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Ashley Froese and daughter Zoey enjoy tea for two at Pure Anada's Princess Tea Party held in support of Genesis House last week. For more, see Pg. 3.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

# Princess tea party

news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know



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# Princess tea party raises \$1K for Genesis House

By Lorne Stelmach

A fairy tale setting right here in Morden not only offered a special time out for mothers and their girls but also supported a good cause.

Pure Anada hosted a princess tea party last Wednesday at Bella's Castle that raised \$1,000 for Genesis House.

"Within two days we sold 70 tickets, so it's obviously something popular," said Candace Grenier, founder of Pure Anada. "The ladies and their girls were looking to have some fun, I guess, and dress up."

The tea party, which took place in the outdoor tent at Bella's Castle, included not only tea, lemonade, and a snack but also story time and a special appearance by Princess Belle played by Lindsay Rae, who Grenier credited for inspiring the idea.

"We've always, at Pure Anada, had a little range of cosmetics called Princess Cosmetics," noted Grenier. "And then actually one of our staff members had just started on at the boutique, and Lindsay Rae happens to be a performer, and she loves everything princess ... so she had this idea to have a princess tea party."

"We collaborated with Bella's because how awesome is it that there's a castle in our town?"

Genesis House then seemed like a perfect fit as a cause to support.

"We like to support causes that support women and children, particularly because it's close to my heart," said Grenier. "We thought of Genesis



Princesses of all ages gathered at Bella's Castle last week to enjoy tea, stories, and time with Princess Belle in support of the Genesis House women's shelter.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

House right away, as it's a local women's and children's shelter."

Feedback from the guests was overwhelmingly positive.

"One of the moms said she surprised her little girls when they came home from school that they were going to go to a princess tea party," Grenier shared. "So it's thrilling for little girls. I have two little girls, so I know what makes them extremely happy."

"It was great that a lot of my staff members contributed, reading stories and with all of the behind the scenes things," she added, noting they hope to do something like this again. "I think it may be an annual event, and perhaps we can make it bigger next year."



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# Central Station's BAG program returns Oct. 27

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Central Station's Better Access to Groceries (BAG) program is starting up again later this month.

Twice a month, participants can purchase a bag filled with fruits and vegetables for just \$10.

The community centre purchases the produce in bulk from Winkler Co-op, allowing them to pass the savings on to families, explains executive director Bev Wiebe.

"The purpose of the program is so that fruits and vegetables are accessible to anybody," she says, stressing all community members are welcome to sign-up for a bag. "There is no qualifier. You do not have to be low income. We're trying to help people stretch their dollar and maximize their budget."

What's in the bag varies from week to week, but they always try to get a good mix of both fruits and vegetables, including a number of staples.

"We're hoping that we can put between \$15-\$16 worth of produce in there," Wiebe says. "Co-op gives us a



SUPPLIED PHOTO

An example of some of the fruits and veggies participants in Central Station's BAG program get for their \$10. Bags go out twice a month.

percentage off for buying bulk and then we have volunteers that do all

the packaging, so that cuts costs there. "With the bulk buying, the more people who participate, the better our prices."

The program has proven a great success since its launch in Winkler three years ago.

"At our peak we've had about 100 bags going out," Wiebe says, noting they're expecting the pandemic might mean they see high numbers again this go around. "A lot of people are showing interest and asking about it. I think the prices of fruits and vegetables are going up and COVID has had an impact ... people are trying to stretch their dollars."

"It's a great program," she adds. "It promotes healthy eating and really levels out the playing field for everyone."

Bags go out every other Tuesday. You must register for them by the Wednesday before.

The first bag will be ready to be picked up on Oct. 27. If you'd like one, you need to register with Central Station by Oct. 21.

Call 204-325-0257 for details.

## Southern Health reports on a year of change

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Southern Health-Santé Sud held its annual public meeting on the virtual stage last week.

While the online presentation was made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic, board chair Abe Bergen noted it's actually something they've discussed doing for some time in a bid to make the event more accessible to a greater number of people.

"True, this is a new way of delivering our annual public meeting, but we as a board are excited to try things in a new way," he said in his opening. "We are looking forward to this opportunity to spread the message of our organization to a wider audience than previous years."

While the meeting itself focused on the fiscal year running from April 2019 to March 2020, before the pandemic was in full swing, Bergen took a moment to reflect on the impact recent world events have had locally.

"We want to acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about incredible pressure on our health system to change and adapt very quickly," he said. "The flexibility and leadership demonstrated by Southern Health-Santé Sud staff has

been inspiring to hear about, and in some cases witness personally.

"The impacts to your personal and professional lives have been immense in the last several months," Bergen continued, addressing staff. "We want to take this opportunity to thank you and recognize your sacrifices on the front line against this virus and against many others."

Southern Health-Santé Sud CEO Jane Curtis echoed those thoughts and added, "While immersed in the fight against the pandemic, we do not forget the triumphs from this past year. Much has been accomplished, and that is worth celebrating."

Among the list of accomplishments was the RHA's successful completion of its accreditation survey.

"Preparing for it was a rigorous process with over 39 locations in our region being surveyed," Bergen said. "As anticipated, we did very well ... it's an affirmation that the service quality we are delivering is excellent and is recognized as such across Canada."

"An excellent grade with accreditation can never be attributed to one single performance," he added. "It's the direct result of ongoing team effort."

Curtis noted that the release of the most recent Community Health Assessment (CHA) was another major highlight for the year.

"It provides a comprehensive overview of the health of residents in the region and tells a compelling story," she said. "The CHA is an indispensable tool for gaining a better understanding of our evolving population. It provides a platform for continued conversation about health disparities and

contributes to our collaborative action planning around specific health challenges within our communities."

The past year, pre-COVID, saw the RHA immersed in the first steps of carrying out the government's plan to streamline health care in Manitoba.

"For the first time ever as a province we have a plan that incorporates all health sectors and considers the unique needs of all Manitobans,"

Curtis said in reference to Manitoba's Clinical and Preventative Services Plan released in late 2019, calling it a "monumental document."

It's one of the largest changes to the province's health care system in years, Curtis noted.

"The CPSP will help meet the needs of patients closer to home by coordinating where the services are offered, including investments in improved care offered at home and in the community," she said, explaining the changes will reduce the need for rural patients to travel to Winnipeg for care by increasing the number of specialty services available locally.

As part of the transformation process, 2019-2020 saw the transition of thousands of RHA staff in diagnostic services, emergency medical services, and information and communications technology to Shared Health.

Shifting into the Shared Health model of care is a huge undertaking, but it's one the RHA is endeavouring to do while still holding on to the values it's always operated under, Bergen stressed.

"As regional health authorities are shaped into service delivery organiza-

"MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, AND THAT IS WORTH CELEBRATING."

# Morden debate coach honoured with award

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden teacher has received national recognition for his efforts to promote debating.

Morden Collegiate teacher and debate coach Michael Macaraeg was recently awarded the Canadian Student Debating Federation Willis S. McLeese Award for outstanding contribution to debate in Manitoba.

Macaraeg called receiving the honour rather humbling and noted he has been very fortunate to have had students who have really embraced debate here.

"It's absolutely a surprise to even be nominated for an award like this, especially since the idea of debate here in Morden really started some five years ago," noted Macaraeg.

"The validation and recognition is really appreciated, but it really is the hard work of our students that is the real reason for me receiving an award," he said.

"We have been lucky to have some really great students, not just the students who received accolades over the

past years, but even students who are just looking to improve their public speaking skills or critical thinking or who are just involved in or interested in current topics.

"They don't have to win any awards to receive any feeling of accomplishment," Macaraeg added. "They're just excited to be part of something that's a bit different."

Under Macaraeg's guidance, a fledgling Morden debate club has found success, with students taking part in provincial and national events. It also led to Morden Collegiate earning the opportunity to host the 2019 National Student Debate Seminar.

For Macaraeg, though, the reward is simply seeing students develop the range of vital intangible skills that can come through the art of debating.

"Hopefully, it helps them down the road ... and hopefully it helps them develop integrity," he suggested.

"Especially with news being so one-sided in parts of the world, hopefully they also have an element of broad mindedness, realizing that there's two



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morden Collegiate's Michael Macaraeg has received the Canadian Student Debating Federation Willis S. McLeese Award for outstanding contribution to debate in Manitoba.

sides to every story, that they may believe one thing but it's okay to learn that you're possibly wrong or you may come to a happy medium with the other person."

It is also an encouragement to continue to help promote and develop debate here further, he added, and he hopes to continue to bring new students on board.

"Even now, with the pandemic, we've been able to work out an online place for our debaters," Macaraeg said. "So even just start from the basics again,

learn about public speaking and then eventually get into persuasive speeches and then move on to prepared debates and then impromptu debates.

"Students are gathering interest, and it's been really helpful to have some buy-in from other schools in the area as well," he added, noting there has been some interest at Northlands Parkway Collegiate in Winkler. "It's still something that's pretty novel to the Pembina Valley, but there's interest ... and I'm always available to help them in whatever capacity I can."

# United Ways handing out \$33K in ECSF money

By Voice staff

The Winkler and Morden United Ways are taking part in the second distribution round of the federal government's Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF).

This spring, the Government of Canada committed \$350 million to support vulnerable populations as they manage the impacts of COVID-19.

The government teamed up with United Way Centraide Canada, Community Foundations of Canada, and the Canadian Red Cross to distribute the money across the country.

Over \$276 million was granted to community groups and programs over the summer. The remaining \$73.9 million is set to go out this fall, with a deadline for applications set for Oct. 30.

In our area, the Winkler and Morden United Ways will be overseeing the distribution of approximately \$33,000 from the ECSF. That comes on the heels of handing out over \$200,000 in ECSF dollars this spring.

"The past several months have been

a challenging time for local non-profits as the demand for their services increase while opportunities for fundraising events have stalled," notes United Way of Morden and District board president Alex Fedorchuk.

"That makes this funding all the more important," says Winkler and

District United Way board president Kim Nelson. "We're pleased to be part of making sure it gets to the community groups and projects in our area that need it most."

Local registered charities and qualified non-profits can apply for the funding online at [unitedwaywinnipeg.ca/ecsf](http://unitedwaywinnipeg.ca/ecsf).

[unitedwaywinnipeg.ca/ecsf](http://unitedwaywinnipeg.ca/ecsf).

Funds can be used for community services that address a pressing social inclusion or well-being need caused or worsened by COVID-19, serve one or more vulnerable groups, and will be carried out with a reasonable budget before March 31, 2021.

## > RHA, FROM PG. 4

tions (SDOs), the public will continue to measure our services in much the same way as they measure other life experiences: by grading them and by examining data," he said.

"At Southern Health-Santé Sud, we will continue to make sure that we balance and validate the information we receive with sensitivity, compassion, and a listening ear. We must never forget to blend the human element within our measurements, because that's when excellence is elevated."

There's been a bit of a learning

curve to all this, Bergen admitted, but it will bear fruit.

"For the first time ever we are collecting, reporting, and interpreting the same data as other SDOs in Manitoba," he said. "This is allowing us to see how we compare in many areas and it also allows us to dig deeper into specifics if needed."

"Transparency and accountability increase with this type of process."

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

The past year saw the start and completion of several major capital

projects across the region.

Heliports at Boundary Trails Health Centre and Ste. Anne Hospital both got up and running in 2019.

"These projects were generously funded by community donations and provide air ambulance medical teams with a permanent place for helicopters to safely land when transferring critically ill or injured patients," Bergen said.

Work on new personal care home beds for Carman and Steinbach also began.

Continued on page 6



The *Winkler Morden*  
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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## Up a creek

**A**re you crying?  
“What?! No.”  
“You’re crying again. I can see the tears.”  
“NO! You’re crying!”  
And so it goes between my wife and I.

I have never in my life shed so many tears while watching a comedy as I have while watching *Schitt's Creek*.

It goes without saying that my wife and partner-in-crime was right there with me as we binged our way through what, in my experience, may be the best comedy I have ever watched. In fact it was probably one of the best television shows I have ever watched (and trust me, I watch a LOT of shows, movies, etc).

Honestly, I avoided it at first. I thought to myself: “Hmmm, *Schitt's Creek*, eh? A Canadian show that is likely going to underwhelm” and then I promptly forgot about it.

But buzz continued to build and we decided about a month ago to give it a shot.



**By Peter Cantelon**

Probably by about the third or fourth episode we were hooked. With a cast that includes Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara as Johnny and Moira Rose the real standouts are the duo of Dan Levy (Eugene Levy's son) and Annie Murphy who play their self-absorbed adult children David and Alexis.

The entire series focuses on the Rose family, hyper-millionaires who lose everything and end up living in the out-of-the-way small rural town of Schitt's Creek living in adjoining rooms in a motel. They are up the proverbial creek.

The only comedy I can think of that manages to pack as much emotional punch as *Schitt's Creek* is *M\*A\*S\*H* and that is saying a lot.

The best thing about *Schitt's Creek* is its ability to take a wide range of human relational brokenness and strife and portray healthy responses rather than exploit the pain as most shows do. Episode after episode amidst the laughs we are presented with real human struggle that we have all experienced to one degree or another and watch as the characters lift one another up, strengthen, and love each other.

In an age of brutal divisiveness and outright hate between polarized groups, *Schitt's Creek* is like an ice-cold,

refreshing glass of water in a desert of exploitative political garbage.

Another bright light about the show is that the entire cast (with the exception of Chris Elliott, who plays Mayor Schitt) is Canadian.

(Speaking of Elliott's mayor, I don't think it is an accident that his character is the only one played by an American actor. I think Mayor Schitt is a metaphor for how Canadians perceive Americans.)

Remember earlier in the column when I mentioned I had avoided *Schitt's Creek* because it was a Canadian show? How ridiculous. In 2020 this little Canadian show was nominated for 15 Emmy Awards, breaking the record for most Emmy nominations for a comedy in its final season. In fact, it became the first show, comedy or drama, in the Emmy's 71 year history to sweep all four acting categories and walk away with nine awards.

So I guess this column ended up being a rave review for a Canadian comedy series, eh? Well, trust me when I say it deserves every rave that comes its way and my wife and I are looking forward to what else comes from the fantastic mind of Dan Levy, who had the original idea and, along with his dad, produced the show.

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

## > RHA, FROM PG. 5

The Boyne Lodge project in Carman will add 79 new beds in phase one, expected to be completed this winter, and another 30 beds in the phase two renovations to the old facility.

On the surgical front, in a response to an ever-increasing demand for hip and knee replacements, the RHA was able to significantly increase the number of orthopedic surgeries it provided at BTHC.

“After much planning and dedicated work by our staff, the region successfully completed this year an additional 68 joints,” Curtis said. That brings the total number of joint operations to 492 for the year.

Likewise, expanded dialysis ser-

vices brought the numbers at BTHC and Portage General Hospital to 912 treatments per month.

## STRONG FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

When it comes to financials, Southern Health-Santé Sud is in good shape, Bergen said.

“As we enter our ninth fiscal year as an organization, we celebrate the fact that we have been in a balanced fiscal position each year,” he said, stressing sustainability needs to continue to be a focus moving forward.

The 2019-2020 financial report

showed the RHA's accumulated surplus increased from \$103 million to nearly \$106 million.

The organization saw an operating surplus of \$1.9 million before the health care system restructuring. After that process, the surplus hit \$3.1 million.

Revenue decreased from \$396 million to \$371 million, but so did expenses, which dropped \$17 million to \$369 million.

The meeting wrapped up with quality service awards and career achievement awards going out to several staff, including Sandra Aerssens Young, Michele Martel, Tiffany Thunder, and Eileen Vodden.

# OK Tire supports SCCR to the tune of over \$8K

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A local business thanked the South Central Cancer Resource for their services in a big way last week.

OK Tires in Winkler hosted a fundraising barbecue Oct. 2 in conjunction with an open house to celebrate the grand re-opening of its renovated shop and their fifth anniversary under the OK banner.

Owners Walter and Alvera Funk had hoped to hold a celebration a few years ago, but Alvera's cancer diagnosis forced a delay.

Her cancer journey gave her a firsthand look at the work SCCR does for patients and families in our area.

"I feel it's not as well known as it should be," Funk said. "If somebody had not told me that SCCR had wigs for me, I would have never known. That I could borrow a wig and return it when I was done with it? I was blown away."

**"I FEEL IT'S NOT AS WELL KNOWN AS IT SHOULD BE."**

SCCR programs coordinator Deb Thiessen said the awareness has grown a lot in recent years, but much work still needs to be done.

"Every day there's somebody new that says, 'We hadn't heard about you,'" she said, noting they've worked hard to ensure local health care providers are letting their patients know about SCCR and the various supports they offer patients. They've started to make in-roads as well in Winnipeg.

Funk, for one, was grateful for that support, which is why she and her husband were thrilled to present SCCR with a donation of \$8,653 last Wednesday. The Funks contributed \$5,000 to the total, while the rest came from donations collected at the barbecue.

"Even just looking at the halfway mark [before the Funk's donation], we have never raised that much money doing a barbecue before," said Thiessen, thanking the Funks and OK Tire's customers for their generosity.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: SCCR's Deb Thiessen, Tina Penner, and Dianne Mestdagh accept a donation of \$8,652 from OK Tire's Alvera and Walter Funk.

The money will go to help support SCCR during what has been a difficult year when it comes to finding safe ways to fundraise amidst the pandemic.

"Our donations have been kind of on the downslope because of everything that's been going on," Thiessen said. "But I would say we've been kind of amazed at where some of our donations have come from."

It's always a gift when an individual or business thinks of SCCR when looking to give back, she said.

"This is just awesome and hopefully it's something that could snowball and inspire others to find a non-profit to help. And maybe it's us or not—there's lots of non-profits out there looking for donations."

# Conservative government lays out plans in throne speech

By Lorne Stelmach

The next session of the Manitoba Legislature kicked off last week with a commitment from the provincial government to protect Manitobans and especially their personal and financial health.

The throne speech delivered by the Lt. Gov. Janice Filmon to open the third session of the 42nd legislature offered what the government called a focused agenda with the goal of creating a more secure Manitoba during the pandemic and a more prosperous Manitoba after it.

"Our government has been taking thoughtful and deliberate action from the very beginning of this pandemic, and we will keep doing so to protect the services Manitobans need, the jobs they have or want back, and their incomes for themselves and their families," said Premier Brian Pallister.

"This year has been like no other, yet we have weathered it better than most," he said. "The resilience of Manitoba's economy, finances, public services and most of all our people, have stood out strong. I am confident that

if we keep working together, guided by Manitoba values, we will come out of this pandemic stronger and more prosperous."

"There's some very, very big ideas in this throne speech," said Morden-Winkler MLA and Health Minister Cameron Friesen last week. "The pledge of this government in the upcoming session is to provide protections that Manitobans need in health care, in jobs, protections for their income, protections for education and child care and protections for their financial needs."

The throne speech touched on five key areas of commitments:

- Protecting health care - including investing in personal protective equipment and more testing sites and capacity for COVID-19; reducing wait times further for surgeries; calling for the federal government to increase the health care funding; ensuring more seniors are able to age in place

with supports; investing in personal care homes; protecting vulnerable Manitobans with disabilities; creating a portable housing benefit for vulnerable Manitobans.

- Protecting jobs - including creating an independent, private sector-led economic development agency to attract investment and promote international trade; examining the need for a venture capital investment fund; transforming and modernizing apprenticeship training; attracting new immigrants through a special immigration credential recognition program; investing and expediting priority infrastructure projects; updating the provincial tourism strategy; continuing to streamline planning and approval processes for future development with changes to the planning act.

- Protecting incomes - including

lower taxes and tax relief; beginning the phased elimination of the education property tax; amendment to the Employment Standards Code to update leave provisions and ensure Manitobans are able to access paid federal sick leave promptly and instructing Manitoba Hydro to keep this year's rate increase below three per cent.

- Protecting education and child care - including establishing a provincial blended learning strategy consisting of remote and in-class learning options; keeping the government's commitment to build 20 new schools; transforming Manitoba's education system into a modern, responsive and ambitious system that is classroom focused, student centred and parent friendly; providing a guaranteed increase of over \$1.6 billion more in education funding over the next four years; providing affordable and accessible child care

- Protecting Manitoba's future - pursuing a careful two-term, balanced budget plan to eliminate the COVID

**"THIS YEAR HAS BEEN LIKE NO OTHER, YET WE HAVE WEATHERED IT BETTER THAN MOST."**

Continued on page 8



# Farmers' market voucher program a success

By Lorne Stelmach

A local organization sees a lot of value in continuing a pilot program that got healthy, locally grown food into the hands of families this summer.

Many Hands Resource Centre was involved with the Manitoba Community Food Currency Program initiated by Direct Farm Manitoba with pilot sites in Winnipeg, Carman, and Morden.

It was a collaboration between farmers, markets, and community organizations that aimed to increase access to fresh local food, and it was a timely initiative coming in the midst of a challenging year for many families, suggested chairperson Natasha Doerksen.

"What better time to pilot this sort of thing?" she said. "It gives people a chance to be out there and be part of community."

"This year was experimental, and we had a lot of support and we had a lot of people excited to be part of the program," Doerksen said. "It was exciting to be part of and a learning experience, so let's see if we can streamline it and learn how to run it a little smoother next year if given the opportunity."

Direct Farm Manitoba saw it as a community building initiative that would empower families who frequently experience barriers to access-

ing healthy whole food by providing them with access directly from participating farmers' markets across Manitoba.

It modelled the program on a successful initiative in British Columbia, and it began here in the 2020 farmers market season with seven community partners and an aim to serve 160 program participants.

Partner organizations distributed \$21 in food coupons weekly to each participant for 15 weeks from mid-June to mid-October.

Here, with the Morden market, they were able to draw on some referrals from local frontline organizations such as Genesis House and Regional Connections.

"We got started a little late, and our numbers that first day were low, but after that things just kept building. It was a really popular program," said Doerksen.

She estimated they ended up helping over 100 families.

"For the most part, people came every week to get their vouchers and shop at the farmers' market," she said.

"We had so many people walking up and asking if they could be part of it," she added. "Early on, we were accepting walk-ups, but as we got a better idea of how many vouchers we needed and how many were going to be signed up, we didn't want to run out of vouchers at the end and not be



**DIRECT FARM MANITOBA PHOTO**

The Manitoba Community Food Currency Program's pilot run at farmers' markets in Morden, Carman, and Winnipeg helped get fresh, local food into over 100 households this summer.

able to give people what they signed up for.

"In the end, we pumped about \$24,000 back into the farmers market vendors. We had really good feedback from them. They enjoyed having a little more foot traffic."

Doerksen added they would likely need to do some fine-tuning of the program if it continues next year, particularly in focusing on those who most need assistance.

"Some of them we knew maybe

weren't struggling financially, but at the same time, they're getting out there, they're supporting local ... I think it still worked out in the best way possible. People were buying fresh produce and they were buying it from people who produced it locally."

"In the future, if this happens again, and we hope it does ... we might need to have some sort of process of who we accept so that we can give the benefit to someone who absolutely needs it more than others."

## > THRONE SPEECH, FROM PG. 7

deficit while investing in services; continuing to implement the made-in-Manitoba climate and green plan with new initiatives to reduce carbon emissions across all sectors of the economy building on Manitoba's clean energy advantage.

In addition to noting the province's commitment to building a new school in Morden, Friesen also noted there overall are "very significant changes underway to focus on strengthening education."

He acknowledged the K-12 education review might lead to reductions in the number of school divisions but emphasized that "we remain completely committed to having local decision making and the local voice heard in education."

"It's clear that our plan is classroom focussed, student centred and parent friendly," said Friesen, who also

highlighted the Conservative government's commitment to begin phasing out the education property tax bill. "We are the only province in Canada who has continued to partially fund education on the backs of property taxes. It's unfair, it's not best practice. We have to find ways to fund education from general revenues."

"We have a broad strategy to increase and improve immigration into our area including southern Manitoba," Friesen also stressed, citing a plan to improve the provincial nominee program. "We need to bring more immigrants to Manitoba. We need to be planning for post pandemic when once again our industries and businesses will need that workforce."

Friesen also emphasized their commitment to health care and noted that health care spending was up by \$650 million from when they took office

four years ago.

"We've added millions of dollars more in previous budgetary years to reduce the wait lists for hips, knees and cataracts and priority diagnostic procedures, and we've made that commitment again," he said.

"Our challenge is greater than that ... for years and years, Manitoba has had challenges with respect to the amount of time that people wait for those necessary procedures," he added. "We're investing really heavily in health care ... we are changing health care because for years and years we had a system that wouldn't modernize, and we must modernize our system to stabilize it."

In their response to the throne speech, the Manitoba NDP suggested while Manitobans continue to make sacrifices to keep their communities safe during the pandemic, the Pallis-

ter government is making life harder for them

The official opposition's claims included the government cutting nearly 10,000 jobs, ignoring seniors, failing to make schools safe, refusing to give families and businesses the help they need and allowing testing lines to grow longer every day.

They presented a plan which focused on five key areas: improving our COVID response, investing in safe and strong public schools, keeping Manitoba Hydro public, creating more affordable child care spots so women can return to work and providing supports for businesses and a living wage for workers.

"It's a plan that will make Manitoba stronger," the NDP said. "A plan that reflects our progressive vision for Manitoba and will guide our work in the House this session."



# Smile Cookie campaign raises \$17K for Big Bros.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Tim Hortons customers in Morden-Winkler helped to put a big smile on the face of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley executive director Jenelle Neufeld.

The eatery's annual Smile Cookie week mid-September sold enough of the grinning treats to raise \$17,460 for the mentoring agency.

That's up almost \$2,500 over last year and represents thousands of cookies sold, says Morden and Winkler Tim Hortons owners Linda and Jeff Doerksen.

"It was awesome," Linda said, attributing the success in part to a concerted effort to reach out to as many businesses as possible for pre-orders coupled with the hard work of staff in both locations to keep up with de-

mand. "They never ran out of cookies. That was key.

"And, really, it's thanks to the community. Every time I would call somebody they would say, 'Yes, of course.'"

The support helps Big Bros. keep its mentoring matches going, Neufeld said as she stopped by the Winkler Timmies to pick up the cheque last week.

"This year more than ever we're in a different climate than we would be normally and fundraising isn't where it would normally be," she said. "We're not having a lot of our annual fundraisers, so this means even more this year.

"It's definitely making a huge difference," Neufeld said, thanking the Doerksens and their staff for all the effort they put into the campaign. "And obviously thank you as well to



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Morden-Winkler Tim Hortons owners Linda and Jeff Doerksen (far left) and staff presented Jenelle Neufeld (third from right) with the proceeds of the Smile Cookie campaign last week. Over \$17,000 was raised for the mentoring agency.

the community. They're so supportive. We're so lucky that we live where we do.

"It all goes right back into the community," she noted. "Our studies show

that every dollar gives back \$23 to the community through either volunteering or shaping a young person's life. It's huge."

# Winkler Co-op sends out \$2.5M in equity cheques

By Lorne Stelmach

As the Winkler Co-op continues to face the challenges of COVID-19 this year, it was also able to pause and celebrate the successes of the past year.

Marking this week as Co-op Week, the restrictions posed by the pandemic meant it was not handing out the annual equity cheques in person, although it is offering some special in-house sales and free product.

General manager Evan Toews also touted the continued strength of the co-op, which was returning about \$2.5 million in cash to its members and had about \$4.1 million in equity in 2019.

"All in all, it's looking really good," said Toews. "Overall, we had a very positive year with increased sales and savings, and our first year together with Lowe Farm Co-op was a success.

"It's the support of the community that continues to support a truly community-owned business," he added. "In all of the aspects and in all of the commodities that we're in, we feel the support, and we try to return more than just this in donations. We returned again over \$300,000 back in donations to the different deserving groups.

"The success shows us that the co-operative model is still current and is still here to strengthen the community."

The past few months have brought with them some obvious challenges, but Toews said Co-op has weathered the storm well.

"Our diversification has been key through all of this as well," he said. "Not every division that we have experienced growth; many experienced decreased sales as well such as petro-

leum during the pandemic.

"The vast majority of our departments are essential services, so we've had some challenges obviously, as everyone else has," Toews said. "We've also had a lot of wins, and we've had again a lot of community support; everything from volunteer hours that were put in to try to help us feed those

who were in isolation as well as all the support through our delivery service.

"Overall, also just the acceptance of the community when they do come into our stores and our changes. People have been very accommodating and appreciative of the efforts that we have put in place to try to keep everybody safe."

# Long weekend sees 228 new cases

## Manitoba also sees four more COVID-19 deaths, bringing total to 34

By Voice staff

Manitoba's COVID-19 numbers continue to climb.

Public health officials announced 228 new cases of the virus over the holiday weekend, in addition to four more deaths.

A woman in her 100s from Winnipeg and a man in his 40s, also from Winnipeg, were reported as the province's 33rd and 34th deaths due to COVID-19 on Monday. Another two Winnipeggers—two women in their 80s and 90s—had been reported on Saturday as the 31st and 32nd

deaths.

Monday's COVID-19 bulletin put the total number of cases in Manitoba at 2,655, including 1,131 active cases and 1,490 recoveries.

There were 25 people in hospital with the virus at press time, four in intensive care.

In our region, Southern Health, there are currently 43 active cases, 336 recoveries, and 11 deaths.

The bulk of the new cases over the past week have been in Winnipeg and Monday's tally was no exception: of the 77 new cases announced on Thanksgiving, 56 were in the

Winnipeg health region, nine were in Southern Health—Santé Sud, five were in the Interlake-Eastern and Northern health regions, and two were in the Prairie Mountain Health region.

Winnipeg and the surrounding area remain at code orange on the Pandemic Response System, which means public gatherings are limited to 10 people and masks are required in all indoor public spaces.

Manitoba's five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate was 3.3 per cent at the start of the week.

The chief provincial public health officer strongly encourages Manitobans to reduce the number of close

Continued on page 18



# Access CU unveils new post-merger branding

By Voice staff

Access Credit Union is marking its amalgamation with Crosstown Civic Credit Union with a new company brand designed to better represent the merged entity.

ACU's new "Where you need us to be" tagline is a "nod to the expanded geographical range of the new credit union, as well as the new digital frontiers for banking and communicating," says Ingrid Loewen, current board chair for Crosstown Civic and incoming board chair for the new Access. "We are committed to being



available for our members—online, offline, at any milestone in their lives."

A new logo is also meant to express the organization's "member-centric" approach to financial services.

The logo includes a "triple cheque mark" representing Crosstown Civic

in blue, Access in green, and both entities together to make a teal capital A.

ACU explained that the inspiration is all positive: arrows for forward, upward motion and change; a check mark for solutions and right choices; a knot to tie it together; and an "A" for

accessibility.

"Our new brand celebrates the beginning of a new organization while respecting the legacies of our pasts," said Curt Letkeman, current board chair for Access and incoming vice chair for the new credit union. "Our brand will be reflected in exceptional service and convenience for members when they want, how they want. Our new brand is unique—just like each member we represent."

The ACU and Crosstown Civic Credit Union amalgamation officially comes into effect on Jan. 1.

## Several local groups receive heritage grants

By Voice staff

A number of local groups are among the fall recipients of the Heritage Grant Program.

The provincial government announced earlier this month that it had approved more than \$130,000 in fund-

ing to a host of not-for-profit community organizations across Manitoba.

"These grants provide funding support so organizations and communities can carry out projects that might not be possible from their general budgets," said Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Cathy Cox. "This

funding helps them take on special projects that will further improve the service they provide all Manitobans."

The Central Region as a whole received over \$25,000 from the program in the year's second wave of funding, including \$4,740 to the Boundary Trail Heritage Region Inc. for a St. Paul's

Catholic Church site sign and to research local pioneers, \$2,533 to the Miami Railway Station Museum for exhibition improvements, and \$7,000 to the Stanley Trail Association to create a video of local history in the Lake Minnewasta region.



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# Winkler artist crafts wooden 'Armor of God'

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler EMM Church has played host to several unique pieces of artwork recently thanks to the work of one of its congregants.

Woodworker John P. Reimer has spent several hundred hours over the

past few years bringing the armor of God described in the Bible to life.

Reimer painstakingly carved pieces of poplar, purple heart, angelim, maple, and ash into the Christian Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Gospel of Peace, Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the

Spirit.

It was a labour of love, to be sure.

"It took me between 600-700 hours," Reimer said. "I started on it about three years ago and then I kind of lost interest in it for awhile when it was maybe half or a third done. So I shelved it for two years.

"And then I just felt God calling on me to bring it out and finish it."

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Reimer felt it was more important than ever to finish the pieces and share them with others.

"I could sense that that was God's lead, to finish it and have a message about it in church," he said, adding that he hopes people's takeaway when viewing the work is "courage and inspiration to take God's armor with you on your walk through this journey of life, especially in these times."

Winkler EMMC pastor Dale Dueck said the pieces served as a powerful visual representation for his sermon on the armor of God last week.

"Anything like this is helpful for the congregation, a good visual reminder," he said. "They'll certainly remember this."

The project got its start with a simple idea.

"I had this thought that I'd like to build a sword out of wood as a cool thing to do," Reimer recalled. "I had

these leftover pieces around of nicer wood, and so I started that way."

The finished sword led to the helmet, which then led to the rest of the set.

Every piece is made entirely out of wood, even the belt and sandal parts that look very much like leather.

"I picked this particular wood because it looks so much like leather," Reimer said. "I knew I had to make the belt out of it."

It's no small challenge to create such intricate pieces out of wood, but it's one Reimer relishes. He's been creating wood art for nearly 40 years now.

"I've always been interested in art. I've been drawing since I was old enough to hold a pencil," he said. "I was also interested in building things, so the two kind of fused and I got interested in wood carving. Once the carving got going I started to get more elaborate with sculptural pieces like this."

The armor pieces have taken up a lot of his time of late. Now that it's done, Reimer has a ideas for a few other projects he hopes to tackle this winter. He hopes to have a public exhibition of his work one day at a local gallery.

In the meantime, he's open to loaning the armor of God pieces out to other area churches interested in displaying them. You can reach him at 204-361-8166 or reimerj5@yahoo.ca.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

John P. Reimer spent hundreds of hours creating a visual representation of the armor of God out of wood. Each piece includes elements of symbolism, such as the shield illustrating the power of God and the salvation of man through Jesus, Reimer explains.



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# PVHS teams up with Snap Fitness for kitty supply drive

By Lorne Stelmach

The arrival of a mother cat and five kittens at its shelter in Morden last week was quite a coincidence for the Pembina Valley Humane Society.

The organization had only just recently launched a kitten supply drive in conjunction with Snap Fitness in Winkler.

"So the kitten supply drive could not be happening at a better time," said public relations chair Holly Thorne.

The campaign is encouraging supporters to donate such supplies as kitten formula, cat and kitten wet and dry food, and kitty litter any time this month at Snap Fitness in Winkler.

With every item donated you will get entries into a draw for a chance to win a prize at the end of the month.

"They've stepped up for us a couple times," Thorne noted of Snap Fitness.

The support comes at a good time as the shelter is pretty much at capacity right now as far as cats and kittens go.

"We do have other kittens that are a little

bit older as well that we do need supplies for as well," said Thorne. "We also do have a lot of cats that are in foster right now, but we do have to maintain space for them."

"We are going to especially need a supply of kitten formula," she said. "It's amazing how much kittens can eat ... and then there's the kitty litter. We always need kitty litter because they eat so much, and it has to go somewhere."

"This is an ongoing need," she added. "We'll always do our best to take them in, especially if it's an emergency situation, but that means we always need to have supplies for them."

Thorne noted they appreciate how many individuals and businesses alike have done what they can to help the humane society especially while in the midst of the pandemic.

"We do have a great community of advocates who work for us," she said. "We're finding that a lot of people, if they can't donate money, they're donating their time. Even something simple like sharing a [social media] post, and we've seen an uptick in that in the last six months."



PVHS PHOTO

The arrival of five new kittens at the PVHS shelter comes at the perfect time—the shelter has partnered with Snap Fitness on a kitty supply drive this month.

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# Got thoughts on cover crops? Prairie Cover Crop Survey wants farmers to weigh-in on the practice

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Whether you've grown one before or not, if you're an ag producer then Callum Morrison wants to hear your thoughts on cover crops.

The University of Manitoba PhD student is trying to get the word out about the second round of the Prairie Cover Crop Survey, which he's overseeing alongside Dr. Yvonne Lawley, assistant professor of agronomy and farming systems.

"We're wanting to try and see how Western Canadian farmers are using cover crops," Morrison explained as the survey went live earlier this month. "How they're growing them, why they're growing the crops they are, the benefits that they want to achieve, and if they've had any problems while growing cover crops."

Cover crops are those grown at a time when the land would otherwise be left bare, often during the shoulder seasons of spring or fall when the cash crop is not on the field.

The practice, which can improve soil health, has gained popularity in the United States in recent years, with some areas actually offering producers incentives to grow them.

Cover crops are less widespread in Canada, but it's something an increasing number of producers are considering.

"Anecdotally, I know that the number of people using cover crops is increasing. It's something which was very niche until a few years ago," Morrison said. "It's still a small percentage of farmers but it's something farmers are talking about now."

Which makes now the time to gather information about the practice to provide farmers with insight into what their peers are doing and the impact it's having on their land.

"A lot of people are really hungry to get some information that is local," said Morrison. "They really want to know what farmers are doing around here."

He added he's not coming to the survey with any agenda about the efficacy of cover crops—he simply wants to gather and present the data to help producers make informed decisions.

"I really want producers to know that this is entirely for their benefit," Morrison stressed. "This is for farmers to make better decisions in the future."

The first round of the survey last year focused only on producers who have grown cover crops before. This time around, it's open to all.

"We really want to reach out to people who

have never grown a cover crop before so we can see if they have any concerns or reservations about having cover crops on their farms," Morrison explained. "We actually had a number of people saying they'd still like to take part because they are thinking about growing cover crops and they still have their opinions that they want to see in the report."

The first round drew over 200 respondents across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, including a large number—the highest, in fact, from any region—from the Stanley and Rhineland areas.

The responses showed a huge variety in the types of producers using cover crops.

"We found that cover crops are being used by a very wide swath of farmers who have very different farms, very different

climates, and very different soil," Morrison said. "So it may be very niche right now, still a small number of farmers, but it was still very interesting for me to see it's big enough to include so many different kinds of producers."

The survey, which should take about 15 minutes on average to complete, is available to fill out until early in the new year, as Morrison hopes to have the results compiled and distributed well before farmers need to finalize their plans for spring planting.

You can find it online at [sites.google.com/view/prairiecovercropsurvey/Survey](https://sites.google.com/view/prairiecovercropsurvey/Survey).

**"IT'S SOMETHING FARMERS ARE TALKING ABOUT."**



PhD student Callum Morrison is asking farmers to share their experiences and thoughts on cover crops.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

## MB Beef Producers district meeting coming up

By Lorne Stelmach

It's been a challenging year in a number of respects for Manitoba beef producers, so the provincial organization that represents them is looking to connect with them through upcoming district meetings.

Because of pandemic restrictions, the meetings are being held online through Zoom starting Oct. 20 with district three, which includes

producers in Stanley, Dufferin, Thompson, Roland, Morris, Stanley, and Rhineland, among other areas.

Manitoba Beef Producers president Dianne Riding said these meetings are a great opportunity for members to hear about the work the organization is doing on their behalf and help set the path for the future by proposing reso-

Continued on page 18

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# Fun with ambigrams

Interactive word art on display now at WAC

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new exhibit at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre aims to get you looking at things from a different perspective.

The WAC has over 30 pieces of Morden artist Kelly Klages's ambigrams on display now to Nov. 16.

Ambigrams are a form of word art that has a different interpretation depending on the viewer's perception.

"There's lots of different styles of ambigrams but I do basically two kinds: mirror image ones which have a central axis and they reflect across it so they're symmetrical on both sides," Klages says, explaining that if you held these words up to a mirror they would read the same.

The second kind is a rotational ambigram where the words remain when you flip it around.

For example, one of Klages's pieces has the name "Winkler" written in cursive above "Morden." If you turn that canvas around it reads the same.

Sometimes rotating the canvas yields a slightly different take on an image. In one piece she did for Shakespeare's play *Othello*, the words remain but the image shifts from depicting weeping Desdemona one way to the green-eyed monster the other.

Klages got her start with ambigrams while doodling on a napkin at a restaurant a few years ago. Many of her creations today begin that way—sketching it out to see what works and what doesn't.

"I write the word out in capital letters and in lower case letters and in cursive and a few other writing hands and, if it's going to be rotational, I flip it upside down and see if I can see that word faintly anywhere in the rotation," she explains. "And then you just kind of tweak it until you get it the same both ways in the clearest way possible."

It's a form of art that appeals to both the artistic and the logical parts of her mind, Klages says.

"I like ambigrams because they're



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Artist Kelly Klages with an example of her ambigram art. The piece looks—and reads—the same rightside up and upside down.

kind of like logic puzzles," she says. "It's like working on a crossword or something because it's a process of deduction where you're solving something and then also creating something."

Klages stresses that most of the pieces on display are meant to be interac-

tive so people can really get the full effect (hand sanitizer is available at each display table).

"I just hope that people have fun with it. It is meant to be hands-on. Don't be afraid to flip things around because that's the whole point of it."

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## That's a wrap

Nice weather greeted vendors and customers last Thursday for the final Morden Farmers' Market of the season. At its peak, the market had close to two dozen vendors with new ones like Farmery Brewery having made occasional appearances. New features this year also included an online ordering platform for a number of vendors as well as a food voucher program through Direct Farm Manitoba and Many Hands Resource Centre to help provide local families with access to fresh, locally grown produce (see story on Pg. 8).

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

# PHAC hosting artist retreat next weekend

By Lorne Stelmach

It may be called an artist retreat, but the invite goes out to anyone for the one day event of the Pembina Hills Arts Council next weekend.

The ELEVATE retreat takes place Saturday, Oct. 24 at the Pembina Valley Bible Camp, and it could be a good day regardless of whether you are a practising artist or not, suggested PHAC programs and outreach co-ordinator Tricia Dyck.

"You don't have to be an artist to come to the retreat ... you will still gain experience, and it will be fun and educational," she said. "I think at a minimum everyone will have had an immensely fun day."

"I think to be able to bond with other artists, other people ... and even just getting out and into nature. I think the pandemic has brought a lot of stress to everybody, and getting out into nature is freeing."

What had been a two day overnight event last year has been scaled back to one day this year in large part due to pandemic restrictions, but Dyck suggested there are also advantages

to simplifying things.

"It just provides a little bit less commitment," she said, adding that keeping it to a more intimate gathering of no more than 20 people is also more appealing to some. "That was a really good takeaway from last year, and we had lots of positive feedback."

The camp has a variety of COVID-19 protocols in place to ensure the event is a safe one for everyone.

"Each person will have their own large table to work at, and everyone will be asked to wear masks," Dyck said, noting the main hall is a more than large enough space to accommodate physical distancing.

The day will include two workshops that don't require previous art knowl-

edge.

One led by professional photographer Leif Norman will focus on improving one's photography skills, including how to photograph artwork for marketing

"He can take that guesswork out of it, and he can also teach to all levels," said Dyck, noting that Norman has photographed artwork for the Winnipeg Art Gallery. "We have this amazing opportunity with an artist who knows exactly how to photograph art."

The second workshop will take participants through how to create a 'Crankie' with musician and artist Debra Lyn Neufeld.

The great thing about it is that you can draw, paint, collage, write lyrics,

or use myriad other ways to create your own moving picture box, said Dyck.

"There's many variations on that ... whether you want to illustrate with paints, whether you want to draw ... you could do collage ... you don't have to come in knowing how to paint and draw."

The \$125 registration fee for the retreat includes two meals and art supplies. There is also an optional horse trail ride available for an additional charge.

For more information, call 204-822-6026, email [info@pembinahillsarts.com](mailto:info@pembinahillsarts.com), or head to [pembinahillsarts.com](http://pembinahillsarts.com).

## Online job fair a hit for Regional Connections

By Lorne Stelmach

Regional Connections hopes to hold regular job fairs after getting a good response to its first event last week.

Held online Oct. 6 via Zoom, the agency's first job fair offered a chance for up to 100 people to connect with a half dozen employers in the region.

It was kept small as a pilot event and was virtual given pandemic restrictions, but organizers believe it could be the start of an ongoing effort to connect people with work opportunities.

"We were happy we were able to make this happen, and we want

to keep having these events happen quite often, maybe every quarter," said employment co-ordinator Adeleke Dada. "We had good participation from people around the Pembina Valley area. We had people from all different demographics."

Dada said they had been looking for employers who potentially had multiple job opening, so there were representatives from Access Credit Union, Grandeur Housing, Gateway Resources, Meridian Industries, Berg Trailers, and Friesens.

As far as the job seekers, it was open to all.

"It wasn't just for newcomers—it was for anybody who was looking for a job," said Dada. "We had great

attendance. We had a lot of people connecting with employers."

"It was very engaging," he said. "After listening to general presentations, they had breakout sessions, so they had time to have a more in-depth conversation and had the opportunity to ask their questions."

Dada invites local companies looking to hire to contact him to take part in future job fairs.

"We can also have special events for them," he suggested. "We want employers that are interested in being part of this to reach out to us. There's a lot of people in the Pembina Valley area looking for jobs, and this is a good opportunity for them to reach out."

**"THE PANDEMIC HAS BROUGHT A LOT OF STRESS TO EVERYBODY, AND GETTING OUT INTO NATURE IS FREEING."**



# Kat's Kritters Rescue becoming a sanctuary for unadoptable animals

By Becca Myskiw

Kat's Kritters Rescue (KKR) is shifting from an adoption-focused rescue to a sanctuary for "unadoptable" animals.

KKR started in January 2014 with the goal of rescuing as many animals as possible, giving them a high level of veterinary care, and finding them new homes.

Kathy Gyoerick started the rescue after leaving her job at a traditional shelter. She said she wanted to provide the animals in her care with a stress-reduced environment, so she uses fear-free handling methods.

As time has moved on, Gyoerick has started to work with more and more hard-to-adopt animals. That includes senior animals and those with higher medical needs or behavioural issues.

"The reality is that with so many young, healthy, social animals in need of homes, these more 'challenging' animals were often overlooked or taken on by people not really equipped to handle them," she said. "It was heartbreaking to see these animals, that already were struggling in various ways, being moved around from place to place."

KKR is based out of Gyoerick's home in Sperling. The rural location has a cage-free design, which Gyoerick says enriches the animals' lives long term.

Because of the rescue's shift to a sanctuary, they have as few animals up for adoption as they've ever had: six dogs and 10 cats. Gyoerick said that's because the majority of their social, "easy" animals will be going to reputable partner organizations when ready for adoption.

Altogether, KKR currently has 25 cats and 13 dogs in their direct care right now.

Gyoerick's most memorable rescue happened close to home. There was a dog running loose in a field, miles from KKR, and she was told if it started coming into neighbours' yards, they might shoot or poison it.

"I spent several days trying to capture him, but he was in survival mode and too frightened to allow me to help him," she recalled.

She made a call and had people from LEASH (Locating Elusive and Skittish Hounds) set a live trap for the dog. It was never claimed, and she determined it was likely dumped near her rescue on purpose.

The dog's name today is Qwik and he's been with KKR for over a year. While he does struggle with fear and anxiety, his medication and reinforcement-based training are helping him progress. Qwik is currently up for adoption to a very specific type of home, but Gyoerick said he might end up staying with KKR permanently if that home isn't found.

Gyoerick encourages people looking for a pet to get them through adoption as more cats and dogs are being born than there are homes for them.

"For every animal that a person chooses to obtain through any method other than adopting from a reputable organization, they are sentencing another homeless animal to death," she said. "That is a harsh truth."

Adopting one animal saves the lives of two: the one you take home and the one taking its place in the shelter.

KKR ensures all of their animals are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, dewormed, blood tested for heartworm, Lyme disease, feline leukemia, and FIV, and that they're on heartworm and flea/tick prevention medication.

You can get in touch with Kat's Kritters online at [katskrittersmb.com](http://katskrittersmb.com)



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kathy Gyoerick wanted to do something in life where her hard work would produce meaningful results, so that's what she's been doing through her animal rescue, Kat's Kritters. Below: Qwik healthy today (left) and when he was found in the trap (right).



## DQ treats support the Children's Hospital

Winkler Dairy Queen manager Kristina Dyck serving up a tasty treat during Miracle Treat Week Oct. 5-11. A few dollars from every Blizzard sold went to the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Winkler Morden Voice What's *your* story? Call 325-6888





## Night of laughs supports PVHS

It may have been on a smaller scale than usual, but the annual Raise The Woof comedy night fundraiser in support of the Pembina Valley Humane Society went ahead last Friday in Winkler. Comedians Cory Mack, Michael Green, and Matt Kaye entertained the crowd, and an online auction that continued to the end of the Thanksgiving long weekend was adding to the event's tally, which was not available at press time.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

## > COVID-19, FROM PG. 9

contacts outside their household, and avoid closed-in or crowded spaces.

In addition, people are urged to continue focusing on the fundamentals to help stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash/sanitize your hands and cover your cough.
- Physically distance when you are with people outside your household.

- If you cannot physically distance, wear a mask to help reduce the risk to others or as required by public health orders.

## STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED

On Friday, the Manitoba govern-

ment extended the provincewide state of emergency under the Emergency Measures Act for another 30 days.

The state of emergency was first declared on March 20 to allow the government to more quickly respond to the pandemic. It has been extended every month since.

## > PRODUCER MEETINGS, FROM PG. 14

lutions for the virtual annual general meeting in February.

"It is good to get the producers' input, but it also gives us a chance to talk to producers to tell them what we've been doing," said Riding. "Our producers get to see an overall view of what we have been working on all year, and they can also question their director as to anything that they have on their minds to discuss with us."

"There's lots of things happening in the cattle industry, and we always have lots of files on the go," she said. "Sometimes producers don't realize how much we actually are doing, so we always like to be able to talk to them about what we've done over the course of a year."

COVID-19 has had an impact on beef producers in a number of ways, suggested Riding, noting for example the backlog of cattle that resulted from the plant shutdown in Alberta.

"Some areas of the province still are short of feed ... some of our producers have had too much moisture, some not enough," she said. "At one point, it

was touch and go whether they would keep our auction marts open, and it's now been deemed an essential service."

"I would say it's quite a stressful time for producers because of all of the uncertainty."

Another issue centres on changes around the use of Crown lands, and the Manitoba Beef Producers are pressing the government for consultation on such concerns as rental increases as well as having the right to lease renewal, which is currently only available on legacy leases.

"We would like them to phase in their rental increases over five years," explained Riding. "We just need to work towards trying to come to a solution because some of the changes are not really favorable for producers. The rental increase is a huge one but also the right of renewal."

"When you're short of feed and you

get hit with a rental increase on land that is not producing what it has been three years ago, it's a little bit hard to take," she continued.

"And a lot of our Crown lands are in areas where it's not the best soil ... the

best purpose for it is for cattle usage or bison or whatever can graze it. We also have pockets of crown land that's in wildlife management areas, and in those areas, you can-

not increase your production in any way on it ... you cannot spray it, you cannot plant alfalfa or anything else on it. I am very restricted in what I can do with mine."

Producers wanting to register for a district meeting can do so online to [mbbeef.ca](http://mbbeef.ca).

"I WOULD SAY IT'S QUITE A STRESSFUL TIME FOR PRODUCERS BECAUSE OF ALL THE UNCERTAINTY."

# Man killed in head-on collision

By Voice staff

A 19-year-old man was killed in a head-on collision in our area last week.

Pembina Valley RCMP were called to Provincial Road 2 North between PR 41 West and PR 43 West at approximately 8 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 5.

Police arrived on scene to find an SUV on its roof and on fire in the middle of the road.

Investigation revealed the eastbound SUV and a westbound pickup truck hauling an empty cattle trailer collided at the crest of a hill.

The 19-year-old male driver of the SUV was pronounced dead at the scene. The 33-year-old male driver of the pickup truck was transported to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Both drivers were from Pembina and the only occupants of their vehicles.

Alcohol was not a factor in the collision, police say, though it appears speed may have been. It's unknown at this point in the investigation if the deceased was wearing a seatbelt.

A forensic collision reconstructionist is assisting with the ongoing investigation.

The *Winkler Morden* **Voice**

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# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Flyers start with pair of wins

Down Neepawa in home and away season openers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers got their 41st MJHL season off to a good start with a pair of wins over Neepawa last weekend.

Game one in Neepawa Friday night was a close affair that saw Winkler up 2-0 after a late first-period goal from Derek Wiebe and one from Cole Mackenzie two minutes into the second.

Neepawa clawed their way back into it with a goal in the second's 13th minute and another with 2:01 to go in the third to force overtime.

There, Ian Tookenay fired home the game winner at 1:24 to give it Winkler 3-2.

The two teams were pretty evenly matched in shots on net, with Neepawa getting 26 to Winkler's 25. Reid Dyck went the distance in net, making 24 saves.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler's Daniel Isaak tries to knock the puck off the stick of Neepawa's Cooper Morris in Saturday's home opener, which the Flyers won 4-1. The win came on the heels of a 3-2 OT win in Neepawa the night before.

"WE'VE GOT A LOT OF NEW PLAYERS, AS EVERY TEAM DOES, SO THERE'S A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT OURSELVES."

Game two in Winkler Saturday night left no room for doubt as the Flyers took it 4-1.

A strong first period effort had the team up 3-0 on the strength of goals from Jayden McCarthy, Tookenay, and Logan Danis.

Neepawa got their lone goal three minutes into the second, but Winkler's Mike Svenson returned the favour in the period's final seconds ahead of a

scoreless period three.

Dyck turned away 35 shots between the posts for Winkler as Neepawa outshot the Flyers 36-31.

Flyers head coach Kelvin Cech felt the team made great strides in this first outing on the ice.

"I was really encouraged that we got better and better as the weekend went along," he said on Sunday.

Knowing they'll be playing Neepawa

again this coming weekend gives the team the week to review game tapes and fill in any holes in their defense, Cech noted.

"We've got a lot of new players, as every team does, so there's a lot to learn about ourselves," he said. "We've got a week to prepare for them."

Training camp and the short, three-

Continued on page 20

The Winkler Morden  
**Voice**

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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Pembina Valley Hawks wrapped up the pre-season with a 5-3 win against the Central Plains Capitals last week. They start regular season play this Saturday in Morden against Eastman.

# Hawks end pre-season with a 2-2 record

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks ended their pre-season at .500 with a win last Wednesday against the Central Plains Capitals.

The 5-3 win on home ice in Morden turned the tables on the Capitals, who had earlier earned a 5-3 victory over the Hawks, who also split a pair of exhibition games with the Interlake Lightning.

The Hawks came out of the gate strong on both the offensive and defensive sides and extended a 1-0 first period lead to 4-0 after 40 minutes.

An unassisted goal early in the third by Anthony Lehmann made it 5-0 before the Capitals rallied with three straight goals, but Pembina Valley goalie Logan Enns shut it down the

rest of the way.

Tyler Parr had a pair of goals while Nicholas Mckee chipped in a goal and an assist. Mike Heppner also scored while Kaden Dyck and Carter Campbell contributed a pair of assists.

Coach Reid Sloan said the game offered a good opportunity for the roster to develop some chemistry.

"We had a superior start to the game prior to a small collapse late," he said. "We were happy with many aspects of the boys' game."

The Hawks now has their roster set for the regular season, which gets underway this Saturday in Morden with the first of a series of three games against the Eastman Selects.

The two teams then meet again in Beausejour Oct. 21 and back in Morden Oct. 24.

# Twisters end pre-season with 6-4 loss to Transcona

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Twisters wrapped up their pre-season with a loss last Friday night.

The Transcona Railer Express capitalized on home ice advantage to take the MMJHL game 6-4.

Transcona were up 2-0 by the game's 11th minute. Goals from Pembina Valley's Merek Degraeve and Owen Wiebe in the first and second periods evened things out, but the Railer Express retook the lead midway through the middle frame.

Zach Tetrault got the equalizer three minutes into the final period and then a second goal from Degraeve gave the Twisters their first lead of the game. It was short-lived, though, with Transcona scoring three unanswered goals before the final whistle.

Brock Moroz made 27 saves in net for the Twisters as

Transcona outshot them 33-24.

The shortened pre-season earlier saw the Twisters down the Charleswood Hawks 4-2 and the St. Vital Victorias 4-3 in overtime.

The puck drops on Pembina Valley's regular

season this Friday at home in Morris against the St. Boniface Riels.

The Twisters then hit the road to play the Fort Garry/Fort Rouge Twins on Sunday.

# Female Hawks drop first two

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks are winless through their first two regular season games.

The Hawks however gave Yellowhead a good battle Saturday in Morden before falling 4-3 to the Chiefs, who are now unbeaten through two games.

The game was even at 1-1 after one and tied 2-2 after 40 minutes before the Chiefs got the edge in the final frame.

Goaltender Regan Durand kept Pembina Valley in it by stopping 34 of 38 shots, while the Hawks managed 25 shots on the Yellowhead net.

Caitlin Anderson and Abbi Conrad had a goal and an assist for the Hawks with the other goal coming from Mya Pearce, while Anika Braun contributed a pair of assists.

Pembina Valley is home for a pair of games in Morden this weekend starting with the Eastman Selects Saturday and then the Winnipeg Avros Sunday.

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*The Winkler Morden*  
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## > FLYERS, FROM PG. 19

game pre-season were enough to show Cech they have all the ingredients they need for a strong season.

"We are very deep up front with a lot of forwards with experience," he said. "We only have six defenseman right now but there's a lot of skill back there."

The team's goalies are both local products—Dyck is from Winkler while Dylan Meilun, who Cech plans to start this weekend, hails from

Morden.

"Dyck played his first two games of junior A hockey this weekend and he's very special in net," Cech observed.

The back-and-forth game schedule sees Winkler in Neepawa once again this Saturday followed by a home game rematch on Sunday.

Next week the team plays a home and away against Virden.



# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



RED RIVER CO-OP FOOD STORE

## Cheesy Baked Mushroom Chicken

Cut each chicken breast in half. Place flour in resealable bag. Place chicken in resealable bag with flour; toss to coat.

In large skillet, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Add chicken to skillet; brown all sides. Transfer chicken from skillet to 11-by-7-inch baking dish.

In skillet, saute sliced mushrooms in remaining butter until softened. Add chicken broth, salt and pepper. Bring to boil then cook 5 minutes. Spoon over chicken.

Bake 15 minutes. Sprinkle with cheeses and green onions. Bake 5 minutes, or until cheese is melted.

Nonstick cooking spray  
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
1/2 cup flour  
4 tablespoons butter  
8 ounces mushrooms, sliced  
1/2 cup chicken broth  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese  
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated  
1/4 cup green onions, sliced  
Heat oven to 375 F. Prepare baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.



## Homemade Oatmeal Creme Cookies

Recipe courtesy of Michael Johnson on behalf of Domino Sugar

Prep time: 45 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Servings: 10-12

Oatmeal Cookies:

1 cup unsalted butter, room temperature

1 cup Domino Dark Brown Sugar

1/2 cup Domino Golden Sugar

2 large eggs

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon coarse sea salt

3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

3 cups rolled old-fashioned oats

Vanilla Bean Creme Filling:

3/4 cup unsalted butter, room temperature

2 1/2 cups Domino Confectioners' Sugar

1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste or va-

nilla extract

1tablespoon heavy cream

To make Oatmeal Cookies: Preheat oven to 350 F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

In bowl of stand mixer fitted with paddle attachment or in large bowl with electric mixer, cream butter, brown sugar and golden sugar on medium-high speed until light and creamy, about 2 minutes. Add eggs and vanilla; mix until combined, scraping down sides of bowl as needed. Set aside.

In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, cloves and oats. With mixer on low, slowly add oat mixture to wet ingredients, mixing until just combined.

Using large cookie scoop, scoop dough onto prepared baking sheet, leaving about 2 1/2 inches between each cookie. Bake 12-14 minutes, or until lightly golden brown around edges. Allow cookies to sit on pan about 3 minutes before removing to wire rack to cool completely.

To make Vanilla Bean Creme Filling: In bowl of stand mixer fitted with paddle attachment or in large bowl with electric mixer, beat butter on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes.

Turn speed to low and gradually add confectioners' sugar, mixing until completely incorporated. Add vanilla bean paste and heavy cream; mix until combined. Turn mixer to medium-high speed and beat 3-5 minutes until buttercream is fluffy. If necessary, add cream 1 teaspoon at a time until desired consistency. To fill and assemble, pipe or spread about 1 1/2 tablespoons Vanilla Bean Creme Filling on bottom halves of Oatmeal Cookies; top with remaining halves.

## Expert Patient Here to Help!



Susie Schwartz

"SUSANNE, I KNOW IF YOU SAY YOU NEED AN APPOINTMENT, YOU REALLY NEED ONE."

- NICOLE, ASSISTANT TO MY GP

How did I earn that statement (and the appointment she squeezed in)?

Future columns will cover more, but for now let's start here.

### Earn your doctor's trust.

Yes, as patients who want to be taken seriously, we have to put in the work. Doctors can be jaded from people abusing the system and are so self-absorbed they're convinced their problems are top priority. Think: My nose bled in the nosebleed section at the Jets game last month and I need this checked out STAT! (Sigh. We could only wish. Stupid Covid-19.)

Of course, sometimes our problems need be top priority as they might be serious or urgent. Here's how to earn the 'in' with your doctor:

Before calling ask yourself these questions: Is my problem pressing

or could I wait for a routine appointment? Is this a question a Pharmacist could answer? Have I had this health issue before? If so, how was it treated and what did I learn back then? Can I help myself while I wait to be seen? Do I tend to overreact/worry over small things or is my norm to avoid the doctor at all costs?

When you call for an appointment, aim for efficiency and list the most pertinent /bothersome symptoms. Not long ago I'd been fighting a UTI and given a prescription. I called in to say four days in of five on antibiotics, I'd felt worse not better. I mentioned ketones in my blood which can fast lead to a life-threatening diabetes complication. Being Thursday, I voiced concern about not getting treated before the weekend. That's all it took. The assistant sent a note to the doctor while still on the phone and bumped me to the top of the urgent list. I got (virtually) seen and re-treated not long after. (Bonus tip: I made a follow-up appointment for the following week knowing I could cancel if not needed.)

Being self-aware both physically and emotionally (sometimes we have to dig deep!) and efficient when communicating (they LOVE this!) helps the team (that includes us!) sort out when we should be seen.

Double-bonus tip: Be on time! (Yes, even if you know they always run late. Watch this space for more on that topic!)

And...BOOM. Trust gets earned.

Less health stress, yes?

A published author and motivational speaker, Susie currently lives in the UK. She welcomes feedback and questions. Find her on FB @medicalmissstress, Instagram @medicalmiss\_stress and her website Lesshealthstress.com



## Pastry Brunch Cups

flour with butter. Gradually pour in milk, whisking each time. Bring to simmer, whisking until mixture starts to thicken. Remove from heat; stir in Swiss cheese. Set aside.

Use rolling pin to thin out puff pastries. Cut each into nine squares. Line pastry squares in muffin cups, pressing bottoms down firmly and moving pastries up sides for edges to come up just over muffin tins. Fill each cup with 1 teaspoon cheese sauce. Crack one egg into each cup and sprinkle each with diced ham.

Bake 10-15 minutes until eggs set. Sprinkle with chopped green onions.

2 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 1/2 cups milk  
1 cup shredded Swiss cheese  
2 sheets puff pastry  
18 eggs  
2 cups diced ham  
chopped fresh green onions  
Heat oven 375 F.  
In small saucepan, melt butter. Whisk

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# take a break

> GAMES

## SUDOKU

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

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!

9	7	8	2	6	7	5	1	8
7	5	2	1	8	7	9	8	6
6	1	8	9	5	8	7	2	7
1	8	9	5	8	2	7	6	7
8	7	6	9	1	2	8	9	
5	2	6	7	7	8	8	9	1
2	9	1	8	7	5	6	7	8
8	8	5	7	2	6	1	7	9
7	6	7	8	1	9	8	5	2

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

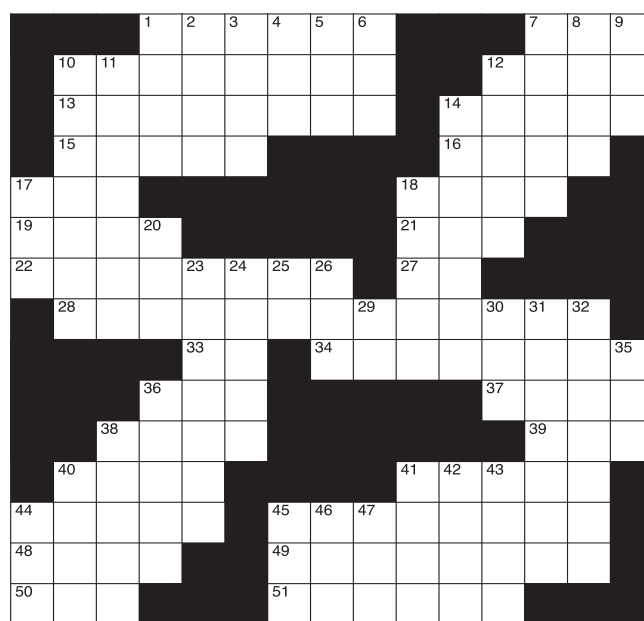
# X CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Lunar crater
7. Upstate NY airport (abbr.)
10. Fruit
12. Seventh avatar of Vishnu
13. Organism that grows without air
14. Heals
15. A book has one
16. Open
17. Twitch
18. Plant of the mint family
19. Soon
21. Witch
22. Long, mournful complaint
27. Killer clown film
28. Keeps us occupied
33. Influential lawyer
34. Formation of concepts
36. Insecticide
37. Swiss river
38. Actress Lucy
39. Unit of g-force
40. Can repel attackers
41. Essential oil used as perfume
44. Cut into small pieces
45. Mexican agricultural worker
48. Best pitchers
49. Benign tumors
50. Danish krone
51. Looms above

### CLUES DOWN

1. Make a map of
2. Cain and —
3. Dried-up
4. Corporate exec (abbr.)
5. Trading floor hand



6. Strongly alkaline solution
7. Yemen capital
8. Military leader (abbr.)
9. Maintains possession of
10. Afternoon show
11. Imaginary being
12. Rearrange
14. Holy person or sage
17. — Mahal
18. Backbone
20. Brooklyn hoopster
23. Intervened
24. Extremely angry
25. Indicates position
26. Chinese surname
29. Potato state
30. When you think you'll get

### there

31. — Falls
32. Bullfighters
35. Born of
36. Small fishes
38. "Father of chemical warfare"
40. Waste matter
41. Skin disease
42. Scandinavian mythological god
43. — and haws
44. Villain
45. Tell on
46. Difficulty
47. Not old

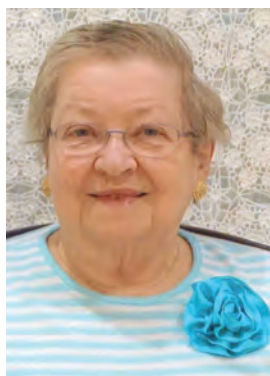


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## OBITUARY



### Elizabet (Betty) Wolfe (nee Letkeman) 1938 – 2020

Betty came into the world as a twin along with her brother Jake, on a cold day in December 1938, just six days before Christmas. Her first couple of weeks were spent in a shoebox on the door of a woodstove in the hopes that she and Jake would stay warm enough to survive as she weighed in just under three pounds! This only proves that she was a fighter from the beginning! Growing up Betty attended school in Wakeham District near Haskett, MB. Summers were spent helping out at home and picking pails full of Saskatoon berries which she would bring home to find customers already lined up and waiting to purchase. Instead of furthering her education, Betty would help at home and babysit for neighbours in the area. Later she would find employment at the Bethel Hospital where she served for over 25 years in the laundry department. In 1959 she met her future husband. They were baptized upon the confession of their faith and married on May 22, 1960. In spite of numerous trials and tribulations they were able to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, albeit in Salem Home.

Although never having children of her own, Betty became a favorite aunt to many of her nieces and nephews. She also made friends easily and was always ready to welcome them into her home for a cup of coffee and home baking.

She was a selfless soul, always seeing the needs of others helping in whatever way she could. After her husband's passing on September 29, 2010, she made it her mission to care for her younger sister, Jessie and took on the role of caregiver and power of attorney.

Her own health deteriorated, and she was diagnosed with early onset dementia. In February 2017, she was admitted into Salem Home where she kept staff and residents entertained with her antics and great sense of humour. In the early morning hour of Wednesday October 7, 2020, Betty peacefully entered her eternal and forever home to be with her Lord and Savior.

She leaves to mourn her passing her sister, Tina Wheeler; two sisters-in-law, Susan and Olga Letkeman; numerous nieces and nephews and special cousins and friends, George and Eva Giesbrecht.

Betty was predeceased by her husband, John in 2010 and her twin brother, Jake in 2019.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday October 12, 2020 at the Chortitz Old Colony Mennonite Church with interment at the Winkler Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Betty's memory to the Salem Foundation Inc.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
In care of arrangements  
wiebefuneralhomes.com



## OBITUARY



### "Jack" Jean Harvey Tessier

Our hearts are aching as we announce the peaceful passing of "Jack" Jean Harvey Tessier at Morden, Manitoba on Saturday, September 19, 2020.

The family is grateful that he enjoyed good health and had only a brief overnight stay at Boundary Trails Health Centre where he received excellent care. Surviving Jack are his wife Els; daughters Denise Lawson (Glenn), Yvonne Tessier-Neilson (Wayne), Lois (James Currie), Allyson; son Michael; step-sons, Paul, Pat, Robert (Temmerman) and step daughter Monique (Denzil) Rampton. Jack is also survived by a large complement of grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom he held dear.

Jack was predeceased by his first wife Norma (nee Caithness); his sister Elaine King (Tessier); his son John Rene Tessier and step-son John Temmerman.

In this time of COVID 19, Els and the extended families would like to warmly acknowledge the kindness and support shown in so many ways by neighbours and friends.

A public service is not planned.

Messages of condolence and memories are welcomed.

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## OBITUARY



### Rev. Abe W. Hiebert 1924 - 2020

Rev. Abe W. Hiebert, 92 and from Winkler, MB, passed away on Sunday, October 4, 2020. His health had been declining in recent years.

Rev. Hiebert served as a Mennonite pastor for over 25 years until he retired in 1992. He had a somewhat unconventional route to the pastorate. After nearly two decades as a service manager at Loewen Body Shop in Steinbach, MB, he was chosen through a lottery system as the first salaried pastor at the Berghaler Mennonite Church in Steinbach. He demonstrated his strong drive and hard work ethic by jumping into the ministry with both feet.

Rev. Hiebert had been forced to drop out of school in the eighth grade to help on the family farm after his father suffered a heart

attack. As a result, he prepared for the ministry by studying part-time at the Steinbach Bible Institute while pastoring and raising four children. He subsequently graduated from what is now called Canadian Mennonite University. Rev. Hiebert later served as pastor at the Zion Mennonite Church in Swift Current, SK, the Homewood Mennonite Church near Carman, MB, and the Berghaler Mennonite Church in Morden, MB. After retiring, Rev. Hiebert served as interim pastor at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler; co-managed with his wife, Verna the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) store in Winkler and served as a pastoral care visitor to hospitals in Winnipeg and Winkler until 2006.

Rev. Hiebert is survived by his wife, Verna (nee Bergen) and four children: Murray (wife Linda nee Gibson), Robert (wife Heather nee Bruce), Karen, and Merlin (wife Kelly nee Young). He is also survived by seven grandchildren – Ann (husband Israel Tejada) and Jonathan (wife Laura Kennedy) (Murray's and Linda's children), Lynley (husband Riley Box) and Arin (husband Ryan McMaster) (Robert's and Heather's children), and Trevor (wife Shanley nee Peters), Trenton (wife Rita, nee Mendoza) and Andrea (husband Matt Duda) (Karen's children). Rev. Hiebert is also survived by seven great-grandchildren: Nicholas and Samuel (children of Ann and Israel); Logan and Sophie (children of Jonathan and Laura), Isla and Harvey (children of Lynley and Riley); Jaden and Olivia (children of Trenton and Rita), Lukas (child of Andrea and Matt). Rev. Hiebert's sister, Kay Hiebert Davies is the only surviving sibling of 11 brothers and sisters. Rev. Hiebert's first wife, Rosemarie (nee Wieler) preceded him in death in 1956. Two of their children, Beverly and Gerald, died shortly after they were born.

Memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at the Winkler Berghaler Mennonite Church with interment prior at the Winkler Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Abe's memory to the Canadian Food Grains Bank.

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