see where I could go with her," said Sitompul. "I'm already working on book three, but from there, I'm really not quite sure where I might go with it, but there's lots of different avenues I could explore."

You can find both *London's Calling* and *London's Due* on Amazon.

Morden Police launching scavenger hunt

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Police Service kicked off a scavenger hunt this week as a way to engage with the community in a fun way.

"It's just to kind of get some more community involvement and get a little more active with our social media," explained Insp. Sean Aune, who noted a couple members came up with the idea from having done something on their own in the past.

"We're always looking for more ways to have positive interactions with members of the community in different ways," he said. "We thought this would be a nice fun way to get some community involvement."

Starting the week of Aug. 5, the police service planned to release one or two weekly posters on social media with a clue that will lead to a predetermined local establishment. Participants can visit the location and take a selfie or photo of the clue to post to social media to show their progress.

They also ask that people don't forget to tag the Morden Police Service in their post.

Be sure to keep track of each clue, as they will come together to form a final cipher that will reveal the location of the final challenge.

The first person to arrive at the final location will receive a special challenge coin, which can then be brought to the police station to claim a \$200 cash prize.

Aune noted their members had some fun with planning it all.

"They had put a bit of work into it ... and the clues were all set to be launched this week," he said. "If people follow us either on Facebook and or Instagram, that's where they're going to see the rules."

There will be one or two clues a week through the month in the lead up to the final find.

"We wanted to keep it open with all sort of all ages in mind," said Aune. "We want it open to everybody to participate and have with it."

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Outdoor train display takes hobby to another level

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden resident has taken his model railroad hobby to another level with a large outdoor display.

Michael Mann and his wife Shannon welcomed visitors to their Pembina Drive back yard for an open house in June, and they had over 60 people show up over a two-day period to check out the display.

"It was a good opportunity to showcase it because we hadn't had an open house for a few years, and we thought it was time," said Mann, who had been part of a previous garden tour because of the novelty of their outdoor train display.

The area along their rear yard fence line is almost entirely taken up with the display, which includes an outer larger loop and smaller inner loops as well as one that leads the train back into a small storage area. There is even a mountain as well as a pond and water feature.

Mann didn't really grow up with model railroads as a big passion, but there is some family connection to it as a hobby.

"I think my dad would have had something growing up ... but his brother had a layout, at least in later years. He hand built his switches and his track and stuff, so I suspect the family interest went back to their youth," Mann said, recalling as well that there had been a setup that ran between his room and his brother's room when they were kids.

"So trains were kind of there in the

background for me," he said, recalling at one point as an adult having happened to go to Minneapolis where they found a store with model trains. "And before we knew it, an hour and a half later, we came out with a starter set.

"Time and life and everything else kind of takes over ... and I had not had a layout for a number of years ... we hadn't had any trains for a while, and so it piqued the interest."

Mann likes the train sets that are G-scale, the largest commercially available scale. Because of their size, these trains are perfect for outdoor garden railroads and large indoor displays.

"I don't know if anyone else in Manitoba has an outdoor layout like this," noted Mann.

There's a lot of work involved to not only build such a display but maintain it as well.

"It was a family-type of event designing and building this," Mann shared. "Some layouts will be much larger ... at about a hundred feet here, we're happy with what we've got, knowing that it takes a lot to maintain it as well. And if you've got a busier summer where you're doing a lot of other things, it can quickly get weedy."

He enjoys the process of creating it all, problem solving, and keeping the trains running smoothly.

"The trestles were all hand built based on a template that I had," he explained, observing that the railway ties that are part of the display



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Michael Mann with his giant outdoor train display, which he and his wife Shannon shared with the community by way of an open house a few weeks ago.

are eventually going to need to be replaced.

"It's always interesting to check out things online to see what others are doing as to how you can work or rework things to suit the backyard situation here," Mann added.

A big part of the attraction for him is simply the nostalgia aspect of it all.

"It's just the uniqueness of having such a thing," Mann said. "It's just unique.

"We like the steam era as opposed to something more modern and diesel, so we're modelling something from the 1800s," he noted. "We're happy with it ... for us, just watching the train go around is enjoyable."



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getinformed

Winkler Arts and Culture hosting festival mini escape room

By Ashleigh Viveiros

If you need a short break from the heat and the crowds at the Harvest Festival this weekend, the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre has got you covered.

The Park St. gallery is hosting its first-ever mini escape room Friday and Saturday.

"We wanted to kind of try to capitalize a little bit more this year on the Harvest Festival being right across the street," explained executive director Jered Hildebrand. "We wanted to bring more people in and thought what could we do for a special one or two-day event that wouldn't take too much away from the festival, because we don't want to do that. Just something people can stop in, do for a bit, and then head back out again."

WAC staff have transformed the

upper gallery into an escape room that tells the story of Parisian artist Jacques L'Artiste, who has gone missing on the opening night of his first solo show.

The curator of the Cool Art Gallery has called you in to recover Monsieur L'Artiste and save the gallery's reputation before the public begins to arrive.

"You need to follow the clues as you would normally in an escape room," Hildebrand says, sharing that they've created a few custom paintings to set the scene. "Hopefully at the end you'll have found Jacques and you can bring him to us and have your group's name put in for a draw for a \$50 Winkler Arts and Culture gift card."

He says the puzzle will take people less than 20 minutes to solve, so it's the perfect bite-sized break.



"Come in, have some fun, enjoy the air conditioning," Hildebrand says.

The escape room is available on Friday from 3-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's aimed at groups

of two to six people and designed for ages 10+.

Admission is free, and pre-registration is not required.

Measles exposures at BTHC, Winkler clinic

By Voice staff

Public health officials are warning

the public about two new measles exposure sites in our area.

Anyone who was at these locations

during the dates and times indicated are asked to monitor for symptoms until the identified date:

- Boundary Trails Health Centre emergency department on July 26 from 10:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Aug. 18.

- C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre urgent care, 385 Main St., Winkler on July 25 from 3-5:30 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Aug. 17.

Public health is asking anyone who was in these locations during this time to check their immunization records and ensure they are up to date with measles vaccine (MMR or MMRV).

If symptoms occur, contact your health care provider. You're urged to call ahead before going to a health care facility so medical staff can take steps to reduce the exposure of other people to the virus.

A full list of exposure sites and further information about measles is available at gov.mb.ca/health/public-health/diseases/measles.html.



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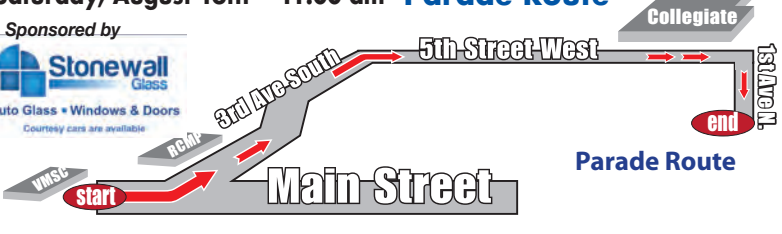
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Tickets to Katie Cares fashion show on sale Aug. 14

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Katie Cares is shaking things up for its 12th annual Celebration of Life Fashion Show next month.

Tickets for the popular fundraiser in support of the non-profit and its respite home, Katie's Cottage, go on sale Thursday, Aug. 14 at 9 a.m.

This year's event is moving to Morden, taking place at the Access Event Centre on Saturday, Sept. 27.

Also new this year is there are two different time slots for people to choose from: a 12:30 p.m. matinee and a 7 p.m. evening show, each with their own bands and raffle prizes.

"We have a raffle with so many beautiful prizes," said organizer Ruth Reimer said, sharing that the matinee show will feature music from M'Ladies while the Bare Yogis will take the stage for the evening show.

The events will both include a charcuterie board, a sparkling wine reception, and a full bar.

"We tweak it a little every year," Reimer said. "Lots of tweaking and making it better and better."

Although there are two shows, it's still about the same number of tickets as in past years.

"We'll do 320 seats at the matinee and then again at the evening show," she said. "We did 684 there [at the Meridian Exhibition Centre] last year and we wanted to kind of keep it similar and not go too far backwards."

She's excited at the opportunity of potentially drawing people from further away for whom the evening show simply didn't work.

"We've already had inquiries about, let's say, a seniors group from Carman. They can drive out together on a bus, come for the afternoon, and then they're home for the evening."

As always, the models strutting the catwalk are people whose lives have been touched by cancer. They'll be sharing their stories.

"They're also going to hear stories of what it means to stay at Katie's Cottage," Reimer said. "We have a guest who's going to be sharing that, and we're going to hopefully have some parents share what getting a Beanie Baby meant for their child."

Katie Cares hands out thousands of Beanie Babies and other care items to children receiving treatment in local health care facilities each year.

The fashion show is always a sold-out event, often within days of tickets going on sale.

"We have not had an event where we've not sold out," Reimer said, urging people to book their seats early to avoid disappointment. "I think it's going to go fast again this year."

It's \$75 per ticket (with a \$50 tax receipt) or \$600 per table (\$400 tax receipt). Tickets can be purchased starting Aug. 14 at Katie's Cottage or by calling 204-312-8445 or 204-362-1173.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The 12th annual Celebration of Life Fashion Show will have both a matinee and an evening showing to choose from on Sept. 27.

Katie Cares also has its online auction running this fall in partnership with Grunthal Auction Service.

"That's creating a lot of excitement," Reimer said. "There are a lot of good items up for grabs."

Go to grunthalauctionservice.com to see what's on the auction block. The auction opens Sept. 20 and will close the day of the fashion show.

Both these fundraisers are vital to

the operations of Katie Cares, which includes offering the families of patients at nearby Boundary Trails Health Centre an affordable and welcoming place to stay.

"We rely on our fundraisers and then the grants and donations," Reimer said. "We work hard to be fiscally responsible with that money, being truthful and transparent and honest in how we spend it."

Southland Mall marking 40 years with Friday grand reopening

By Voice staff

The Southland Mall is marking 40 years in the community with a special celebration this week.

The complex is holding a grand re-opening Friday, Aug. 8 starting at 11 a.m. with a ceremony featuring speeches from dignitaries, a performance by Indigenous dancers, and a cheque presentation to a local charity.

That will be followed by a free pulled pork lunch for the first 500 guests, live music from noon to 2 p.m., kid's activities, community booths highlighting local non-profits, and door prizes.

"We're thrilled to celebrate this milestone with the people who have made Southland Mall a cornerstone of the community for 40 years," said Brienne Wright, CT REIT property manager, Western Canada. "This event is not only a celebration of our past, but a look forward to an exciting future."



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY MERLIN HEPPNER

A giant timeline mural at the north end of the Southland Mall lays out the facility's history stretching back to its grand opening in August of 1984 through to today.

The mall has recently undergone major renovations to welcome new retailers, including Winners, which

opened there earlier this year.

A timeline of the facility's history has also been installed at the mall's

north end showcasing key milestones and memorable moments.

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

sports & recreation

Central Energy U15AAA claims silver after rain-delayed provincial final

By Lana Meier

The Central Energy U15 AAA softball team brought home silver from the 2025 Softball Manitoba U15 AAA Female Championships, which concluded Wednesday in Winkler after rain delays paused play the previous weekend.

Central fell 10-6 to the Eastman Wildcats in the rescheduled gold medal game, despite a strong offensive performance. The squad collected 15 hits to Eastman's seven but couldn't hold a late lead, surrendering eight runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Ella Conrad went 3-for-5 with two doubles and an RBI, while Payton Manness, Shyanne Goertzen, and Bree Pearce each added multiple hits. Central opened the scoring in the first with an RBI single from Zoey Shantz and led 4-2 by the fourth, but Eastman capitalized on defensive miscues and timely hits to secure the championship.

Earlier in the day, Central earned a berth in the gold medal game with a 14-5 comeback win over the Interlake Phillies, who took home bronze. Down 5-0 in the first, Central exploded for five runs in the third and seven more in the fourth.

Hailey Baldwin powered the comeback with two hits and four RBIs, including a key two-run single. Manness, Pearce, and Conrad also drove in runs, while Goertzen picked up the win in the circle, allowing one earned run over five innings.

The strong finish capped a dominant run through round-robin and early playoff play, where Central posted shutout wins over the Manitoba Angels, Winnipeg Lightning Slatch, Westman Magic, and Interlake Phillies, as well as high-scoring



Central Energy's Shyanne Goertzen pitched back-to-back games in the bronze and gold medal matchups, helping secure a comeback win over Interlake before delivering a standout performance against Eastman. Goertzen held the Wildcats scoreless through five innings and was named player of the game by her coaches.

victories against Smitty's Terminators and others. Their only losses came at the hands of eventual gold medallists Eastman.

With their silver medal, Central Energy now turns its attention to the U15 Female Canadian Championships, which they will host in Winkler from Aug. 13-17. Eastman and one other top-finishing team will join them at nationals, while Interlake and another qualifier will represent Manitoba at the U15 Female Western Canadian Championships in Calgary, Aug. 1-4.



The Central Energy U15AAA team poses for a photo after winning silver at the 2025 Softball Manitoba Provincial Championships. Pictured left to right, back row: Morgan Miller (assistant coach), Kylyn Shindle (head coach), Shyanne Goertzen, Hailey Baldwin, Shayna Driedger, Ella Conrad, Kylie Wiebe, Blaine Wiebe, Jenai Buchanan (assistant coach), Kevin Convery (manager/coach); front row: Harper Manness (bat girl), Bree Pearce, Amelia Wytinck, Sinead Convery, Payton Manness, Kelsey Dyck, Zoey Shantz, Arabella Goertzen (bat girl); Missing from the photo are Todd Folkett (assistant coach), Melissa Pearce (manager), and Ashton Wytinck (bat boy).



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Central Energy's Zoey Shantz slides safely into third base, beating the throw to Interlake Phillies' Brynn Williams during the bronze medal game at the 2025 Softball Manitoba U15 AAA Female Championships.

Local athletes off to Canada Summer Games

By Lorne Stelmach

The south central region of the province is well represented on Team Manitoba that is competing at the 2025 Canada Summer Games starting this week.

There are 374 athletes overall who will compete for Manitoba at the 19-sport competition Aug. 8-25 in St.

John's, Newfoundland along with 94 coaches and managers and 26 mission staff.

Among the mission staff is Winkler area teacher Pat Alexander, who has been involved in a number of Games over the years.

"I've kind of covered the whole gamut. I've been an athlete, a manager, a coach, and I've been part of the

mission staff for a number of Western Canada and Canada Games," he noted. "I love the Games. I love going ... and in whatever capacity that is, I'm more than willing to give back ... it's a really fun opportunity.

"I just love the whole atmosphere of the Games. I love the excitement, the energy; I like being around the athletes ... I like helping whether that's

cheering or coaching or whatever role it is I'm in," Alexander added.

"Growing up, I got so much from sports and coaches in the past ... I always want to make it my number one priority to give back because I got so much from it, and this is one of those opportunities to do that."

Continued on page 16

Central Charge takes silver at U17 AA provincials in Carman

By Lana Meier

The Central Charge came within a run of a provincial title at the 2025 Softball Manitoba U17 AA Female Championships, earning silver after a dominant run through round-robin play and a standout semifinal performance.

The Carman-hosted event began July 25 and was initially scheduled to conclude on July 27, but heavy rain shut down the medal round last Sunday, bringing the tournament to a premature halt. Play resumed on July 31 to complete the semifinals and finals.

Central Charge stormed through Pool A with a 4-0 record, including a 16-0 shutout over the Manitoba Reapers, a 15-3 win over the Southwest Strikers, and a 13-6 win against the Eastman Blaze. They capped round-robin play with a 14-5 win over the Bonivital Bolts.

"I think there were a couple factors that helped the girls peak for provincials," said head coach Matt Victor. "They had a disappointing Showcase in June that saw them outside the top-tier teams. They took that one hard. Jason [Wolfe] has been instrumental—keeping the girls focused in the practices and games, and giving them purpose. They really improved from start to finish. Lastly, the ladies want to play for each other. That's special."

In the semifinal on Thursday, Central defeated Westman Storm 13-0 on the back of a clutch performance from Megan Preteau, who drove in four runs on two hits, including an inside-the-park grand slam in the second inning. The team scored five runs in that frame alone and added insurance in the third with an RBI single from Lauren Kutny.

"That was a big moment for Me-

gan—and our group," said Victor. "Down two strikes, bases loaded and able to square up the barrel like that for a grand slam... just special."

Pitcher Brielle Thiessen earned the win, allowing just four hits over five innings while striking out six.

"Brielle was absolutely dominant on the mound," said assistant coach Jason Wolfe. "She was hitting her spots, changing speeds effectively, and keeping hitters off balance all game. Even with the pressure of the game on the line, she didn't flinch. She worked quickly, stayed focused, and trusted her defence."

The Charge tallied 14 hits, including multi-hit games from Kutny, Delany Darby, Ivy Hildebrand and Alexa Desrochers. Defensively, the Charge played error-free ball and turned a double play, with Madison Guthrie recording a team-high six chances in the field.

"Those were standout performances in the semis, no question," said Wolfe. "But if you ask them, they'll be the first to tell you it was about the team. Every success was shared, and that's what made it so fun to be a part of."

In the gold medal game later that evening, Central's comeback effort fell just short as they dropped a 7-6 heartbreaker to the Westman Heat. Down four runs in the fourth, the Charge clawed back to take a 6-5 lead in the top of the seventh, with runs scored by Thiessen and Presley Wolfe. But the Heat tied the game in the bottom of the seventh and pushed across the winning run to take gold.

"It was a rollercoaster of a game—especially the seventh inning," said Victor. "There wasn't much to say after those types of games. We were proud of their season and how resilient they were to come back from 5-1 and fight to take a 6-5 lead into



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Central Charge earned silver at the 2025 Softball Manitoba U17 AA Female Provincial Championships, falling 7-6 to the Westman Heat in a thrilling gold medal final July 31 in Carman. The team went undefeated through round-robin play and shut out Westman Storm in the semifinal. Pictured left to right, back row: Tasha Worms (assistant coach), Matt Victor (coach), Megan Preteau, Madison Guthrie, Brielle Thiessen, Presley Wolfe, Ella Victor, Lauren Kutny, Jason Wolfe (coach), Delany Darby, Ivy Hildebrand, Kara Hildebrand (manager); Front row, Taytum Worms, Alexa Desrochers, Mia Van Den Bosch. Missing from the photo are Leah Marek and Madeline Bergen.

the bottom of the seventh. We talked about how these moments build character and will make you stronger. We had a great group."

Desrochers went the distance in the circle for Central, striking out nine and walking six while allowing four earned runs. Thiessen led the team with two RBIs, while Darby and Mia Van Den Bosch collected two hits apiece. Central showed discipline at the plate, drawing 12 walks and turning two double plays.

"These ladies will remember the bonds created with each other and not the one-run loss," added Wolfe.

Looking ahead, Victor said the tournament reinforced the importance of building strong development pro-

grams.

"The AA program is growing and showing more interest throughout our region," he said. "These programs need to continue to teach the basic skills and build them into habits, and have good mentors to keep the players engaged and curious. Make the programs competitive and fun—we'll keep players coming back if there is purpose and fun doing it."

Despite the narrow defeat, the Charge left Carman with heads held high after a tournament full of strong pitching, timely hitting and excellent team defence. Westman Storm claimed bronze with a 14-1 win over Bonivital in the third-place match.

Mud Hens crack Whips

Morden, Cartwright square off for championship

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Mud Hens are the Border Baseball League East Division champs after knocking out the Winkler Whips in the semi-finals last week.

Morden dominated the series, winning games one and two (by scores of 13-5 and 14-10) before faltering in game three with a 7-1 loss.

But they bounced back to down the Whips 5-2 last Tuesday night in front of a hometown crowd, earning the

division title and a seat at the championship table against West Division champs the Cartwright Twins.

Game one Friday night in Cartwright went Morden's way 7-4.

The Mud Hens then pulled off a 4-3 win Monday night at home in game two to take a 2-0 series lead.

Game three is back in Cartwright Tuesday night.

The series continues with game four, if needed, in Morden next week Tuesday, Aug. 12, and then game five in Cartwright Wednesday, Aug. 13.



Morden beat Winkler to take the Border Baseball League East Division title last week.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Mutcheson fdn. presents annual scholarships

By Lorne Stelmach

The lasting legacy of a Mordenite carries on with the presentation of annual scholarships through the Michael Mutcheson Memorial Foundation.

The 2025 Michael Mutcheson Memorial Scholarship Fund scholarships were recently presented to Morden Collegiate graduates Easton Hildebrand and Logan Lesser.

"I am extremely grateful ... receiving this scholarship means a lot to me, as it will assist me in my goal to pursue a degree in secondary education as well as my dream to play college baseball at Northeast Iowa Community College," said Lesser. "I would like to thank the scholarship committee and Mutcheson family for selecting me for this award."

"Out of all the scholarships I applied for, this was the most personal, as my uncles received this scholarship when they were my age," noted Hildebrand. "I also had the privilege of being trained by Mike along with Ray Mutcheson when I was younger. I feel extremely honoured and blessed to use this towards furthering my education and playing hockey in On-

tario."

The \$3,000 awards are presented annually in memory of Mutcheson, an MCI alumnus whose remarkable life continues to inspire.

Mutcheson went on to represent Hockey Canada at the European university tournament—leading the team in scoring—then signed with the Detroit Red Wings. He later rose to become vice president of AIG Insurance. He passed away at age 42, leaving behind a legacy of excellence, generosity, and friendship.

In his memory, friends and family established the Michael Mutcheson Memorial Foundation, which has since donated over \$1 million to children's charities across Canada, including \$50,000 to the Boundary Trails Health Centre neonatal unit. The foundation has also awarded more than \$300,000 in scholarships to students who, like Mutcheson, demonstrate grit, promise and heart.

"Being able to support youth in pursuing their dreams through Michael's legacy has been a meaningful part of our family's healing journey after the loss of our beloved brother," said Ray Mutcheson. "The letters we receive from recipients, sharing how



SUBMITTED PHOTO

2025 Michael Mutcheson Memorial Scholarship winners Easton Hildebrand (second from left) and Logan Lesser (second from right) with (from left) Michael Mutcheson Memorial Foundation board members Jack Mutcheson, Jim Mutcheson, and Ray Mutcheson.

the scholarship has helped them work toward their goals, have been deeply moving and cathartic.

"We are incredibly grateful to continue honouring Michael's memory more than 30 years after his passing by helping young people take steps toward bright and promising futures."

At this year's Morden Collegiate graduation ceremony, Ray Mutches-

on addressed the class of 2025 and offered a heartfelt message of encouragement, particularly for students who may not have achieved top academic standing.

"Michael's story proves that success is not measured by grades alone," he said. "To all the graduates ... there are many paths to greatness. Your story is just beginning."

From Pg. 14

Other local athletes and coaches joining Alexander on Team Manitoba include:

- Katie Heppner, apprentice coach, baseball, Winkler.
- Andrew Giesbrecht, athlete, baseball, Altona.
- Kirsten Giesbrecht, athlete, baseball, Altona.
- Soren Reid, athlete, baseball, Manitou.
- Hudson Nikkel, athlete, baseball, RM of Stanley.
- Graham Thiessen, athlete, baseball, RM of Stanley.
- Halle Penner, athlete, basketball, Carman

- Brooklyn Friesen, athlete, softball, RM of Stanley.
- Nelia Fehr, athlete, softball, Morden.
- Kate Sawatzky, athlete, cycling, Altona.
- Mia Sawatzky, athlete, cycling, Altona.
- Séléstine Braun Liu-asomua, athlete, volleyball, Altona.

Nelia Fehr said she was extremely honoured to represent Manitoba on the national stage.

"It has been a dream of mine since I was 10 to play on Team Manitoba, and it's really cool to see that my hard work payed off. I remember watching the Team Manitoba girls practicing when I was younger, and

I really looked up to them. I told my mom that one day I wanted to play on that team too.

"I started playing softball at the competitive level when I was 11, and since then I've been spending my summers going to tournaments and playing games, and my winters were filled with training and practicing," Fehr noted. "Being a pitcher, you have to put in a lot of hours of practice, and it can be mentally challenging at times, but I had a goal in my mind, and I knew that I could accomplish it if I put in the work."

Fehr said being able to play for this team has helped her grow as an athlete and challenge herself.

"I am so excited to play against

some of the top athletes in the country and push myself to a new level," she said. "Our team has been training together and going to tournaments for the last year, and I can't wait to see what we will accomplish together in Newfoundland."

"Softball has brought me so many cool experiences and brought me so many different places, and I'm so thankful to get the opportunity to visit another province while playing the game I love," Fehr added. "This will be the highest level of competition I have ever played, and I'm excited to do it surrounded by such an amazing team."

Alexander observed that these Games are a really major opportunity for these young athletes.

"Most of the athletes are maybe use to going to interprovincials or even possibly into the States for various competitions, but it's usually just your own sport," he noted. "This is a true multi-sport Games."

"I would have loved to have been involved in something like this," he said, adding he is pleased to see good representation from our region. "I didn't realize how many were from this area. That's great to see. It just shows the strength of minor sports in our region and the development that we get."

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PUBLIC NOTICE



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 10/25 - BY-LAW NO. 10-25

VILLAGE LOW-PRESSURE SEWER CONNECTIONS

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Stanley has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chambers on the **21st day of August, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** to present the following local improvement plan:

Local Improvement Plan No. 10/25 will provide the spending, borrowing authority and imposition of taxes for installation of, and connection to, a low-pressure wastewater system as a local improvement within the R.M. of Stanley. Potential taxpayers will be those benefiting properties within the villages of Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld who wish to connect to the system.

The proposed local improvement tax is calculated on a 'per parcel (benefiting property)' basis with each benefiting property contributing \$9300.00. The local improvement tax can be prepaid in full to the municipality or alternatively paid via an annual levy on the property taxes of the benefiting property over a 20-year period plus the estimated interest rate of 5.325% per year.

Potential taxpayers wishing to object to the local improvement plan may file a notice of objection by email, mail or in person, with the Chief Administrative Officer at 1-23111 PTH 14. All objections, written or verbal must be filed prior to the adjournment of the hearing and must include name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and state the grounds of objection.

If you wish to be present at the hearing, we request that you to contact our office a minimum of 2 business days prior to the scheduled hearing so that we can ensure adequate seating is available.

Copies of the local improvement plan are available at the municipal office at 1-23111 PTH 14 and on the municipal website at www.rmofstanley.ca. Feel free to call the RM Office for additional information at 204-325-4101.

Dated at the RM of Stanley this 24th day of July 2025 and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.

Terry Penner, Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Stanley

PUBLIC NOTICE

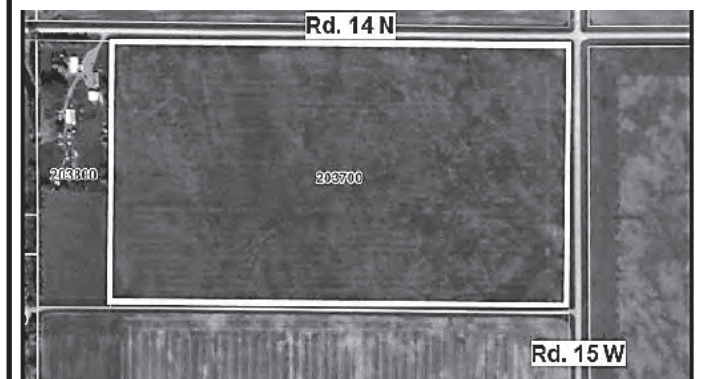
PRIME SPECIAL CROPS FARM LAND IN THE RM OF RHINELAND

Sealed, written tenders for farm land in the described below will be received by:

Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office
Box 99, 1 - 880 J 15th Street
Winkler, MB R6W 4A4

LAND:

Legal Subdivisions 15 and 16 in Section 9-3-3 WPM excepting out of Legal Subdivision 15 the westerly 363 feet (69 acres)



(The above sketch is for illustrative purposes only)

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. The parcel of land described will be sold "as is".
2. Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 PM on August 14, 2025. Successful tender will be informed by 5:00 PM August 18, 2025.
3. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
4. Possession is November 1, 2025 or after the 2025 crop has been harvested.
5. Tender must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of \$10,000.00 (cheque made payable to Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office).

TERMS OF SALE:

1. The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter a formal agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
3. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid on the due date, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages.
4. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.
5. The purchaser is responsible for Land Transfer Tax and GST or shall self-assess for GST.

For further information contact Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office at 204-325-4615.

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OPEN HOUSE



MSTW PLANNING DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

Open House

The MSTW Planning District is updating its Development Plan. The purpose of a Development Plan is to guide future land use and development decisions throughout the Planning District.

Please **drop in at the open house** to learn more about the project, speak with the project team, and provide feedback on the draft Development Plan. Presentation boards and maps will be available for your review.

Open House Details

Date: August 13th, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Location: RM of Stanley Office
1-23111 PTH 14, Stanley MB
Format: Drop-in (come and go)

Questions? Contact:

Lauren Lange, Project Manager, WSP
T: 204-259-1919
E: Lauren.Lange@wsp.com



COMING EVENTS

South Valley Pillow Mission BBQ Fundraiser

We here at South Valley Pillow Mission, work on weekdays and evenings. We prep and shred donated clothes, fabric, and sponge, to fill pillows. We then sew inner and outer pillow cases, then assemble pillows. Christian Aid Ministries have made it possible to ship to needy areas, such as war zones.



With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men
Ephesians 6:7

Friday August 15th 2025

Location: 2 miles west of Iceburgs in Winkler, Rd 24W #11112

4:30pm - 7:30pm

Christian Aid Ministries guest speaker presentation at 5:45pm

Burgers, chips and a drink will be served

Everything is by donation

For more information call John J. Elias at 204-362-2757

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone for your kindness, following the death of our dad, Gerald Barclay. Your gifts of food, cards and visits have supported us during this sad time. We appreciate that you joined us for Dad's memorial and will remember the great stories shared that honour our beloved dad.

-Barbara, Cathy and Kent Barclay

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Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news?

The Carman-Dufferin Standard is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer who lives in the area to join its multi award-winning weekly community newspaper.

We are looking for someone who is both motivated and passionate about being the best outlet of interesting and breaking news stories and event coverage.

Qualifications:

- A post-secondary degree/diploma in journalism or English degree.
- Strong photography and writing skills with an interest in social media
- Self-starter with the ability to exercise solid news judgement
- Ability to establish professional relationships to consistently source and write a wide range of stories and cover events in a fair, balanced and accurate manner
- Able to work both independently and as a team on a flexible work schedule including both evenings and weekends to meet our weekly editorial deadline
- Experience covering council and school board meetings
- Knowledge of Canadian Press Style

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to: Lana Meier Email: news@carmanstandard.ca

The Carman-Dufferin
STANDARD

take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

E	G	V	I	R	T	E	P	A	H	E	S	T	
W	S	V	O	C	A	S	N	V	R	E	H	E	S
U	V	T	V	C	I	R	I	T	V	S		S	
R	E	G	V	A	S	I	P	I	N	O	R	V	
E	N	O	T	L	A	S	B	A	N	O	S	E	
S	U	H	N	O	P	R	V	T	T	U	R		
	D	I	V	W		D	E	A	V	R	B		
T	N	U	W			S	I	R	O	A	V		
S	E	U	G	O	R		C	E	X	E			
E	O	G	K	D	W	V	R	W	S	I			
N	V	R	O	S	E	T	V	S	S	U	E	D	
R	E	G	V	E	G	U	V	S	D	N	I	H	
V	D	E	Z	I	G	O	T	V	N	V	B	A	
E	N	O	T	V	A	V	V	I	E	D	V	M	
E	N	I	T	V	S		S	I	B	A	R		

Crossword Answer



CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Spiritual leaders
- Salt
- Fortified wine
- Edible mollusk
- They precede C
- A way to compare
- State lawyer
- "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
- Eighth month (abbr.)
- Very willing
- ex machina
- Satisfies
- Mountain in New Zealand
- A doctrine
- Popular Dodge truck model
- Dekagram
- Naturally occurring solid
- Company officer
- Villains
- Cricket frogs
- One of the founders of modern psychology
- Endured
- A female domestic
- You can get stuck in one
- Partner to feather
- Passive optical network
- French ballet dynasty
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Bottom layer
- Sound
- Yankee great Judge
- Dickens character
- Late beloved TNT sportscaster
- South Dakota
- Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- Gold
- Longtime Braves hurler Julio
- Humor
- Shawl
- Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

- Animal disease
- Commercial
- Necklace materials
- Containers

	1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	
13								14						15
16			17					18					19	
20		21				22				23		24		
25					26				27		28			
29				30				31		32		33		
		34	35							36		37		
38	39									40				
41					42					43				
44				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62					63			64	
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

- Investment account
- Colorado Heisman Trophy winner
- Dipped down
- Head injury category (abbr.)
- Lay about
- Intestinal
- Not yes
- Caused to be loved
- Muslim spiritual leader
- Showing sincere conviction
- Not in
- Number above the line in a fraction
- Lawn pest
- Pouch
- Ancient language in India (abbr.)
- Start over
- Wild white flower
- Fourteen
- Visual way to interact with

- computer (abbr.)
- Side by side and facing the same way
- Religious conflicts
- Touch lightly
- "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- Violent seizure of property
- One who supports the pope
- Malaise
- Body fluid
- Inauthentic person
- Title of respect
- Chilean city
- Japanese city
- Silk garment
- Draw from
- Automobile
- The man
- Top government lawyer

Children's Vision And Eye Health - Part of Back to School Preparations

While you were rushing around picking up school supplies, new school clothes, indoor shoes and lunch kits did you remember to book your child's annual eye exam?

Your child should have a routine eye exam before starting kindergarten, then every year throughout their school years. Most learning in school is visual and you need to ensure that your child can see what is being taught, see the board at the front of the class and be able to read books clearly. Most provincial health care plans cover the cost of eye exams for children.

The following are some of the signs and symptoms you should keep an eye out for in your children:

- difficulty reading the chalkboard,
- frequent headaches,
- sitting too close to the TV,
- squinting or rubbing eyes frequently,
- losing their place while reading,
- holding a book closer than usual,
- red, itchy or watery eyes.

If your child shows any of these symptoms you may want to call an Optometrist.

Many provinces in Canada have the Eye See...Eye Learn® program which is a program designed to educate teachers, children and parents in the importance of eye health. Through this program Optometrists detect, diagnose and treat eye health and vision issues in kindergarten children.

The program offers routine eye exams to kindergarten children and even provides free eyeglasses to them if needed. Each year in Alberta, between 1,500 and 1,800 pairs of free eyeglasses are distributed and of those, about 60% are first-time prescriptions.

Untreated vision problems can lead to:

- learning at a slower rate than other children
- frustration with learning
- negative self-image
- behaviour and discipline problems
- possible need for special education and related services
- higher risk for school drop out
- lifelong disadvantages and underachievement

A comprehensive eye exam will ensure your child's vision health

A vision screening test is not the same as a comprehensive eye exam. While vision screening tests the ability to see clearly at a distance, a comprehensive eye exam looks at all aspects of a child's vision function, including how well the eyes focus up close, how the eyes work together and the overall health of the eyes. Even if your child has 20/20 vision, they still need to have an eye exam.

What else can you do

Your child's eyes get a workout at home with computers, video games and homework. Make sure the rooms are eye-friendly by reducing glare and offering soft overall light. Encourage periodic breaks from digital screens to give their eyes a much-needed break. Optometrists recommend the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes, take a 20 second break and focus on something at least 20 feet away. Balance computer time with plenty of creative, outdoor and quiet play - their eyes, developing minds, and their growing bodies will thank you.

How often should you have an eye exam?

Children

- 6-9 months
- 2-5 years
- Annually, 6-18 years



Adults

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Over 65

Annually



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