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EDITION 36
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Friendly Flames

On Saturday, chefs Colin Fehr (left) and Ryan Wiebe squared off for the first annual Friendly Flames barbecue to see which city—Winkler or Morden—gets bragging rights for the best ribs. Wiebe, from Morden, won the day with his sauce using Blumstein brews, but the real winner was the Pembina Valley Humane Society, which hosted the cook-off. The evening raised \$14,600 for the regional animal shelter.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

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BTHC Auxiliary continues to give back

By Lorne Stelmach

The Boundary Trails Health Centre Auxiliary continues to make a difference behind the scenes in helping the regional hospital.

The auxiliary annually contributes funds to purchase vital equipment for BTHC.



"It's an ongoing thing that we do every year, so it is rewarding and it's very worthwhile," said president Dawne Mackling. "The hospital appreciates everything that we can do for them."

Last year's purchases included a neonatal scale and crash cart valued at \$4,400, a tourniquet machine for the operating room for \$16,700, a \$16,172 bladder scanner for the medical, surgical, and emergency departments, and two sofas for the palliative care ward for \$4,800. In addition, the auxiliary handed out four bursaries of \$1,000 each to high school students from Morden, Winkler, and Miami.

"There is still another \$5,000 left for the hospital should they determine there is something else they wish to purchase," noted Mackling.

There are various ways that they raise the funds, such as a 50/50 draw in addition to their fundrais-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Boundary Trails Health Centre gift shop manager Sue Braun with BTHC Auxiliary president Dawne Mackling. The auxiliary raised enough money this past year to purchase thousands of dollars worth of equipment and furniture for the hospital, including this \$4,400 neonatal scale and crash cart (left).

Looking for something to do this fall & winter?

The Altona Recreation Guidebook is now available to pick up at Town of Altona offices, and a few other locations around town!



ing luncheons in both the spring and fall, with the latter set for Westside Church in Morden Saturday, Sept. 27. The bake sale begins that day at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m.

"We would be happy to see people come out to support the hospital," said Mackling. "The other thing we have is the hospital gift shop, and the gift shop has had a marvellous

increase in business with new inventory."

Mackling said they're looking forward to having a continued impact on local health care in the year ahead.

"For 2025-26, they are still compiling a list of what they need at the hospital, but we have already committed \$40,000 for that time period."

More measles exposure sites in Morden-Winkler

By Voice staff

Public health officials are warning of two more measles exposure sites in Morden-Winkler,

Anyone who was at one of these locations during the dates and times listed is asked to monitor for symptoms until the identified date:

- Winkler Medical Clinic, 344 First St., on Aug. 28 from noon to 3 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Sept. 19.

- Boundary Trails Health Centre emergency department, on Aug. 28 from 1:45 p.m. to Aug. 29 at 4:45 p.m. For the Aug. 28 exposure, monitor symptoms until Sept. 19. For the Aug. 29 exposure, monitor until Sept. 20.

Public health is asking anyone who was at these locations during these time to check their immunization records and ensure they are up to

date with measles vaccine (MMR or MMRV). Immunization is the only means of protecting people from contracting measles, officials stress.

Symptoms may include fever, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes. Small white spots may also develop on the inside of the mouth or throat. Several days after the initial symptoms, a red blotchy rash appears on the face and progresses down the body.

If symptoms occur, you're asked to contact your local health care provider in advance of showing up at a health care centre to avoid exposing others to measles, which is highly contagious.

Further information on measles, exposures, and immunization is available at www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html.

"Grab what you need"

By Ashleigh Viveiros

There's nothing like a cold bottle of water on a hot day, and a Winkler man has ensured no one has to go without as they make their way through his neighbourhood this summer.

Neil Reimer has set up a mini fridge on the front lawn of his home at 173 10th Street, placed, fittingly, beside a bench he put out for weary travellers to rest awhile. On it is a large sign encouraging anyone who needs it to help themselves to a bottle of water. A recycling bin sits nearby to collect empty bottles.

"There's another bench on Pembina Ave. and I thought, 'I'll put my own bench up and do 'em one better,'" Reimer jokes.

He'd already run electrical to the end of the driveway for a light, so it was a simple matter to plug in the old

bar fridge to keep the water cold and refreshing.

The bench itself has a story behind it.

"The wood all came from a tree that fell down in our front yard," Reimer shares, gesturing to a nearby stump. "Our grandson has a sawmill and a planer and stuff like that, so he made all those planks."

Reimer and his wife, Ellie, have kept track of how much water they've handed out in their second year of offering the free drinks. By their count, it's about 720 bottles and counting.

Why do it?

"Why not?" says Reimer. "It's not that expensive. It's a kindness."

If he's out in his yard, Reimer will offer a bottle or two to walkers or bikers as they pass, but often he doesn't even see or chat with the people enjoying this impromptu watering sta-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Neil Reimer has set up a bit of a watering hold in front of his home on 10th St. in Winkler, offering passersby a seat and a cold bottle of water.

tion—but he knows it's appreciated, because the fridge keeps emptying, bottle by bottle.

"That's proof there's a need for it," he says. "So just grab what you need to take with you on the road."

And pay the kindness forward in some way or another, Reimer requests.

The fridge will be out until the first serious freeze, and likely back again at spring thaw next year.

Morden fire dept. hosting open house Sept. 20

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden Fire and Rescue is inviting the community to the fire hall next weekend for an open house.

It will be held Saturday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Thornhill St. fire hall.

It's a chance for the department to connect with the community and give

everyone an opportunity to check out the fire trucks and other equipment, said Chief Andy Thiessen.

"We haven't had one for a while, and there's been a number of changes [since]," he noted. "Unfortunately, our new ladder truck will not be here in time, which is what I had been hoping for, but we'll have an opportunity

to show that off at a later date.

"There will be a few demonstrations of some of our special teams during

the day as well," Thiessen shared.

Continued on page 11

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Winkler Flyers on patrol

Students heading back to class last week at Pine Ridge and Parkland schools in Winkler were greeted by some celebrity guest patrols to help them get across the street. Members of the Winkler Flyers manned the crosswalks Sept. 3 to welcome the kids to a new school year. At Pine Ridge was Mathys Blanchette, Kam Thomas, Leif Ekblad, Marcus Hughes, Josh Ingram, and Thomas Dandurand while Parkland welcomed Owen Wallace, Dustin Bell, Aidan Grant, and Cayden Adams. With school back in session, drivers are reminded that the 30 km/hr school zone speed limits are in effect once again on weekdays.

SUPPLIED PHOTOS



Winkler Police planning to roll out body-worn cameras next year

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Police Service is working to equip all its officers with body-worn cameras in 2026.

Chief Ryan Hunt shares that they intend to add the purchase of the cameras and related software to their budget for the year ahead. The price tag comes to approximately \$81,000 a year for the next five years.

"It will probably have to come out of our regular budget, but the advantages, I think, outweigh the costs," he said.

The department did a trial run with the devices few years ago that showed

their value, but held off rolling them out permanently until receiving confirmation in regards to provincial funding for digital evidence management systems for law enforcement agencies across Manitoba. These updated systems will allow for more efficient methods of getting police evidence, including body cam footage, to the courts.

"We wanted to kind of wait and see where that ended up before we jumped on board with body-worn cameras, because that plays a part into it," Hunt said.

With those funds now confirmed, the time is right for Winkler Police to

take the next step.

Body cameras are an incredibly valuable evidence-gathering tool, Hunt said.

"It's capturing the evidence that an officer sees, but obviously not everything they see—there's more going on when you're standing at a scene and you can take everything into account," he noted. "The body-worn camera doesn't catch all that other stuff that may be in the periphery, but it does certainly go a long ways in helping catch the evidence that's in front of an officer."

"It also helps with complaints, helps with resolving complaints against of-

ficers," Hunt said, noting it provides a clear record of what happened in interactions between officers and members of the public.

The cameras are always recording, but only save when directed to do so, jumping back to preserve the previous 30 seconds and onwards. Officers would need to be trained to activate that save feature whenever they enter into an incident or interaction.

"I think it's a really good tool and obviously that's the direction policing is going," Hunt said.



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World Alzheimer's Month brings launch of new, returning programs

By Ashleigh Viveiros

September is World Alzheimer's Month, and the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba is working to raise awareness about the many supports that are available to people right in their own communities.

"Our theme is 'Your Path Forward,'" shared south central regional coordinator Rebecca Atkinson. "We're encouraging all Manitobans to increase their understanding of dementia and the supports available through our First Link Dementia Helpline, education sessions, community programming, support groups, and more. Because the more we know, the better care we can provide."

The month coincides with the resumption of a host of local programming and educational events.

Next week, Atkinson is launching the Cognitive Care Kits program in partnership with the Altona Library and the Winkler Seniors Centre.

These kits are filled with books, puzzles, games, and art projects for people living with dementia or experiencing brain changes. Each of the four types of kits includes different items designed to challenge and exercise one's brain, promote better brain health, and foster social interaction.

The activities can be done solo, but Atkinson hopes people will also use the kits to engage their loved ones.

"A great way is to start doing it yourself and then ask them for help," she said. "Find that good time of the

day when their energy and cognitive status is elevated and make the most of it.

"No diagnosis is needed" to borrow these kits for free for a few weeks, Atkinson stressed. "It can also be for prevention—you're getting older and looking for some ideas to stimulate your brain."

The kits will be launched at informal information/discussion events at the Altona Library on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m. and at the Winkler Senior Centre on Wednesday, Sept. 17 between 9-10:30 a.m. during their weekly coffee and biscuit time.

Also next week, on Thursday, Sept. 18, the Winkler Senior Centre hosts a livestream of the *Dementia Research: What's on the Horizon* forum with Dr. Donald Weaver at 7 p.m. Register online at alzheimer.mb.ca.

The evening will be an opportunity to learn more about the risk factors of dementia and the research being done into new treatment options. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask Dr. Weaver questions.

"He's a researcher who presents the research in ways that are relatable," Atkinson shared.

Starting next month, on Oct. 15, Minds in Motion returns in Morden Wednesday mornings for individuals living with dementia and a partner. The eight-week session will include gentle chair fitness, engaging activities, and refreshments and conversations.

"It gives people with dementia the



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Cognitive Care Kits filled with games and puzzles will be available to borrow from the Altona Library and the Winkler Senior Centre starting next week.

chance to step out of some of the challenges and really grasp onto the strengths," Atkinson said, noting it's an opportunity to get out, be active, and socialize with others walking the same path.

Space in Minds in Motion is limited, so register early by calling the Morden Activity Centre Services for Seniors office at 204-822-3555. Participation is \$65 per pair.

Atkinson would love to offer this program in more communities across the region, but she needs some help to do it.

"We're looking for people to run it in Carman or Altona, or really any community," she said. "If anybody's

interested in getting involved, we'd love to hear from you."

Also in October is the 2025 Care4U Conference in Winnipeg for families and friends caring for people living with dementia.

The Oct. 18 event's theme is *From Insight to Impact: Turning Knowledge into Confident Care* and it features keynote speakers Karen Stobbe and Mondy Carter.

"They're just fabulous speakers, sharing lived, true blue experience with dementia," Atkinson said.

Conference registration information is available at alzheimer.mb.ca.

Gamers unite at Etherlan 2025 next weekend

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Video and board game players gather in Winkler next weekend to help youth half a world away.

The Bunker youth ministry (545 Industrial Dr.) hosts the annual Etherlan gaming tournament Friday, Sept. 19, and Saturday, Sept. 20.

Since the very first Etherlan back in 2004, the goal of the weekend has remained the same: to raise funds for The Bunker's sister ministry, El Fortaleza, in Puerto Rico. The two ministries provide youth with a place for fellowship and opportunities to learn about the Christian gospel.

The first decade of proceeds went to get the Puerto Rican drop-in centre up and running. Since then, The Bunker has sent local youth down there on mission trips and supported

the ministry's ongoing programming with financial donations.

"Our goal within the year is to raise \$3,000 USD to go El Fortaleza, because that's all it requires to function," shared Harold Espinosa, who co-founded Etherlan with Hank Wall. "That all goes directly to their operations."

The gaming weekend at The Bunker is a chance for youth (and the young at heart) to spend the entire weekend playing their favourite games and building relationships with other gamers.

"We make sure everybody has lots of time talking, connecting," Espinosa said. "We want people to understand that this is a place for gamers, where there's always someone there to hear your heart."

"Everybody will hear the story of

what we're doing in Puerto Rico, what the ministry is all about and the people they're helping," he added.

This year's event includes competitions in MarioKart World, Super Smash Bros Ultimate, League of Legends, Rivals, Halo, Settlers of Catan, Rocket League, Fortnite, Valorant, Advance Wars 1 and 2, Call of Duty 2, Minecraft, Doomlings, and Fall Guys.

"All of us are involved in some way in the gaming world, so we look at what's hot and what's not," Espinosa said. "And sometimes you go all the way back to a nostalgia game, bringing back something like Call of Duty 2."

Everyone who registers will be entered to win a Nintendo Switch 2. There will also be trophies for the various game winners.

"It's a fun event where whether you

win or lose, it doesn't really matter," Espinosa pointed out. "We're all just having fun."

Pre-pandemic, the weekend routinely drew upwards of 200 people. The numbers have been about half that in recent years, but Espinosa said it's been steadily growing.

"It takes time to restart things, but we'll get there," he said. "We invite anybody who wants to come. Everything is family-friendly, to the best we can. Obviously, some of the games, the only way they'll play is if a parent allows them to play, because it might not be meant [for a young kid]."

Admission to Etherlan is \$30 for those 15+ and \$10 for kids.

Doors open at 5 p.m. on Friday and at noon on Saturday. For the full competition schedule, head to etherlan.ca.

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• FAITH FOCUS

Welcoming words

It happened on a Sunday. We were camping and chose to attend a local church nearby for the morning worship service. We did not know anyone who would be there except two friends who joined us for the venture. When we arrived a few minutes before the service began the faithful were gathering.

A friendly man greeted us. I told him we were camping nearby and he commented that campers have come before, but we might be the first campers to attend during this summer.

On time the service began and we sang some hymns,



By Randy Smart

there was general prayer for crops and nation, and some specific prayer requests known to those who were local. Scripture was read and then the pastor spoke. We sang another hymn and we were dismissed.

As we met a few folks casually after the service and made our way toward the door it happened. After a few words in the lobby, a lady said to us “We are glad you came to our church today.” The greeting was warm and genuine. The church which they call their spiritual “home” had been our place for spiritual refuge for that day and they were glad we had also come.

Those welcoming words lingered in my mind throughout the afternoon. I can recall other experiences as a visitor in a church while travelling when the “welcome” was not as clearly evident.

I can also recall when my wife and I visited in a large church in Texas where a well-known pastor teacher was the senior pastor. We wanted to see how things worked in a church of that size and we came away having been well served in the service, and in the welcome we received from a

greeter whose entire ministry was coming early and helping people like us feel at home, and answer any questions we might have. His care for us that day included making sure we knew that we were welcome to join an adult Bible class after the worship service. Before the service began we also chatted with a lady who sat near us and could tell us about her reasons for appreciating that local church. We wished we could have stayed longer that day. We had been made to be feel welcome.

All of our churches should be places where we are welcoming and express that welcome with genuineness. It is like having extra guests at our table for a meal. “We are glad that you came today.”

Whatever the size of our church may be, it should not be measured by the attendance numbers. The heart of a local church can be indicated by the welcoming attitude that the faithful have to those they already know, and by the hospitable attentiveness to the people who may be there for the first time.

Continued on page 7

Letters

A JOB WELL DONE

Kudos to Elias Woodwork for the effort they put into an amazing day at their plant on Saturday, September 6th for the community at large.

There was entertainment for all

ages, from inflatables for the kids to live music for everyone’s tastes. Not only was it a wonderful day for all in attendance, all gate receipts, to my understanding, were donated to worthy charitable organizations. Another example of a great corpo-

rate citizen!
Well done Elias Woodwork!

**Mark Gavard,
Morden**

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

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

Bangladeshi community launches music program

By Lorne Stelmach

The local Bangladeshi community is now offering a music program for their youth to help instill cultural pride and connection here in the Morden-Winkler area.

The Manitoba Bangladeshi Friendship Club (MBFC) in partnership with the 500 Stephen Community Centre in Morden has launched a free children's music and singing program.

The idea was to help local youth build confidence, creativity and cultural pride, and the program was inaugurated last month with children's performances, a cake-cutting ceremony, and support from families across the Pembina Valley.

"Seeing the children sing with joy and pride was the highlight," said MBFC secretary Debasis Ganguli. "It showed exactly why this program matters."

The idea for the program came from MBFC's desire to provide meaningful activities for children of newcomer families.

Parents wanted something that could both connect their children to Bangladeshi culture and also help them grow in confidence and creativ-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A new program being run at 500 Stephen St. by the Manitoba Bangladeshi Friendship Club invites kids to come learn more about their culture through music and dance.

ity, and music was the perfect way, suggested Ganguli, as it is joyful, universal, and builds bridges across communities.

Classes are held Saturdays, with students divided into two groups taught by volunteer teachers Ansara Binte Ansar (Suvana) and Atoshi Bhat-tacharjee.

The program begins with singing and will gradually expand to include tabla South Asian drums, guitar, and dance classes, all free of charge.

The launch event brought together MBFC president Jahangir Alam Talukder and several directors along with families from Morden, Winkler and surrounding communities and Kevin Driedger, executive director of the community centre.

The evening featured children's performances and a symbolic cake-cutting ceremony. MBFC expressed gratitude to Driedger and 500 Stephen for the partnership, and to Talukder and MBFC directors for leadership and to

the volunteer teachers for their dedication.

"This program is not just about music. It's about building connections, strengthening community bonds and giving our children a sense of pride in their heritage while learning new skills," said Ganguli.

For more information about the program, you can e-mail manitobabfc@gmail.com or call or text 431-349-0016.

Morden chamber puts call out for award nominations

By Lorne Stelmach

If you have a local business, entrepreneur, or non-profit organization in mind that is deserving of recognition, now is your chance.

The Morden Chamber of Commerce is calling for nominations for its annual awards.

The business community here has a vitality and success that needs to be both recognized and encouraged, said executive director Clare Agnew.

"The chamber thinks it's important to recognize the commitment and hard work of our business community," she said. "We have so many amazing businesses and non-profits in all sectors ... that I think this is a great opportunity to pause and acknowledge the hard work of the community."

The award categories were revised last year to include business excellence, entrepreneur of the year, and community builder, with the latter having sub-categories for a business, organization, and an individual.

For the business excellence award, nominees need to have been in operation for at least three years. The consideration criteria include business

achievements and growth, commitment to employees, contributions to the business industry sector, customer service and overall impact on the community.

Nominees for entrepreneur of the year also need to have been in operation for at least three years. The judges will be considering their staffing and employee growth, quality control, marketing strategies, expansions and innovative ideas and the overall impact on the community.

For the community builder awards, nominations need to show how nominees are making a significant contribution to the community and its well-being in a number of ways.

The selection committee has usually included chamber executive committee members along with the mayor of Morden and a representative from the Morden Community Development Corporation.

The awards will be presented Jan. 29 at a gala event at the Access Event Centre.

Nominations forms can be found at mordenchamber.com/events/business-awards/.

Agnew reiterated it is an opportunity to recognize those businesses and

individuals who really go above and beyond.

"The typical business hours are not the only hours that a business or entrepreneur put into it. There's so much that goes on behind the scenes, and we really want to take time to acknowledge that commitment and what those businesses bring to the

benefit of Morden's greater good," she said. "They do much more for the community than just their role as a business."

"This is a bit of an opportunity for the chamber and the community to say thank you."

The deadline for nominations is Oct. 1.

> FAITH FOCUS, FROM PG. 6

Some Christians will have a special gift for making others feel at home. The rest of us should be intentional and attentive to others around us who may be new or visiting and need to hear that quiet word from

someone that they were noticed and are welcome.

Randy Smart has been a pastor in Southern Manitoba since 1979.

Letter policy

The Voice welcomes letters from readers on local matters.

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.



RPM Festival brings community together

By Pam Fedack

What began as a 40th anniversary celebration for Elias Woodwork has grown into something much larger: a now-annual festival that brings people together to celebrate work, life, and community.

The RPM Festival—short for Rhythm, People and Machines—returned this year with the same heart and determination that made its debut such a success.

For Ralph Fehr, president and CEO of Elias Woodwork, the event is as much about building community as it is about entertainment.

“We’re living in an area where industry, manufacturing and other businesses bring so much money into the area that gets distributed between the people who live here,” Fehr said. “It’s a good way of life for us, and we need to celebrate that a little bit.”

That celebration has grown into a shared effort. Local businesses, including Triple E Recreational Vehi-

cles, Load King Industries, Decor Cabinets, Icon Technologies, Impel Transport, and many more, joined forces as sponsors. Their contributions meant admission could remain minimal, with proceeds directed to local charities Youth for Christ Morden and Pembina Counselling Centre.

Pulling the festival together wasn’t easy. Rain drenched the setup crew one day, followed by fierce winds that nearly toppled the stage the next. But volunteers pressed on, drying out banners and securing the grounds.

“Hey, we made it through,” Fehr said with a laugh. “Today’s a pretty nice day, and people have shown up.”

Families flocked to the grounds for the petting zoo, climbing walls and inflatable amusements. Adults even had the chance to try out larger inflatable challenges, while children enjoyed bouncy castles and rides. Across the field, Fehr’s personal passion for tractor and truck restoration was on display, with more than 25 machines lined up for visitors to admire.

For Fehr, what stands out most is the way businesses in the Pembina Valley come together rather than compete.

“You’d think Decor Cabinets and us would be tough rivals and competitors, but we’re not,” he said. “The world is a big place. There are enough sales to be had for both our companies. Out here, we don’t have to cut each other’s throats—because we’re really competing with the rest of North America.”

That cooperative spirit is what fuels RPM. Fehr and his team see the festival not only as a party but as a reflection of the region’s identity — hard-working, resilient, and neighbourly.



PHOTOS BY PAM
FEDACK/VOICE

Elias Woodwork’s RPM Festival invited the community for a party Saturday to raise funds for Youth for Christ and Pembina Counselling Centre. Clockwise from left: Julie C. Meyers took the stage with her band; the evening stage shows drew quite a crowd; Alayna Friesen grabs a bunny at the petting zoo; there were giant inflatables for the kids; Almost Elton John performs.



While the festival’s roots lie in industry and community, music is an essential part of the atmosphere. Julie C. Meyers, Fehr’s wife and a musician herself, helped curate a lineup that blended local favourites with international talent.

“The Quonset Brothers are just local favourites,” Myers said. “They have a great fan base here and bring a good variety to the music venue.”

She also helped bring in “Almost Elton John,” a tribute artist from her hometown of Memphis who is endorsed by Elton John himself. Canadian headliners Petric and Chilliwack rounded out the lineup.

But Myers pointed out that the music was just one piece of the larger celebration. Visitors mingled in the beer gardens highlighting local breweries, browsed food trucks and sampled everything from fish and chips to Filipino skewers—and of course, mini donuts.

In the end, RPM is about more than tractors, food trucks or even music. It’s about what the name itself stands for: Rhythm, People and Machines.

“It really is what defines us—our everyday work,” Fehr said. “We put in our nine-to-five jobs, and that’s the rhythm of life in the Pembina Valley. That’s worth celebrating.”

What stood out wasn’t only the lineup or the machinery on display, but the sense of people pulling in the same direction. That, Fehr said, is the true rhythm of the Pembina Valley.



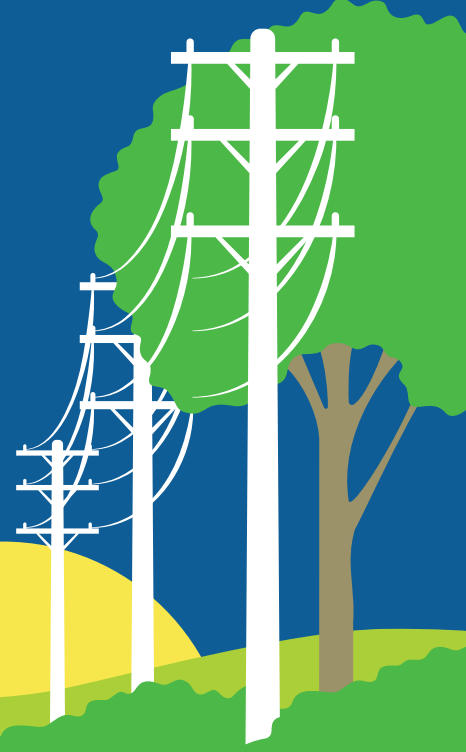


PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Pembina Threshermen's Museum hosted its annual Reunion Days last Friday and Saturday. The pioneer village came alive with tons of great old fashioned fun like threshing, sawmill, blacksmith, rope making and spinning demos, antique tractor parades, 'kiddie' activities such as barrel train rides and hands-on interactive stations like corn grinding. Lunch was available for purchase in the dining hall, and there was entertainment and music in the evenings, including a performance by The Quonset Brothers, line dancing, and an old time country dance.

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Vintage Huber tractor restored in time for PTM's Reunion Days

By Lorne Stelmach

There was a special addition to the parade of antique cars and vintage tractors at last weekend's Reunion Days at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum (PTM).

A rare Huber tractor that dates back to 1928 when it was purchased by a local family was restored and running again after having sat on the museum grounds for decades.

The tractor had belonged to William Gordon Allison, and his son John Allison had the special pleasure of being able to see it on the move once again thanks the efforts of his friend Alan Wiebe.

"It really is special, and it would not have happened if it were not Al. I'm very grateful," said Allison. "To see this running again, I know my dad would be very proud."

"I put in lots of hours," Wiebe said Friday just before the start of the afternoon parade. "It has come to life, and I think there's only something like three that were ever brought into Manitoba ... so it's quite rare."

When Allison's father bought the tractor it was one of only a few that came from Marion, Ohio on a box-car. It replaced 30 horses, which were sold into northern Ontario to do bush work.

Allison noted his grandfather had a homestead in the Jordan area dating back to the 1880s, but it was eventually destroyed in a fire. The family then settled in the area of Myrtle around 1913.

About 60 years ago, the family decided to donate the tractor to PTM to display instead of sending it back to a museum in Ohio.

The idea to try restoring the tractor came up one day in conversation, Wiebe noted.

"He talked about his farming background, and he said his father had bought a 1928 Huber tractor brand new from Ohio, and



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

John Allison and Alan Wiebe with the recently-restored 1928 Huber tractor at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum's Reunion Days last weekend.

he said it had been sitting here for over 60 years at the museum," he recalled of Allison. "I have a little bit of mechanical abilities, so I looked into it and I figured if it's not stuck, why can't we make it work?"

He started working on it in the spring of 2024 and continued well into this year.

"It had sunk into the ground. I jacked it up out of it ... from there on, it was a slow process," shared Wiebe. "I ran into bottlenecks where I needed to have a valve made, and I found a head gasket in Washington. One thing led to another, and then there was a carburetor where I could get no parts, and I had to make a set ... and that was a little challenge.

"But I got it working, and we were

ready to run it in the parade this year," said Wiebe, who called it a challenging but fun project.

"And there's always some of the camaraderie with some of the other guys here," he added. "It may have gotten discouraging at times, but I never got mad. I just figured out a solution.

"We now have it running, and we have some extra work we want to do on it next year."

"We hope to get it totally restored and in good running condition for next year," said Allison, who had multiple generations of family members coming from all over to ride with the tractor in Saturday's parade. "It means a lot to the family."



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William and Irma Allison with the tractor in 1928, when it replaced the horses on the family farm. The Allison family donated it to the Pembina Threshermen's Museum 60 years ago.

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Manitou's Honey Garlic and Maple Syrup Festival took place last Saturday, offering a host of events for the entire family. Clockwise from above: The festival's namesakes were for sale in the market; Fender Bender was one of several groups to take the stage; vintage wheels on display at the Show 'n Shine; chef Devin Boulton led cooking demonstrations over the lunch hour.

PHOTOS BY
RICK HIEBERT/VOICE





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> OPEN HOUSE, FROM PG. 3

"There will be some giveaways as well, so we're just looking forward to it being a fun day."

Thiessen noted they will also be acknowledging the 120th anniversary of the fire department in Morden, although there will not be any formal program.

"There will be an opportunity for donations. We're raising money for

our outdoor rink ... that will be part of it," he said, explaining upgrades to the community rink near the Morden courthouse is a project they have really felt connected to and want to support. "We're working away at it, so hopefully we can get some mileage out of it over the next little while ... and the Morden Area Foundation is helping us out with half of the cost."

Local poet brings Mennonite history to life

By Pam Fedack

When Shaun Friesen gathered with 70 people at a book launch this past June, the evening was more than just the unveiling of a poetry collection.

In a hall in Neuberghthal, a live band played music connected to his poems, while guest readers read selections from the collection chosen for their personal connections. Across the room, memories that spanned generations were shared aloud.

"One of the features of the book is that it has sort of its own soundtrack," Friesen explained. "Some of the poems have rock and roll lyrics embedded in them, and there's a soundtrack page that tells you what song it is and the artist. You can go on Spotify and listen to all of this. I think that adds something pretty unique, because poetry carries emotion, but so does music."

"We also had a band that played parts of the soundtrack," Friesen said. "And I brought in some guest readers. We had eight or nine guest readers, all of whom had connections to the poem I asked them to read. So that was really good."

That launch marked the beginning of a public journey for a project that had taken Friesen nearly two years to complete. His debut collection weaves together history, memory, and cultural identity in a way that feels both personal and deeply tied to the community.

This September, Friesen will bring the book back home, reading at four branches of the South Central Regional Library: Manitou Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m., Morden Sept. 18 at 7 p.m., his home branch in Altona on Sept. 23 at 7 p.m., and Winkler Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.

A VOICE ROOTED IN PLACE

Friesen was born in Gretna and has

lived most of his life in the Altona area. His sense of place, of belonging in southern Manitoba forms the foundation of his poetry.

"It's about the big story," he explained, "but it's created by telling the small stories—about the people, about the journeys, and some of them are personal."

The collection traces the journey of Mennonites who left Russia in 1874 and resettled in Manitoba. Friesen structured it in three parts: the conditions in Russia before departure, the arrival and early years in Manitoba's East and West Reserves, and reflections that tie history to his own lived experiences.

"Basically, 3,000 people moved in the space of three years, picking up everything they could carry," Friesen said. "It was a unique journey."

History provides the backdrop, but poetry gives him a way to capture how people experienced it in everyday life. Some poems speak directly to historical events. Others arise from memory, from the quiet moments of community life.

One poem, Swampstock, tells the almost-forgotten story of a rock festival near Niverville in 1970. Intended as a fundraiser to purchase oxygen equipment for a young woman injured in a hayride accident, the festival drew 10,000 people and even featured a surprise performance by Burton Cummings. Heavy rain turned the site into a mud swamp, but local farmers arrived to tow cars from the muck. In the end, the event raised \$10,000, funding a U of M scholarship that still exists today. The scholarship supports additional training for trauma nurses.

"Nobody knows about that story," Friesen said. "So I wrote a poem about it."

Another poem revisits a darker chapter: The 1903 shooting in Altona, when a teacher opened fire on three



Shaun Friesen will read from his debut book of poetry at the SCRL branches in Altona, Morden, Winkler, and Manitou this month.

students and three trustees after a dispute, killing one girl.

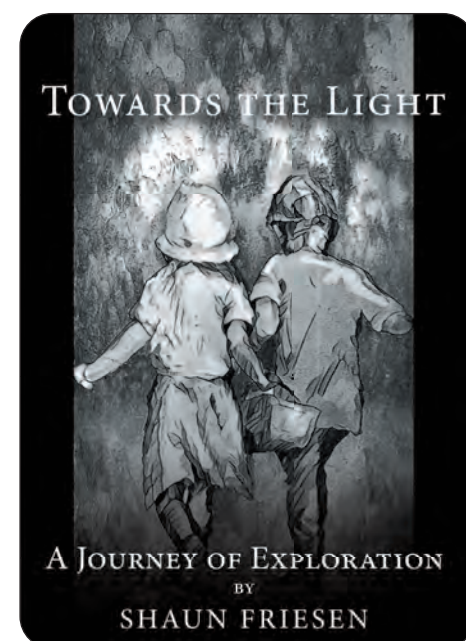
Other poems reflect on the controversy surrounding the Mennonite Collegiate Institute (MCI), which was secretly moved overnight to Altona after a dispute over its location, or on the church divisions that fractured villages.

"This isn't a book to celebrate Mennonite triumphalism," Friesen observed. "It's a hardcore look at who we were."

That honesty resonates with readers who see both the positive and difficult parts of their shared past. Some poems stir pride and fond memories, others confront painful truths, but together they invite reflection and dialogue.

The book also highlights everyday people who left a lasting impact. A section on women honours Friesen's aunt, a neighbour, and his best friend's mother.

"For me, it was a lot of really amazing women," he said. "Those poems capture those people in a way that many can relate to—they can say, my



mom was like that, my grandmother was like that, my aunt was like that."

Friesen's poetry also captures community through sports and youth culture. One vivid poem recalls a Mennonite Mexican teenager who joined Friesen's hockey team as goalie—playing in winter boots because he had never skated. He backstopped the team to a championship. Another memory recalls foster children and adoptees from Indigenous communities, linking local sports stories to the wider history of the Sixties Scoop.

Faith and cultural change are also key themes in the book. Friesen writes about the tent revivals of the 1960s and the "Jesus Freak" movement of the 1970s, when a coffeehouse called The Lighthouse in Altona became a hangout for youth. The "Jesus Freak" movement was part of a broader evangelical wave across North America, blending rock culture with Christian outreach.

Relationships and family ties are another recurring theme in Friesen's work.

Continued on page 13



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> FRIESEN, FROM PG. 12

“In Mennonite culture, we don’t tend to talk about those things,” he said. “But it’s the way women cared for their children, and grandmothers cared for their children. It’s the soft part of the relationship, not their ideology of faith, that made this all work.”

What makes the collection stand out is its multimedia approach. Many poems include lyrics from the rock music Friesen grew up with.

“I am hopelessly lost in the music of the ‘60s and ‘70s,” he admitted with a smile. “Poetry carries emotion, but so does music. So, I embedded some lyrics, and there’s a soundtrack page that lists the songs.”

The book also features original artwork by Ray Kehler, a print artist at Martha Street Studio in Winnipeg and Friesen’s friend since childhood.

“Every image in that book, including the cover, is his,” Friesen said. “They’re crafted for this book.”

With readings planned across the region this month, Friesen hopes the book will continue to spark curiosity and conversation.

“Most people don’t read poetry,” he said. “If this helps people become more curious about poetry, that’s great. And if they can see the story elements and connect to them, that makes meaning in a variety of ways.”

Above all, he hopes the poems re-

Age-friendly projects receive funding



SUBMITTED PHOTO

City officials gathered last Friday at the Morden Friendship Centre to receive a grant in support of age-friendly projects in Morden. The city and its age-friendly committee was approved to be a ‘milestone community’ of the Manitoba Age-Friendly program, and it will recognize Morden as being a community that shows dedication in promoting and developing age-friendly initiatives and achievements in becoming more age friendly. It comes with a \$2,500 award for the city to use toward a project of their choice, and the age-friendly community committee will be working with the city to suggest a suitable project according to committee priorities. “The Morden age-friendly committee will also be submitting a grant application to Manitoba Age-Friendly this fall for \$10,000 for a project to be determined, and having milestone status will give us an advantage on this application,” said Morden community development coordinator Shelly Voth.

mind people of the value of art itself.

“Ray’s artwork is powerful and stunning, the music is there, the words are there. I hope it just kindles in people to say, you know what, the arts matter.”

As Friesen reflects, it is the small stories that make the big story: The rock concerts and school shootings, the hockey games in boots, the grandmothers and mothers, the faith and the fractures. Poetry, he believes, can

carry them all.

“It’s about the big story,” he said, “but created by telling the small stories. And that’s how we find meaning.”

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National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Cancer is the leading cause of death from disease in children and adolescents in Canada. Approximately 10,000 children are living with cancer in this country and 1,500 more are diagnosed every year.

September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month – a time to reflect on how we can better understand and address the needs of children affected by cancer, as well as their families and caregivers.

Through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), our government has invested more than \$1 billion in cancer research and more than \$61 million in pediatric cancer research over the past five years (2016-2017 to 2020-2021). Through these investments, we are making significant strides towards providing the highest quality care, new treatments, and opportunities for children to live longer and healthier lives.

Most recently, CIHR invested \$23 million to establish the first Canadian Pediatric Cancer Consortium (CPCC) – the largest investment to date for a Canadian pediatric cancer research project. Through the CPCC a national

network of clinicians, researchers, caregivers, patients, and families are coming together with the goal to ensure that every child affected by cancer in Canada has access to the latest scientific advances, diagnostic tools, therapies, and supportive care. Researchers from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto will lead team members from across Canada with diverse experiences, including research involving First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples to support ground-breaking research on pediatric cancer that would improve the health outcomes and quality of life of children affected by cancer across the country.

In addition to funding the CPCC, CIHR supports a wide range of pediatric cancer research across the country through the Project Grant Program. Examples include research related to patient-centered precision oncology, novel immunotherapies for children with high-risk cancers, the potential of exercise in minimizing chemotherapy-related cognitive side effects, and improving access to pediatric palliative care across the country.



Canada also continues to accelerate progress against cancer through international collaboration and partnerships. CIHR is among one of the founding members of G7 Cancer (in French only), led by the French National Cancer Institute (INCa (in French only)). This new alliance aims to further strengthen cooperation among cancer research funders around the world to address this major health challenge.

By continuing to invest in research and championing global knowledge sharing, we will make great progress in advancing cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment to improve the health and quality of life of children affected by cancer in Canada and around the world.

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Music of the Night in Manitou Sept. 21

Enjoy a taste of Broadway in this celebration of the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber

By Lorne Stelmach

A taste of Broadway will be coming to the region with an acclaimed touring musical production.

Music of the Night is a celebration of Andrew Lloyd Webber's greatest works, and it is coming to the Manitou Opera House on Sept. 21.

This concert production by the Vancouver-based Sound The Alarm is a greatest hits celebration of Lloyd Webber and his acclaim as the most successful musical theatre composer of all time.

Featuring his most iconic theatrical music, the show features an acclaimed all Canadian professional cast and live band.

"It's quite a powerhouse group of singers, and they are extraordinary," said Alan Corbishley, artistic and executive director for Sound the Alarm. "It's really built around the singers."

"I would say there's not many shows that I have been part of quite like this where we get to showcase the

best of the best," said Tainui Kuru, who is not only involved with Sound The Alarm but is also one of the performers.

"It seems to reach people who don't necessarily go to musicals but they know Andrew Lloyd Webber," said Kuru, who called it a magical opportunity for him to be involved in such a company and production. "You know what *Phantom Of The Opera* is or you've heard of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. These musicals really hold up."

He suggested there is a need to really respect the songs "in a way that doesn't take them too far away from the original arrangements and to the instruments and arrangements that people love."

This concert celebration of Lloyd Webber last toured western Canada in the fall of 2023 and has since toured across Canada to sold-out audiences from Victoria to Montreal.

This production is something a little bit different for Sound The Alarm, Corbishley noted.

Continued on page 20



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Music of the Night's tour across Canada has a stop at the Manitou Opera House Sept. 21.

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A Trusted Partnership Between Sunrise Credit Union and SaskTel

In today's digitally driven world, reliable and secure connectivity is no longer a luxury—it's a business essential. This is especially true for organizations with operations spread across rural and remote areas, where infrastructure gaps can slow down productivity and limit growth. For Sunrise Credit Union, which serves more than 35,000 members across 19 branches across Southwestern Manitoba, improving connectivity was a key step in continuing to meet the needs of their communities.

In 2023, Sunrise Credit Union began looking to modernize their digital infrastructure. "Our existing systems were functional but outdated," said Kelly Scott, Vice President of IT at Sunrise. "We were ready for a more future-forward solution that could grow with us."

After weighing their options, Sunrise met with an out of province technol-

ogy partner, SaskTel. Saskatchewan's leading communications provider is best known in their home province, yet SaskTel has been steadily expanding its footprint, working with organizations across Western Canada that need customized, high-performance connectivity solutions.

From the very beginning, SaskTel approached the project differently. "They didn't come in just trying to sell us something," Scott noted. "They listened. They spent time learning about our needs, our environment, our challenges. Then they came back with a strategy designed specifically for us — not a one-size-fits-all plan."

That strategy led to a complete revamp of Sunrise's network. SaskTel replaced outdated equipment at every branch, from switches and VoIP phones to routers, firewalls, and Wi-Fi systems. They also introduced a flexible SD-WAN

(Software Defined Wide Area Network) solution that tied all Sunrise locations together in a single, secure, and high-speed network.

For Belinda Griffith, Senior IT Officer at Sunrise, the difference was night and day. "Now, everything runs faster and more smoothly, and we've seen a significant drop in outages."

But it wasn't just about speed. The new system gave Sunrise's IT team better visibility and control. SaskTel's real-time diagnostics and intelligent routing mean issues are identified and resolved quickly and efficiently.

Importantly, the new setup empowers Sunrise's internal IT staff rather than replacing them. "We're still very involved in our systems," Griffith said. "But SaskTel handles the heavy lifting on the network side, which lets us focus on higher-value work. It's like adding expert bench strength to our team."

What started as a technology upgrade has become a full-fledged partnership — one that's helping Sunrise stay competitive, secure, and connected as they prepare for what's next in the digital banking landscape.

"This is more than just a client-vendor relationship," Scott said. "It's built on trust and shared goals. SaskTel has proven they're in it with us for the long haul."

For Manitoba businesses, SaskTel might not be the first name that comes to mind. But this success story shows what's possible when you work with a provider that takes the time to understand your needs and delivers more than just connectivity.

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Kelly Scott, VP of IT
Sunrise Credit Union



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> MEAL IDEAS



Ooey Goopy Lemon Cake

To make cake: In bowl, mix butter, cake mix and eggs until blended well but thick. Spread into buttered 9-by-13-inch pan.

To make topping: In another bowl, using mixer, mix softened cream cheese, eggs and powdered sugar until blended well. Pour over cake mixture but do not mix. Bake 30-35 minutes until edges of cake are golden brown but center is not. Wait until completely cooled to cut, 1-2 hours.

To make drizzle: In saucepan over medium heat, add cornstarch and sugar. Mix in water and orange juice. Stir in raspberries and bring to boil. Remove from heat when it starts to thicken.

Drizzle raspberry drizzle over each piece.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

1 stick butter, melted
1 box lemon cake mix
2 eggs

Topping:

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

2 eggs
3 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Raspberry Drizzle:
2 tablespoons cornstarch

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 cup water

1/4 cup orange juice

1 cup fresh raspberries

Heat oven to 350 F.



Rotisserie Chicken Ravioli

Cook ravioli according to package instructions and set aside.

Cut up rotisserie chicken, using as much as desired. Cut broccoli into bite-sized pieces or smaller.

In pan over medium heat, heat chicken through. Add garlic powder and onion powder. Deglaze pan with 1 cup chicken broth then add alfredo sauce and broccoli.

Pour in remaining broth if sauce is too thick. Stir in cooked ravioli and heat through 2-3 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6

1 package (25 ounces) cheese ravioli

1 rotisserie chicken or leftover chicken

1 head broccoli

1 tablespoon garlic powder

1 tablespoon onion powder

1-2 cups chicken broth

1 jar alfredo sauce



Zucchini Chicken Bake

1-1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

Heat oven to 375 F.

Cut zucchinis, tomatoes and chicken into bite-sized pieces. Place in 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

Sprinkle with minced onion, Italian seasoning and paprika then drizzle with avocado oil. Mix well with spoon.

Cover with mozzarella and Parmesan cheese. Cover with foil and bake 40 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6

2 medium zucchinis

2-3 tomatoes

2 chicken breasts

1 tablespoon minced onion

2 teaspoons Italian seasoning

2 teaspoons smoked paprika

avocado oil

Expert patient here to help!



Susie Schwartz

Okay, so you might be tempted to ignore this tip at your next appointment—but hear me out. Following it could be extremely important.

When your doctor asks you questions about your mental health, substance use, or medication adherence, be honest! I know it's tempting to omit those supplements you buy online or to say you only drink two alcoholic beverages a week instead of the actual eight. Do you remember to take your eye drops every night as prescribed? No? Tell the truth. They aren't asking to judge you—they're asking because it helps them diagnose properly or set the right medication dose.

Imagine this: you're prescribed blood pressure medication, but out of laziness, busyness or brain fog, you don't always take it. If the doctor thinks you do and still sees high readings, they may increase your dose. Then, on the days you do take it, your pressure plummets.

Yikes. If they had known the truth, they could have suggested reminders and emphasized consistency—without risking overdose.

We often feel we'll be judged or reprimanded for our honesty, but in reality, doctors usually appreciate it. It lets them build a safer, more effective care plan. No shame! (And if they do say something out of line, respond with: "Doctor, I don't appreciate that comment. I assumed you asked because it was important, so please respect my honesty." That should do the trick.)

Also, be upfront about how your physical symptoms affect your mental health. If you're feeling anxious, overwhelmed, depressed, or otherwise struggling, your doctor may prioritize your care and offer additional support like counselling.

Times are changing. In Canada and the UK, initiatives are underway to reduce the power imbalance between doctors and patients, giving patients more say in their own health. I've noticed more doctors shifting from "old-school" approaches to a new style of listening and caring. That shift has softened judgement and opened doors to better communication.

So yeah—be honest! It will serve you well.

Less health stress, yes?

A published author and musician, Susie currently lives in the UK. Find her on Instagram @authorsusieschwartz and at www.lesshealthstress.com. Email: info@lesshealthstress.com. Watch for the release of the 2nd edition of her book, *Help the Doctor Help You!* in November.



Taco Salad

1 lime, juice only

1 cup chopped cilantro

romaine lettuce

2-3 cups shredded cheese

1 tub (16 ounces) sour cream

crushed tortilla chips

In pan over medium heat, brown beef until cooked through; drain. Add black beans and corn. Stir in tomatoes with juices and half-and-half. Add onion powder, garlic powder, mesquite seasoning and pepper. Season with salt, to taste. Bring to simmer.

Add lime juice; stir. Sprinkle with cilantro.

Wash and chop lettuce. Place cheese and sour cream in bowls for toppings.

On plates, top crushed tortilla chips with meat sauce, lettuce, cheese and sour cream, as desired.

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Total time: 30 minutes

Servings: 6

1 pound ground beef

1 can (15 ounces) black beans

1 can (15 ounces) corn

2 cans (14 ounces each) diced tomatoes with chilies

1/2 cup half-and-half or milk

2 tablespoons onion powder

2 tablespoons garlic powder

2 tablespoons mesquite seasoning

1 tablespoon black pepper

salt, to taste

sports & recreation

Flyers fall to Pistons in pre-season openers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers are working the kinks out in MJHL pre-season action.

Last weekend's home-and-away against the Steinbach Pistons saw the team lose 5-2 and 3-0.

Playing before a hometown crowd Friday night, the Flyers were down 2-0 when Eric Berger got them on the board late in the second period.

Crew Elder then doubled Winkler's score three minutes into the final frame, but it was drowned out by a trio of goals from the Pistons, who outshot Winkler 33-23 overall that

night.

Manning the net for the Flyers was Liam Russell, who made 28 saves.

Despite winning the shots battle 22-21 two nights later in Steinbach, Winkler struggled to find the chink in Pistons netminder Easton Thvedt's armour. He ended the night with a shutout.

Across the ice, Justin Perrault gave up three goals in the final five minutes of the first period before denying all comers for the rest of the game, making 18 saves overall.

Exhibition play continues this weekend when the Flyers host the Winni-



PHOTO BY RYAN SAWATZKY/WINKLERFLYERS.COM

The Winkler Flyers dropped a 5-2 decision to the visiting Steinbach Pistons Friday night in their pre-season opener. They also fell 3-0 in Steinbach two nights later.

peg Monarchs Sunday. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

The regular season kicks off Sept. 19 in Winkler against the Pistons.



WINKLERFLYERS.COM

Billy Cawthorn joins the Flyers as assistant coach for the 2025-2026 season.

Winkler Flyers hire new assistant coach

By Voice staff

The Winkler Flyers have found their new assistant coach.

The junior team announced last week that Billy Cawthorn will step into the role left vacant by Coltyn Bates, who moved on to other opportunities this summer after three years behind the bench.

"Billy brings a well-rounded background in player development, scouting, and mentorship that will be a tremen-

dous asset to our team," the Flyers management said in a statement.

Cawthorn has most recently worked with Super Skills Elite Hockey Development in Saskatchewan, where he's built experience in player training. He's also been involved as a player advisor, mentoring athletes and scouting talent.

"What stands out most about Billy is his genuine heart to connect with players and build meaningful relationships," the team noted. "He has a passion not

only for developing skills, but also for supporting players in their growth as individuals, both on and off the ice. His combination of technical expertise, talent evaluation, and relational approach will play an important role in maximizing player development within the Flyers organization."

Cawthorn was expected to be in town this week.

Winkler Storm move into third place in Div. 1

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm added two more to the win column this past week.

Last Tuesday night saw the Storm blank Bonivital2 4-0 in Winnipeg. Goal scorers included Emil Rhode, David Green, Cornie Siemens, and

Lucas Froese while Carter Klassen had the clean sheet in goal.

Meanwhile, the points for Sunday's match against Lucania United FC2 went to Winkler automatically after their opponents forfeited.

With that, the team's record is 9-4-2, good for 29 points and third place

in the Manitoba Major Soccer League Division 1 standings at press time, trailing Northern United in first and Grant Park Sporting Club in second place.

The Storm's regular season is entering its final weeks: this week's game in Winnipeg against UDM Sept. 9 is

followed by a final home game versus Niverville Sept. 13 and one last road game against Grant Park SC Sept. 20.

Playoffs will then begin for the top six teams in the 10-team division.

The **Voice**

Get in touch with us via e-mail:

Send news items to: news@winklermordenvoice.ca
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Central Energy trio shine with Team Manitoba at Canada Summer Games



By Annaliese Meier

Three Central Energy players brought their talents to the national stage earlier this summer, helping Team Manitoba to a fifth-place finish at the Canada Summer Games in St. John's, N.L.

Nelia Fehr of Winkler, Molly Conrad of Swan Lake, and Brooklyn Friesen of Stanley all earned spots on the provincial roster — two from Central Energy's U19 team and one from the U17 squad. The team went 3-2 in pool play before closing out the tournament with a 5-3 win over Quebec.

For Fehr, a pitcher with the U19 team, wearing Manitoba colours was the realization of years of dedication. She said it was "such an honour to represent Manitoba at the Games," and added that it was exciting to see years of training pay off. "Since we are a smaller province compared to some of the others it was awesome to be part of a team that was able to compete with the bigger provinces and give them good games; show them why we deserved to be there."

One of her most memorable moments came when she stepped into the pitcher's circle. Fehr admitted there were times growing up when she was frustrated and thought about giving up on pitching. "To think that I was actually pitching at the Canada Games is kinda surreal, because it was something I always dreamed of as a little girl," she said.

Friesen, a catcher with Central Energy U17, said she was motivated to represent both Manitoba and

her home club.

"Knowing that there was only three of us from our organization on the team made it really special and pushed me to work super hard to make our organization proud," she said.

The 16-year-old also valued the off-field experience. "Competing against some of the best athletes in the country was an incredible experience that challenged me and helped me grow as a player," she said, adding that the athlete's village and friendships built with teammates were highlights she will carry with her.

Conrad, who played shortstop and third base, described the Games as "absolutely surreal." She said competing against the top athletes in the country was "everything I had hoped it to be and more," and that wearing provincial colours gave her a new perspective. "I no longer viewed it as just a 'game,' but found something so much bigger than that," she said. "The pride and support from our fans in St. John's and at home was radiant."

Despite not reaching the medal rounds, all three players said they left St. John's with lessons that will shape their future in the sport. Fehr said the Games taught her to take pressure off herself and focus on having fun. Friesen echoed that sentiment, saying she learned "having fun is the most important part of the game." Conrad added that the experience reminded her that both success and failure are part of the journey, and that "whether I am succeeding or failing, there are always people to support me."

PHOTO SUBMITTED
Top to bottom, Nelie Fehr, Brooklyn Friesen and Molly Conrad. Three Central Energy players suited up with Team Manitoba at the Canada Summer Games in St. John's, N.L., helping the squad to a fifth-place finish.

Female Hawks hit the ice with exhibition games next week

By Lorne Stelmach

A new hockey season always comes with high hopes, and it is no different for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

Matt Victor has returned for another season as the head coach, and he expects the team to be at least very competitive again this year.

"The sky is the limit as far as our goals ... and I think most teams set their goals high," said Victor.

"The short-term goal for our group has to be development. It's important to grow that confidence in the players so that when you get to playoffs, the confidence in themselves and in their linemates is there," he said. "Anything is possible. Cinderella runs happen ... and I feel like that's why your goals have to be high ... moving into this year, it's why not aim for more?"

The Hawks finished in sixth place last season at 14-18 with one overtime loss. They battled the third-place Ice in the playoffs, falling in four games despite giving the strong Winnipeg team a good battle.

The Hawks held an initial camp in June and got a good look at the players moving up from the U15 level.

The roster then got firmed up at try-outs last month.

"I think it's looking really really good this year. There's always a bit of a turnover, but the nice thing is there's a bunch of the U15 players I coached a few years ago, and they were successful and are jumping on my squad this year," said Victor.

"It's going to be nice that they had me as a coach for a couple of years," he suggested. "I think there's a lot of parity versus our team last year, so that makes things a little easier ... and it also adds a little more depth to our lineup as well."

He suggested there will be some

benefit to having some degree of familiarity and knowing what will be expected.

"I think all players who come in from the U15 to the U18 group will struggle a bit with the speed and sometimes the demands at the U18 level," Victor acknowledged. "More is demanded of them, but with time and having a good team around you, the newcomers can get on board fairly quickly."

The key things he is looking for in the players is "a lot of grit, a lot of compete. Something that I believe is that compete and grit can offset things like other teams that maybe

have a higher skill level.

"We're really looking at building off that and having that be our identity this year," he continued. "We don't have to coach compete with the female group. They're already pretty motivated, and they want to do the best that they can ... they're driven ... they would push right to the end even if the tank was empty."

The Hawks have exhibition games Sept. 13 against Central Plains and Sept. 14 against Eastman. They then kick off the regular season with games against Central Plains Oct. 3, Winnipeg Avros Oct. 4, and Interlake Oct. 5.

Ste. Anne Aces ousted from SEMHL, again

By Kieran Reimer

The South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League looks set to move ahead with the 2025-26 season without its reigning champion.

Last week, the Ste. Anne Aces were removed from the league following a reversal decision by Hockey Manitoba.

The Aces had been reinstated in August after Hockey Manitoba upheld their initial appeal of the SEMHL's May decision to expel them. But last week's reversal came only weeks after the team told fans on social media it was preparing to return for the new season.

The Aces have not yet issued a statement in response to the latest

ruling.

Without Ste. Anne, the SEMHL will operate with nine clubs: the Carman Beavers, Ile des Chenes Northstars, Morden Bombers, Notre Dame Hawks, Portage Islanders, Red River Wild, Springfield Winterhawks, Warren Mercs and Winkler Royals.

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

Bell Ringer returns Sept. 20

By Lorne Stelmach

The local cross country skiing community is again putting on an event that they see as also drawing on people active in other ways.

The Boundary Trails Nordic Club is holding its third annual Bell Ringer, a five-hour trail running race.

"It's open to runners, walkers and hikers, and it's kind of geared to all ages and abilities ... and you kind of just do what you can," said Cheryl Koop, who is the coach and manager for the club. "It's kind of unique that it's a trail running race put on by a ski team, and it's also on bike trails, so we're trying to target all three communities to come out and exercise in nature and try to do as many laps as possible."

The Bell Ringer takes place Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Schinken Wald Trails just north of Thornhill in the area of the Shannondale valley, which boasts some elevation to test your mind and body. The race features 100 meters of elevation per four kilometre loop.

Things get underway at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. with a finale and barbecue where organizers will also hand out awards.

"It's a 4 km. loop around on single track trails, and you have five hours to do as many loops as you can," explained Koop, who noted there will be an aid station available.

She stressed people can participate regardless of how serious they are about it.

"Some athletes are trying hard to get as many kilometres as they can, and some get up to almost 50 km in of running," she said. "For others, they maybe try to do a lap an hour or just come out for the morning and run or hike with their kids."

Koop feels the event has been well received.

"Our numbers have generally increased each year. This year, they

seem pretty steady, but we often get lots of walkups as well," she said, estimating they had about 70 participants last year.

The race does raise funds for the club's winter activities, but that's really a secondary factor to the day, Koop noted.

"Also just exposure for our ski team and our ski club is a part of it as well, to get people familiar with us," she said. "I think a lot of people aren't aware of cross country skiing opportunities here in southern Manitoba and that there's actually a club here."

If you want to register in advance, find the event online at ultrasignup.com.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Bell Ringer 2025 sets out from the Schinken Wald Trails on Saturday, Sept. 20.

> MUSIC OF THE NIGHT, FROM PG. 15

"Through our programming, we try to sound alarms on social needs, so we've done an opera based on human trafficking. We have an entire concert called Ebony Roots, which is amplifying the African descent community and which is coming up in February," he said, while acknowledging this show is a little different. "It doesn't have thematic material within the concert that sounds an alarm, but the production and the tour itself is serving smaller communities that often get overlooked, so that is where the alarm comes into play."

"This tour is meant to be very inviting and is meant to give an experience that can be for all generations but also for people who love seeing people come together for a common experience."

Corbishley added there is also a practical element to the production.

"It ensures that the company is relevant, that what it's doing is speaking to a need in some capacity, that it's not just fluff for fluff's sake," he

suggested. "It's designed to build the capacity of our organization so that we're less dependent on government granting, and it's a little more self sustaining."

"We're trying to be a little more self sustaining, so therefore it's something popular that is going to generate income ... but it's also Andrew Lloyd Webber, which makes it so compelling on an artistic level. His music is so emotional, and it connects to people right at their core, which is why he was such a phenomenon. A lot of his productions were so pivotal with people going to musical theatre for the first time."

Corbishley said they have especially liked bringing the show to smaller communities across Canada like Manitou.

"I think this is likely the smallest centre we've ever come to," he not-

ed. "Manitou seems to be responding really really well, and the opera house there has been really great to work with, so we're actually quite excited to be coming there."

"It's really quite an opportunity where we make this just about the music and the performance in a really intimate way," he

said, noting there were some venue restrictions such as having no haze or fog effects. "Quite often, they really become the more satisfying shows."

"They're making it their mission to make all shows as accessible as possible," added Kuru. "People deserve to have these sorts

of shows in their theatres. There's some beautiful theatres in these places across Canada, and we are lucky to experience some of them."

The show is set for Sunday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be booked at soundthealarm.ca/music-of-the-night/.

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The Sumo Band gaining traction

By Lorne Stelmach

A local up and coming band has been starting to gain some attention for their music.

The Sumo Band comprised of Sam Hildebrand on drums, Ethyn Harsant on lead guitar, Charlie Janzen on bass, and Vaughn Franzen as guitarist and singer has been starting to land some gigs, including a recent spot on the youth stage at the Corn and Apple Festival.

They may harbour some big dreams, but that is certainly not what drives these four young lads from the Morden area.

"The ultimate goal would be just to make it big and not have to do anything else but music for the rest of our lives. It would be awesome ... but that's not the main factor for any of us," Hildebrand said recently. "I never really thought I would be doing this ... though I've always kind of wished for it but never really thought it would happen."

"I think just having the opportunity to play some of these bigger shows like Corn and Apple kind of gives us the drive to keep going," said Harsant. "Each show we do just pushes us further."

"The main motivator for me ... is once we have a gig planned, I start practicing a lot more," noted Janzen. "It's helped me a lot with playing bass guitar. I like playing it. It's really fun, and I don't see myself stopping it any time soon."

The foursome came together earlier

on in their school years.

"We started playing in my house in the basement probably in about Grade 8. Me and Vaughn would just play around, play some Metallica songs," recalled Hildebrand. "We were just having fun, so that's kind of where it started, then I played with Ethan, and Charlie joined in, and we started to play together and getting some opportunities to play in front of people, so we took them."

"It's just gone better and better. We just played at the Corn and Apple Festival youth stage, and we had great attendance. A bunch of people showed up."

Another point of pride is having played at Rock's Bar and Grill in May as their first significant live performance.

"It was awesome. It went super well, and we've played some other places since," Hildebrand noted.

The band members all have realistic expectations.

"I think just having the opportunity to play for people is a big thing on its own," said Harsant.

"Getting the rock star dream, it's not why we're doing this," he said. "We're just doing this because it's fun, and we enjoy music. It's just something we love to do every day."

"For me, it's just being able to play in front of people and to be a star of the party is kind of nice," said Janzen.

Hildebrand noted they play a fairly wide range of music.

"We play all kinds of stuff ... anything from the '60s and on. We've



SUPPLIED PHOTO

From left: Ethyn Harsant, Sam Hildebrand, Vaughn Franzen, and Charlie Janzen are The Sumo Band, a Morden-based group making waves on the local music scene.

played some CCR, some Clash, some Eagles," he said. "More recently, getting a little older, we like to play a lot of '80s and '90s grunge like Stone Temple Pilots, Alice in Chains and Nirvana ... that kind of stuff is where I would say we centre ourselves."

"The music scene itself back then was just exploding. The music somehow had a little more meaning."

As for the band name, it was more or less just something that sounded kind of cool to them, although Hildebrand did recall his dad having gone to Japan and experiencing Sumo wrestling, and he brought back a bunch of Sumo memorabilia.

"Honestly, we were kind of strapped

for names, and it was on the back burner in my head," said Harsant. "Sumo seemed like something short, something simple."

Now, having finished high school, three of them are moving to Winnipeg and on to university, but Hildebrand sees them continuing on in some way as a band.

"It's going to be tough. It's going to be some new challenges, but I still want to be able to play," he said, noting they are strongly connected to themselves and to performing. "It's a different kind of bond, playing in front of people. You don't really know it until you experience it."

Scott Nolan brings Home Routes tour to southern Manitoba

By Lana Meier

Manitoba songwriter, multi-instru-

mentalist and poet Scott Nolan is set to criss-cross the province this month as part of the Home Routes/Chemin



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Scott Nolan and Cory Wolchuk perform as part of the Home Routes tour through our area this fall.

Chez Nous concert series, bringing his blend of music and poetry to intimate venues across 11 communities.

The Winnipeg-based artist will perform Sept. 17 in Morden, Sept. 18 in Altona and Sept. 19 in Pilot Mound, offering audiences in the Pembina Valley a rare opportunity to experience his work up close.

Nolan has built a reputation as one of Canada's most compelling songwriters, with a catalogue of acclaimed albums and a debut poetry collection, *Moon Was a Feather*, shortlisted for the Eileen McTavish Sykes Award for Best First Book. His songs have been recorded by Hayes Carll, Mary Gauthier, Watermelon Slim and Corin Raymond, and he has produced albums for William Prince, Stephen Fearing and Lynne Hanson.

The September tour begins Sept. 16 in Winnipeg and continues through:

Sept. 17 — Morden
Sept. 18 — Altona
Sept. 19 — Pilot Mound
Sept. 20 — Deloraine
Sept. 21 — Sainte Rose du Lac
Sept. 23 — Brandon
Sept. 24 — Gladstone
Sept. 25 — Carman
Sept. 26 — Sanford
Sept. 27 — St. Norbert

Home Routes, founded in 2007, has built a reputation for presenting artists in living rooms, community halls and other intimate venues, where music and storytelling create lasting connections between performers and audiences.

Tickets and information for Nolan's tour are available at homeroutes.ca.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF MORDEN PUBLIC NOTICE - BOARD OF REVISION 2026 REAL, PERSONAL AND BUSINESS ASSESSMENT ROLLS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the 2026 assessment roll for the City of Morden has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba and is open to public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with sections 42 and 43 of the Assessment Act:

APPLICATION FOR REVISION

42(1) A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 114(1) of The Real Property Act, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

- liability to taxation;
- amount of an assessed value;
- classification of property; or
- a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

43(1) An application for revision must

- be made in writing;
- set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- state the grounds on which the application is based; and
- be filed by:
 - Delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the Public Notice given under subsection 41(2), or
 - Serving it upon the Secretary, at least fifteen (15) days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board of indicated in the Public Notice.

The Board of Revision will sit on Monday, **October 27th, 2025, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Council Chambers of the City of Morden to hear applications.

The final date on which the Secretary of the Board must receive applications is Tuesday, **October 14th, 2025 by 4:30 P.M. local time.**

Dated at Morden, in Manitoba, this 4th day of September, A.D. 2025.

Ruziel Relatores, Secretary
Board of Revision
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- We respond to all formal objections and will work to resolve objections before issuing a licence.
- A copy of the objection, including the name of the person who submits the objection, will be provided to the licence applicant.
- Each person who submits an objection will be advised in writing of the outcome to the licence application.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF MORDEN PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING GENERAL BORROWING BY-LAW NO. 27-2025 TO PAY FOR THE INDUSTRIAL PARK PHASE 1 EXPANSION PROJECT

Council of the City of Morden at its regular meeting in the Council Chamber, Civic Center, 100-195 Stephen Street on September 22nd 2025 at 7:15 p.m. will consider the following proposal to borrow \$ 2,063,000.00 (Borrowing by-law 27-2025) to pay for:

The Industrial Park Phase I Expansion Project
The total estimated cost of the expansion project is \$2,063,000 to be funded by borrowing
The borrowing will be repaid over five (5) years with an estimated interest rate of 5.10% per annum
The annual repayment amount will be no more than \$477,818.96 which will be funded by sale of lots or reserve fund.

Copies of the proposal to borrow and information about the capital project are available at the City office at 100-195 Stephen Street and on the City website at: www.morden.ca

Dated at the City of Morden this the 4th of September, 2025, and issued pursuant to Section 174.1(1) of The Municipal Act.

Nicole Reidle
City Manager
City of Morden
204-822-4434



COMING EVENT

SOMERSET FALL SUPPER
Sun., Sept. 21, 2025
Somerset Community Hall
4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Adults: \$20.00
Children (5 – 12 years): \$10.00
Children (4 & under): Free
Raffle Tickets and 50/50
Take-outs available

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CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank everyone for being with us during this very difficult time and unexpected passing of Butch. Thank you for coming out to help us celebrate the life of Butch. Thank you to all our family and friends for the gifts, food, flowers, cards, visits as well as all the donations made in Butch's memory. Thank you to Rev. Mel for your caring and compassion you gave us as we try and navigate through this very hard time.

-Thank you,
Ike,

Sheryl, Randy, Alyssa, Brianna, Addison
Duff and Tom

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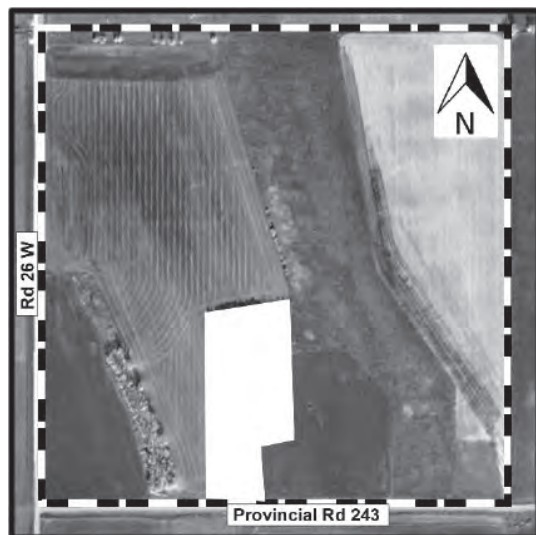
Sealed, written tenders for farm land in the RM of Stanley described below will be received by:

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

LAND:

Southwest ¼ of 23-1-5 WPM excepting Plan 75214 MLTO (150.8 acres)

33 Acres are currently pasture but could be converted to cultivated acres



(The above sketch is for illustrative purposes only)

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. The land described will be sold "as is".
2. Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 PM on September 18, 2025. The successful bidder will be informed by 5:00 PM September 22, 2025.
3. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
4. Possession is November 1, 2025.
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.
 4. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.
 5. The purchaser is responsible for GST or shall self-assess for GST.
- For further information contact Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office at 204-325-4615 – fhwlaw.ca/tenders.

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Oct 28th @ 7:00PM

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mcsherrytld@gmail.com

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Keynote Speaker:
Jill Verwey, Pres. Of KAP

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Panel Discussion, Meet Peers
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<https://mwaf.ca/services/mwaf-2025-summit/>

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& Collectible Sale**
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or 431-374-6925

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Tuesday	8:30-5:00
Wednesday	8:30-5:00
Thursday	8:30-5:00

**NO evenings
NO weekends**

The position is a salaried position with an average of six weeks holidays. The base salary is \$64,000 with production bonuses to a maximum of \$70,000.00. Wages are negotiable based on experience.

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**For More Information,
contact Dr. Snidal at:**
aaron@gallerydental.com

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

Level: Intermediate

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

[illegible]

X **CROSSWORD**

[illegible][illegible]

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

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