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# The Winkler Voice

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## Hometown debut

"Headline" Shaun Martens attempts to slam Morden's own Cole Zwiep into the turn buckle during a tag team match in WWE's tour stop here last week. For more photos, see Pg. 22.

PHOTO BY RICK  
HIEBERT/VOICE

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



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# Winkler Christmas Cheer needs your help

## Campaign accepting only monetary donations this year

**By Ashleigh Viveiros**

The campaign itself may look a little different from past years, but the Winkler and District Christmas Cheer Board's mission is the same as always: ensure no family goes hungry this

holiday season.

Normally that mission would be achieved with the help of thousands of non-perishable food item donations and a small army of volunteers delivering overflowing care hampers in early December, but COVID-19

has necessitated a different kind of campaign this year, says Cheer Board president Kris Derksen.

"We are doing what Morden, Winnipeg, all the Cheer Boards around are doing and accepting only monetary donations this year," she said. "We're not doing any food drives at the schools, the grocery stores ... those are kind of out of the question right now."

The Holly Jolly Pancake Breakfast originally scheduled for this weekend also had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

To cut down on the need for volun-

teers in light of physical distancing requirements, instead of food hampers, the Cheer Board will be distributing Winkler Co-op gift cards to families to use for groceries.

"We're also asking people to, if they can, come pick up their gift cards on Dec. 9 at the Meridian Exhibition Centre," Derksen said, explaining they'll also have the usual wrapped gifts for kids available for families to pick up that evening with the gift cards. Other arrangements can be made for families unable to make their way to the MEC that night.

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler Christmas Cheer Board president Kris Derksen with Mayor Martin Harder last week as November was declared Cheer Board Month. "Everything is turned upside this year and with Cheerboard it's no different," noted Harder. "I'd like to plead with the community to step up to the plate and help them raise some funds so the hampers that are so desperately needed can be sent out before Christmas."



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# get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

## Co-op, Morden Autobody receive Biz of the Year awards



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Autobody's Dale Pohl and Fred Pohl with chamber president Scott Hildebrand at the presentation of the chamber's Business of the Year Award for companies with less than seven staff last week. Below: Hildebrand presents Co-op general manager Evan Toews with the Business of the Year Award for larger companies.



By Lorne Stelmach

Co-op and Morden Autobody have been honoured with the annual Business of the Year awards from the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce.

Morden Autobody was recognized as Business of the Year with less than seven employees. The other nominees were Elite Crushing and MMJS Law Office.

Business of the Year with seven or more employees went to Co-op, who beat out Morden Realty and Coffee Culture for the honour.

With pandemic restrictions making an awards gala impossible, chamber reps instead made the rounds to personally present the awards last week. Also handed out were the Entrepreneur of the Year and Not-for-Profit of the Year awards (see Pg. 5).

"It's really great to be recognized," said Co-op general manager Evan Toews.

"And I congratulate all the other business award winners and nominees on their efforts in growing a really vibrant community here in Morden," he added. "For us, it's been great to be part of the Morden community for so many years, and to be recognized in this fashion is really wonderful."

Toews passed on the credit to the many staff of the grocery store in Morden.

"On behalf of our staff, it's really great that their work doesn't go unnoticed and the efforts they put in

for a good customer experience are recognized in this way ... really, the award belongs to them," he said. "It's really encouraging, and it's great to know that the community is aware of all of the efforts that go into it."

Toews added it is especially gratifying to have their efforts recognized in a year when they have had to go above and beyond as an essential service during the pandemic.

"We've really focused on being leaders in not only this community but surrounding areas as well in how

retail should look in 2020 with the pandemic ... really trying to be on the cutting edge in protecting our members and our community because that's ultimately what's most important to us," he said.

Fred Pohl, owner and operator of Morden Au-

tobody along with his brother Dale, said they were very honoured to be singled out in this way.

"We would like to thank our staff for their dedication and hard work for making us, our business, a leader of the trade," he said. "We would also like to thank all of our customers for their patronage over the last 55 years."

"My dad started us in the trade, and we just kept on going," said Pohl, who stressed that quality service and customer relations have played a big role in their ongoing success. "It all comes into play ... customer service, just making vehicles look the way they're supposed to look."

"It's an honour. We've been here so long, and it's just great that people notice us and know we're out to help them."

"IT'S REALLY GREAT TO BE RECOGNIZED."

### > CHEER BOARD, FROM PG. 3

It's quite a departure from the usual Cheer Board Week, which normally sees dozens of community members come out to help wrap gifts, sort food, and deliver the hampers.

"But we needed to get away from the long lineups we usually have with our volunteer drivers this year," Derksen explained, stressing they needed to keep things small behind-the-scenes, especially since no one knows how severe pandemic restric-

tions may be come early December.

She expects they'll be receiving around 400 hamper applications for the 2020 campaign. It will cost upwards of \$95,000 to meet the need.

The loss of the community food drives and the pancake breakfast will be keenly felt—Derksen estimated the schools alone usually bring in over \$12,000 in food products—and so the Cheer Board is really relying on people to come through with

monetary donations in a big way.

"We're hoping the community will step up and the businesses will step up again and help out, as they always do," Derksen said.

Donations will be accepted at New Leaf Garden Centre this Saturday, Nov. 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Winkler Co-op grocery store for the last two weeks of November, online at [winklercheerboard.com](http://winklercheerboard.com), or via mail to Box 1225, Winkler, MB, R6W

4B2.

If you'd like to apply for hamper you can do so by calling Central Station at 204-325-0257. Applicants must be out of work or unable to work, working but unable to meet basic needs, on social assistance, or a new resident who is not yet financially independent and is in need.

The deadline to apply for a hamper is Nov. 27.

# Maverick's Kyle Wiebe named Entrepreneur of the Year

By Lorne Stelmach

Being able to adjust and diversify in response to the impact of the pandemic has helped make this year a successful one for Maverick Industries.

And it has brought an honour to the Morden company with owner and operator Kyle Wiebe being named the Entrepreneur of the Year by the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce.

Receiving the award last week at their plant west of the city, Wiebe noted Maverick Industries has been very fortunate in recent months.

"Fortunately, we do some custom manufacturing as well that allowed us to produce essential products, whether it was in waste handling or medical equipment," he said. "We've been very fortunate, and we will more than likely have a record year, which is crazy during a pandemic."

Offering steel fabrication and manufacturing, Maverick Industries caters to a wide range of clients—everything from residential customers requiring custom stairs or railings to commercial contractors needing large scale structural steel or miscellaneous metal needs.

In 2015, the company expanded with the purchase of Intersteel, which is a leading manufacturer of waste and recycling containers.

Maverick Industries has come a long way since Wiebe started it by himself back in 2008. He later added his first employee, who is still with the company today.

With the purchase of Intersteel Industries and its staff of



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden and District Chamber of Commerce president Scott Hildebrand presents the 2020 Entrepreneur of the Year Award to Kyle Wiebe of Maverick Industries.

seven, Maverick today employs 25 people.

"Since 2015, we've had over 300 per cent growth in the company, which is something to be proud of," Wiebe said.

"This is something that I have been working at my whole life," he said, adding that receiving an award like this is "not exactly what was my goal, but it's nice to be recognized for something I've been working so hard for ... being an entrepreneur and starting a business that employs

people.

"The recognition for the company is great because it shows the community and the public the growth and the success of the business," he concluded, giving full credit to his employees.

"Everything that I do here is not just myself—it is a team. It is definitely a team effort, and I do give all credit to the people who I surround myself with, especially the staff."

## Many Hands is the non-profit of the year

By Lorne Stelmach

Many Hands Resource Centre was heralded last week as the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce's 2020 Not-for-Profit of the Year.

Presented as part of the chamber's annual business awards program, the honour recognized Many Hands for its services that have become more vital than ever during the pandemic.

In addition to an ongoing community meal program, the agency also became involved with the Direct Farm Manitoba food voucher program that not only got healthy, locally-grown food into the hands of families this summer but also provided a boost to the myriad local farmers' market vendors.

"It's quite an honour to receive this kind of award," said Natasha Doerksen, chairperson of Many Hands Resource Centre.

"It shows more how the community has pulled together. I really do feel like the community pulled it all together this year ... the way people were able to reach out," she said. "It was really stressful at times, but I think it brought out the best in our board because we all stepped up and pitched in a little more than we have before, realizing how

"THE COMMUNITY  
PULLED IT ALL  
TOGETHER THIS  
YEAR."

Continued on page 7

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The Winkler Morden Voice is published Thursdays and distributed as a free publication through Canada Post to 15,350 homes by BigandColourful Printing and Publishing.

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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## A consequence of time

**F**or the first time in a loooong time I have found myself unemployed and looking for a job.

As a consequence I have more time on my hands than usual and this has led to some interesting observations.

Now, having been unemployed for a mere month, I feel I am a kindred spirit with the retired, although I hope to continue working for a long time yet.

I found quickly that a routine is important. I could sleep in until 2 p.m. but why? I am up generally when my wife is heading out the door for work about 7:15ish. There are various and sundry bathroom duties followed by breakfast.

I then check the news headlines and my email. At this point I will spend a good bit of time scanning for jobs. I try to send out a minimum of two resumes a day. Sometimes these are sent to wildly unlikely places like executive director of that small museum in Italy (yes please).

After a month of looking you start

playing head games with yourself. You blame COVID-19 for a lack of calls. You think maybe being 52 years old has something to do with it. You try to avoid thinking maybe you have lost your edge or maybe being such an opinionated loudmouth has caught up to you.

This brings us to lunch, which means you take the time to prepare something, check the news again while eating, and enter the realm of social media.

My wife commented the other day, "Boy I am REALLY going to have to up my game to catch up to your messages ... and, wow, there sure is a variety of theme in them lately."

It's true. My messages to her have multiplied substantially over the past month and there is generally no rhyme or reason to them.

In fact, the last five I sent to her are about the following: a link to very nice cashmere leggings I thought she would like; a recipe for creamy root vegetable stew; a viral video of an eight-year-old girl singing about buttholes; a meme of Meg Griffin from Family Guy; and a picture of an ugly Christmas sweater featuring Star Trek's Captain Jean Luc Picard playing guitar with the words "DARMOK & JALAD ATTANAGRA" emblazoned boldly in ALL CAPS that I would very much like to own.

I have to admit my social media

presence has been ratcheted up about 1,000 per cent and if you know me you would have thought it impossible to go any higher.

I have been writing often in my blog, mostly poetry (don't tell anyone but I have been writing poetry for almost 36 years) and some unfinished short stories. Sometimes a little reading slips into this time as well.

In the afternoon I am often drawn away to the computer for some quality gaming time. I just completed the main story line for The Witcher 3 after 52 hours of gameplay (a sad stat my computer keeps track of). Apparently this is an accomplishment only 27 per cent of the game's owners have ever achieved—another bleak stat.

I save the daily walk for when my wife gets home from work and then of course there is the "how was your day conversation" and dinner prep followed by quality time with Netflix.

And so it repeats, day after day.

I have been told that I should take the time and enjoy it. Do not jump straight into the first thing that comes along. After all, for as far back as I can remember I have never had a break between jobs ... one ends and the next begins almost immediately.

Well, whatever the future holds, one thing is certain: I believe I am now, by default, the captain of my local social distancing team, so there is that.



**By Peter Cantelon**

# letters

## Voicing frustration at public health orders

I used to wonder what it would be like to live in a country like China or the Russia of my forefathers.

What would it be like to be told what you are allowed to do in your own home or your own business?

What would it be like to have someone tell you where you can travel and what time you have to be home?

What would it be like having to

choose between God saying that we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves, and man saying we should?

What would it be like to be told that if you do not follow the rules for the greater good you will be punished?

What if you weren't allowed to question if there is not more harm than good in this "greater good"?

And if you dare to live by your own convictions your neighbour is encouraged to call the snitch line to report you to the authorities.

I used to wonder what it would be like to live in such a place, but there is no need to wonder anymore.

**Jake Bueckert,  
Winkler**

*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.*

## > NOT-FOR-PROFIT AWARD, FROM PG. 5

important it is to help meet local families' needs. We don't have to reach out very far to make an impact.

"It's very encouraging, as a board member and, personally, just to see your community rally like this."

Doerksen was especially appreciative of having had the opportunity for Many Hands to be involved with the food voucher program, which ended up helping around 100 families and spent \$24,000 at the local farmers' market.

"It was one of those things where ... even personally, I haven't spent much time at the farmers' market, so just to go there several times a month and see what's going on and seeing people with these vouchers in their hands felt good," she said. "We're helping people out, but this was also a chance to have fun doing it too. There were no strings attached; they could just use this money to support local."

Doerksen also said it felt very worthwhile that they were able to find ways to carry on with their regular community meals, which changed to a weekly drive thru meal in the spring before going back to monthly in the summer.

"People are still seeking out community," she said. "We tried one sit down meal in October and we were able to do a 50 person meal where we were socially distanced. It was encouraging to see people co-operate and enjoy a good fall meal together."

"The food's important, but having the community together and the food together in the same place again was kind of a morale booster," Doerksen said. "Now we have to go back to drive-thru, but it is nice to know people still want it and are encouraged to come and use it."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Many Hands Resource Centre board chair Natasha Doerksen (front) says receiving the Morden chamber's Not-for-Profit of the Year Award is a great honour. It's also been great, she adds, to see how the community has pulled together this year in the face of the pandemic.

# Letters

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca). Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

## Canadian seniors have been left out of the discussion

This letter is regarding senior care and the convoluted and ongoing efforts that have been made towards a comprehensive National Seniors Strategy that is approved by the federal government.

For many years organizations have lobbied for a federally adopted strategy, including one that was commissioned by the Canadian Institute of Health Research and the National Institute of Ageing funded by the Canadian Alliance for a National Seniors Strategy.

The tabled report is 147 pages and identified "12 specific policy issues of national importance under four overarching pillars or themes that need addressing with federal leadership to meet the current and future needs of

Canada's ageing population."

The four pillars are independent, productive and engaged citizens, health and active lives, care closer to home, and support for caregivers.

The five principles underlying this strategy are access, equity, choice, value, and quality. Completed and tabled in January 2016, it was never accepted nor approved by parliament.

Agencies and organizations that have further received funding for research and development of programs and policies and commissioning of endless reports regarding a strategy for seniors are the Canadian Medical Association, Alliance for a National Seniors Strategy, National Institute of Aging, Institute for Research of Public Policy, Public Health Agency of Can-

ada, and Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, to name just a few.

Calls for papers, research, consultations, report after report, and endless monetary and person-hour resources have not resulted in any definitive strategy. Money has flung freely. In fact, the rabbit trail has gone in so many different directions and money spent so many different ways it's almost impossible to trace accountability. There is certainly no transparency for money well-spent that I can see.

The only people that seem to have been left out of consultation are seniors themselves. No one has bothered asking seniors what they want, and now that COVID-19 has hit where the rubber meets the road and we're in lockdown it seems like the opportunity may be lost, unless we seniors can figure out another way to make our voices heard.

And yet by 2030 it is predicted the number of seniors will reach 9.6 million, or a quarter of Canada's population. Heaven help us baby boomers if something isn't figured out by then! And I certainly would regret it for the rest of my life if I didn't speak out now.

Certainly, it doesn't seem appropriate to blame our Manitoba Health Minister Cameron Friesen, who manages a provincial health care transfer budget that may well be less than

the endless dollars thrown towards a vague senior's strategy thus far for failings regarding health care for seniors.

Julie A. McNeice,  
Morden

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

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

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

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

Send your letters to us by e-mail at [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca).



# Candice Bergen meets with local mayors, reeves

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Local municipal leaders got the chance to bend the ear of Portage-Lisgar MP Candice Bergen late last month.

Bergen, who is also the Conservative Deputy Leader on Parliament Hill, met with members of the Pembina Valley Reeves and Mayors (PVRAM) group in Winkler Oct. 30 to discuss a range of issues facing the region.

"We appreciated Candice taking the time to meet with us," said PVRAM chair Martin Harder, Winkler's mayor. "[PVRAM has] always have worked on issues together where we're on common ground as a region, and so we talked with her about some different things, including immigration."

There's been an increasing interest in creating an immigration program to serve the entire region, Harder said.

"Immigration needs to be a bigger picture for the Pembina Valley then every community having their own program," he said. "The 14 members of our PVRAM group agree that is the way we should go."

"When you think of somebody moving into the city of Winnipeg, for example, you're not asking them to move to St. Boniface or North Kildonan or St. James—you're asking them to come to Winnipeg," he said. "So you've got a broad scope of communities to move to depending on where their job is, where they feel they best fit, culturally."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Portage-Lisgar MP Candice Bergen met with the members of the Pembina Valley Reeves and Mayors group last month to discuss a variety of issues facing the region.

A regional immigration program would work the same way, giving newcomers a chance to more easily pick between local communities based on the job market or their lifestyle.

"We believe that would help to make people feel welcome and wanting to stay in the community and the region as a whole," Harder said.

Another matter PVRAM broached with Bergen was the need for improved cell and internet service throughout rural southern Manitoba.

"One of the biggest issues many residents of Portage-Lisgar have brought to my attention is the lack of reliable

cellphone service and internet connectivity, especially since a lot of employees are working from home during the pandemic," Bergen noted in a statement outlining her discussions with PVRAM. "It's important that all levels of government come together, along with service providers, to connect our region with the rest of Canada. The lack of reliable service can mean a lost business opportunity or, worse, it can cost a life in an emergency."

It's been a problem for years, Harder agreed, noting that while Winkler's Valley Fiber has helped to address the

internet connectivity problems not just in the city but in many surrounding communities as well, the issue of poor cell phone coverage will persist until providers build more towers.

"Cell service here still leaves much to be desired," he said, noting there have been applications to council for additional towers in the past but nothing ever seems to come of them. "We need to get at it. We can't just put it off because it's, quite frankly, an embarrassment that you go from a thriving region of the province to the city of Winnipeg and you can't even get cell service driving between here to there. It's not right."

Sharing these and other matters with Bergen and getting her feedback on what she's doing in her work on behalf of Portage-Lisgar made for a productive meeting, Harder noted.

"It provides her with an understanding of our region and it provides us with a better understanding of her position currently in Ottawa as Deputy Leader and how things are going for her there," he said, adding PVRAM has in the past met with leaders from other levels of government before, including most recently with several local MLAs.

For her part, Bergen said she looks forward to more meetings like the one with PVRAM and working with other levels of government and Manitobans to adapt and make changes that are needed to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## BTHC Fdn. hoping to raise \$150K this fall

New "Donation Conversation" campaign \$60,000 of the way there already

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation is hoping people will join the conversation about the impact the agency has on the regional hospital.

BTHC Foundation is midway through its Donation Conversation campaign, which it launched last month in the wake of the cancellation of its summer golf tournament and fall benefit gala due to COVID-19.

"With the banquet and the golf tournament we would normally raise \$135,000, so that's what we're trying to replace with this campaign," says president Ben Friesen, explaining it will run into the new year.

Friesen noted they'd love to surpass

the success of those events and perhaps even hit heights of \$150,000 with this campaign.

At press time, they were \$60,000 of the way there thanks in part to matching funds from a number of generous local businesses, including GVE, Co-op, Lode King/Triple E, Homestead South, BP and Sons Grain, and Access Credit Union.

Each month of the campaign the foundation will shine a spotlight on one way the funds are used to provide a higher level of in-hospital care and support.

In October, they shared some of the major equipment purchases BTHC Foundation has made for the hospital, which in recent years has included a

point of care ultrasound for the ER, an ER/ICU bariatric bed and lift, and an infant stabilization unit.

This and next month the campaign will share stories of BTHC's palliative care and spiritual care programs, neither of which would exist if not for funding from the foundation.

"Those particular programs cost us \$200,000 a year to run," Friesen noted. "What we're trying to do with this campaign ... is we want to make sure that people know what the foundation actually does fund."

"There wouldn't be any spiritual care, no chaplain in the hospital if the foundation wasn't there," he continued. "We wouldn't have the palliative care rooms, no palliative care nurses

if the foundation wasn't paying for it."

Every dollar donated to the foundation goes to improve the quality of care there, Friesen stressed.

"This is the community's hospital," he said. "Whatever we do, it's for the betterment of the hospital and the community."

Donations to the foundation can be made online at [bthcfoundation.com](http://bthcfoundation.com) or by calling 204-331-8808.

Along with the campaign, the foundation is also running a 50/50 raffle featuring a variety of early bird prizes courtesy of Co-op@Home. Ticket information is available online or at the number above.

Check out the Winkler Morden Voice online at [www.winklermordenvoice.ca](http://www.winklermordenvoice.ca)



# New drive-thru COVID-19 testing site opens in Winkler

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler is now home to two COVID-19 testing sites.

In addition to the site at the Southland Mall, the city now has a drive-thru location at 485 George Ave.

Public health officials say the site, which opened last Thursday, will have the capacity for up to 120 tests per day.

It's open Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. It will be first-come, first-serve to start.

Winkler's other testing centre in the mall is open Monday to Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment. It's accessible only through an exterior

door on the mall's south side (beside Shoppers Drug Mart), not through the mall itself.

Winkler now has two of Southern Health-Santé Sud's four COVID-19 testing centres. The others are in Steinbach and Portage la Prairie. The province has said that Portage is also slated to get a new drive-thru site in the days ahead.

Manitoba Health reminds Manitobans that only individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should go for testing. If you are showing symptoms, you should be tested as soon as possible.

A list of COVID-19 symptoms can be found at [gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/about.html#coll](https://gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/about.html#coll)



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler has a new drive-thru COVID-19 testing site at 485 George Ave. No appointments are necessary.

# Southern Health at code red for two weeks

By Lorne Stelmach

Further restrictions are now in place as the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region moved to critical or red on the province's pandemic response system this week.

The move came in response to increasing transmission of COVID-19 in the region. The code red status took effect Monday and will be in place for at least two weeks.

"We see these numbers going in the wrong direction. We see increasing demand on our health care system, and we're at a critical point where we need to change these dynamics," said chief provincial public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin.

The code red status started on a day where Southern Health had 91 of the 365 new cases in the province.

The active case count in the region included seven each in Morden and Winkler, 23 in Altona, 22 in Lorne/Louise/Pembina, 10 in Carman, eight in Morris, and seven in Red River South. The RMs of Stanley, Roland, and Thompson had zero active cases at press time.

The Southern Health region as a whole reached a total of 1,322 cases, with 699 recovered. There were 34 residents hospitalized at press time, including five in intensive care, and 18 deaths, including two more reported Monday: two men in their 70s and 80s.

Manitoba as a whole currently has 5,152 active cases and 192 people in

hospital with COVID-19, 28 in intensive care. A total of 109 Manitobans had died of the illness as of Monday.

In announcing the decision to put Southern Health at code red last Friday, Roussin addressed those residents in the area who are still reluctant to accept and abide by increased

restrictions.

"It's clear that the restrictions are difficult ... we need the restrictions based exactly on that," he said. "Just asking people to do these difficult things hasn't worked. The only way we can get them fully followed, especially very challenging ones, are to

put these orders in place.

"I would say look really at the numbers. Look at the numbers we saw in summer, look at the numbers we saw in spring and look at what we see now ... 160 cases in the spring would have

Continued on page 10

# COVID-19 exposures in local schools

By Lorne Stelmach

The move to code red in Southern Health-Santé Sud this week came as the increasing case count included possible exposures to the virus in a number of locations across the region, including in three schools.

First came confirmation that a case of COVID-19 was in Hochfeld School Oct. 28 when the person may have been infectious.

The province advised on Monday that close contacts connected to the case had been identified, contacted by public health, and advised to self-isolate. The school was able to remain open to all other students and staff.

Winkler's Garden Valley Collegiate then saw its first confirmed case with a potential infectious person at the school on Oct. 29.

A social media post by GVC on Saturday noted the positive case was in

its Day B stream and advised all Day B students to self-isolate until contact tracing was complete.

Later that same day, the school posted that all close contacts had been identified and contacted and that classes were able to resume as normal on Monday.

Garden Valley School Division reps did not return request for comment at press time.

Morden Collegiate has also had its first confirmed case. A person who may have been infectious was in the school on Nov. 3.

Based on the public health investigation, however, this exposure was assessed to be low risk. No close contacts were identified at Morden Collegiate, so no one was required to self-isolate as a result of this exposure.

"We have lots of procedures and protocols in place, and we continue to look at those all the time and

adjust," said Stephen Ross, superintendent of Western School Division. "Everything has unfolded as we thought it would ... other schools have had these kinds of things happening for months now. We would have preferred to never have any, but it's not uncommon to think we would have some here.

"Transmission, from public health, what we've heard, is not happening in schools," Ross noted. "These tend to be community transmission things that present themselves in a school, but the school isn't the transmission point, so that's been a positive thing for schools in Manitoba."

Elsewhere in the region, a COVID-19 outbreak was declared at the Carman Memorial Hospital Saturday. There have also been confirmed cases of the virus at W.C. Miller Collegiate and École Elmwood School in Altona.



# Winkler Food Cupboard moves to delivery-only



CENTRAL STATION PHOTO

Winkler Food Cupboard volunteers loaded up their cars with dozens of boxes of food last week to deliver to families in need.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Food Cupboard found itself having to cancel hamper pick-ups last week as the region joined the rest of the province at code orange on the pandemic response system.

Instead, food bank volunteers delivered the necessities to families in need Wednesday, and they will continue to do so until the area's COVID-19 threat level (which was at code red on Monday) is downgraded once again, says Central Station executive director Bev Wiebe.

"Hopefully it's just for a few weeks," she said, noting they had to do this back in spring when the pandemic first started and so at least the kinks have already been worked out of the system. "It took a few weeks to get a system going and a rhythm ... but this time around it went a lot smoother."

The trick is finding a balance be-

tween having enough volunteer drivers to get the hampers out without having too many extra people in the building during a time when physical distancing is so important, Wiebe noted.

The food cupboard is doing fine on the volunteer front, with more than enough drivers to get to all the families who need a hamper, but donations are always needed and welcome.

"The numbers are going up," Wiebe said, noting they did about 100 deliveries last week. "I would say in the last four weeks or so they've been gradually going up."

Monetary and food donations can be made at Central Station at 545 Industrial Drive during regular office hours.

For information on getting a food hamper, call 204-325-0257.

In addition to the food cupboard changes, the Wednesday morning breakfast is also on hold and the Shine & Share clothing store is closed.

## Manitoba state of emergency extended

By Voice staff

Manitoba's provincewide state of emergency has been extended for yet another month.

First declared in March under the Emergency Measures Act to enable the provincial government to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state of emergency has been extended every month since.

The current extension went into effect on Friday, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m. and will run for a period of 30 days.

## Man drowns after falling in Boyne River

By Voice staff

A Dufferin senior died Saturday after falling into the Boyne River.

Carman RCMP were called to a possible drowning on a rural property off of P.R. 245 in the RM of Dufferin.

It was reported that a 75-year-old man was believed to have accidentally fallen into the river behind his home.

Officers arrived on scene within minutes and were advised that the Carman Fire Department had just removed the man from the water.

Medical assistance was provided but the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

## > CODE RED, FROM PG. 9

been quite alarming. We have 160 people in hospital right now [on Friday].

"So this is real. We need to make a change right now," Roussin stressed. "I think it should be very, very clear that we need a change right now, so I'm really asking Manitobans to step up in the short term so that we can really make a difference in the transmission of this virus."

"Think about when you go out ... do you need to go out? Is it an essential reason, or is it just a natural desire to go out? Remember, it's not going to be like this forever, but right now we need to make this change to dramatically decrease the transmission of this virus," he said. "Right now, no one should be looking for ways for Manitobans to gather. Please understand the spirit of these orders is that we have to reduce the ability of Manitobans to gather outside their homes. We know it's tough ... [but] it's vital that we interrupt the spread of this virus right now."

Under the code red status, restrictions in the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region now mirror those in the Winnipeg area, including:

- Bars and restaurants are closed except for take-out and delivery.
- Most retail stores are reduced to 25 per cent capacity.
- Sports and recreation programming is suspended.
- Gyms and fitness centres have

reduced capacity to 25 per cent and masks are mandatory.

- Movie theatres and concert halls are closed.

- Personal services stay at 50 per cent capacity.

- Faith-based gatherings are reduced to 15 per cent or 100 people, whichever is lower.

- Non-urgent and elective surgeries and diagnostics will continue at this time. Patients will be contacted directly if their scheduled surgeries or diagnostics tests are affected.

- In-patient visitation to hospitals or health centres are suspended with exceptions made on a case-by-case basis for patients receiving end-of-life care, in labour and delivery as well as in pediatrics.

- Designated family caregivers may continue to visit personal care homes. General visitation may be suspended with exceptions in place for end-of-life care.

In addition to these changes, the province is encouraging businesses to have staff work from home wherever possible and for residents to stay home when sick and take whatever action possible to reduce their contacts and avoid gathering in public.

If you are symptomatic or if some-

one in your household is symptomatic, your entire household needs to self-isolate pending COVID-19 test results. The symptomatic individual needs to stay in their own room and, if possible, use their own bathroom and not use common areas.

This does not apply to asymptomatic household members if they are an essential worker required to wear

PPE while at work, such as health-care workers or first responders.

Roussin noted that nothing is off the table right now in terms of possible further restrictions, depending on what

happens to case counts in the weeks ahead.

"Right now, we have a number of non-essential businesses that are still allowed to operate, albeit at a very limited capacity, and so that is something we will have to look at," he said.

"We know this won't be forever, and we all know that we have that ability to shift things around ... we've done it before, and we know exactly what we need to do," Roussin offered in closing on a more hopeful note. "In the future, we're going to look back on how we all came together to do this."

**"WE NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE RIGHT NOW."**



# getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

## Local student comes in second in regional spelling bee

By Lorne Stelmach

There is more to a spelling bee than one may imagine, says a teacher who helps spearhead a club for students in Morden.

Jessica Verhoog sees the students who take part at École Morden Middle School as gaining a lot from participating, whether just as part of routine practising or a competition.

"It's really impressive how much their confidence grows as they become better at it," Verhoog suggested after a couple of her students from last school year took part in an on-line regional spelling bee. "They are so dedicated to learning all the words and applying that to be able to spell aloud."

The regional spelling bee was originally to be held in spring, but it was delayed amidst the pandemic before being held virtually Oct. 31.

It offered an opportunity for the winners to advance to a national competition which will be held later this month and livestreamed on CBC.

Ethan Dyck, a Gr. 9 student at Morden Collegiate, was excited for the opportunity to compete.

For Dyck, the disappointment in finishing second in his intermediate category for a second straight year to the same student from Winnipeg didn't seem to matter that much to him.

"I'm pretty good at it, and it's just fun, just the competition of it," he said. He did add, however, that he would have rather been taking part in person rather than just virtually, as he enjoys meeting other students.

"It was totally different ... doing it online is different from doing it in person," Dyck said. "I think it's just more fun in person."

"Ethan was so close. It was so disappointing for me because I know how hard he has been working at it for two years ... but he still did so great," said Verhoog. "It obviously was really different this year doing it online. Trying to keep up the energy was a little tricky, I think, but it worked out in the end."

Verhoog believes having an outlet like this can be important to many students who are more academically inclined rather than athletically.

"I think it's a nice challenge ... it allows kids who are readers and competitive at the same time to really have an outlet," she suggested. "It's nice to see them celebrated for their strengths that aren't sports related. It's always a bit of a struggle for those kids who aren't going to make the team."

She would also like it if events like this could potentially be a boost for the local spelling club, which has involved as many as 30 Gr. 5-8 students a year. This past year saw about 15 take part in every online session.

"We might be doing just a local school bee ... to see if we can run one on a smaller scale here so that the kids can still participate in a way," Verhoog said. "I know they miss not being able to do it in person."

Ethan Dyck, a Gr. 9 student in Morden, came in second to a Winnipeg competitor in a regional spelling bee last month. The event was originally supposed to be held live in spring but became an on-line competition instead thanks to the pandemic.

The event was originally supposed to be held live in spring but became an on-line competition instead thanks to the pandemic.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



## Students help newcomers learn about Remembrance Day

By Lorne Stelmach

A co-operative effort not only offered a chance for people to learn more about Remembrance Day but also served as another means to help connect newcomers to the community and our traditions.

Regional Connections last week had an online presentation about Remembrance Day aimed at its clients.

Morden Collegiate history teacher Daryl Toews and two of his students made the presentation, which not only touched on overall history and traditions like the poem "In Flanders Fields" but also made local connections.

"He added that Morden perspective, which was nice," said Robyn Wiebe, a Morden-based integration worker with Regional Connections, who pointed to the example of an old photo of soldiers departing from the Morden train station. "In fact, I learned something from it as well. It was very informative; it was very well done. The students really put together a nice PowerPoint presentation."

"Integration is about connecting," added Wiebe. "It's always great when we can highlight great parts of Morden and the people within it and share that with our newcomers so they can build connections and understanding."

"It was a good opportunity to explore and learn a little more about Morden's history as it connects to World War 1 and 2," agreed Toews, citing the example of references made to the local memorial and series of plaques in Morden's Confederation Park.

"I like the idea too of [newcomers] having that opportunity to think for themselves ... what is Remembrance Day?" he added. "And maybe all of us take it a little for granted every year ... when we need to think about it a little more then you remind yourself of all the important symbols and what it really means."

For Wiebe, who is new to the position of integration worker, our holidays and special days like Remembrance Day offer good opportunities for building a sense of community with newcomers. Not only may they not be familiar with many of the traditions around such a day but there is also a void this year as a result of pandemic restrictions not allowing a traditional public ceremony, she noted.

With that in mind, she reached out to Toews, who has not only been involved in local research in developing projects like the memorial plaques in Confederation Park but is also involved with the Manitoba Historical Society.

"We felt we could do an online presentation that students would be able to put together that would give them relevant learning and that would give newcomers an opportunity to learn about Remembrance Day," said Wiebe.

"Many of them in their own countries have days of the year when they commemorate their soldiers and the people who have sacrificed," she noted. "There are many countries around the world that do this as well, but it was nice to give them that Canadian perspective."

"It's important for newcomers to understand the Canadian perspective ... not everyone may understand why we wear poppies at this time of year, for example."

**"IT'S IMPORTANT FOR NEWCOMERS TO UNDERSTAND THE CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE."**

"I hadn't really thought of it before,"

Continued on page 15



# Horticulture soc. installs sleigh in Parkview Gardens



WINKLER HORTICULTURE SOCIETY PHOTOS

From left: Winkler Horticulture Society volunteers Carol Neufeld, Valerie Harder, Betty Klassen, and Margaret Penner took advantage of the recent warm weather to deck out the Parkview Gardens gazebo for Christmas, complete with a photo-worthy sleigh.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Winkler's Parkview Gardens.

Winkler Horticulture Society volunteers took advantage of the warm weather last week to get some early holiday decorations up at the Grandeur Ave. site.

"Last year the city put up a light in the middle of the gazebo and so we thought it would be ideal to put some kind of Christmas feature in there," said president Margaret Penner.

The society in past years has decked out the Parkside Pioneer Patch on Hwy. 14 for the holidays, to great response.

This year it was Parkview's turn for some Christmas magic. The decorations include not just the usual array of Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland, but a full-sized sleigh to boot.

Penner said they'd been looking for a sleigh to use for some time now and were just about to give up on the idea of ever finding one.

"We had been looking a lot and we had exhausted so many different potential options," she said. "I spent literally all Saturday morning on the phone and then I said to myself, 'This is the last call I'm going to make.' And there it was.

"It's quite old, but it's in pretty good shape," Penner said, noting they've reinforced the floorboards so it's safe and sturdy for people to sit in for photos.

While the Pioneer Patch served as a backdrop for a lot of family photos last Christmas, Penner hopes this year's display in a more central location will see even more foot traffic.

"People come to the park to take pictures all the time," she said. "When we were doing the decorating there that afternoon, there were actually two groups that came to take pictures."



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# Regional tourism group reports on challenging year

By Lorne Stelmach

The tourism sector overall continues to be among the hardest hit as a result of the pandemic, but those behind this area's tourism agency remain hopeful.

In fact, opportunities remain for the region, directors agreed as Explore Morden Winkler held its annual meeting online last Tuesday.

"We will continue to market the region with great pride," chairperson Reg Braun said as part of his report during the Zoom meeting.

"We are unique as a region. Nowhere else in Manitoba can you find two communities of this size with such close proximity and inside one of the most scenic municipalities in the province."

Founded in 2018, Explore Morden Winkler now has the challenge being faced everywhere in trying to build a recovery plan.

"Tourism quite literally fell off a cliff

in 2020," said Braun. "As we entered the global lockdown, tourism spending in Canada was expected to fall between 30 and 60 per cent.

"Even now there continue to be many unknowns; how deep the impact will be and how long the recovery, a complete recovery, will take are still unclear," Braun continued.

"It's quite clear that there is an unprecedented crisis for the Canadian tourism industry. It will be the largest single year impact the industry has ever seen. The impact has been profound and pervasive. It has severely impacted all segments of the tourism sector."

Braun said their initial strategy had been to stick to the idea of stay home and stay safe, and so they had to revise their marketing strategy early on amidst the shutdown.

"Our marketing into the U.S. continues to be on hold. Ongoing efforts and dollars are being spent internally," he said.

"We figured out what we had left to

**"TOURISM QUITE LITERALLY FELL OFF A CLIFF IN 2020."**

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work with ... it soon became clear to us that the domestic markets would drive recovery. Even in normal years, Manitobans make up most of our total visits and are the source of the great percentage of spending."

With that in mind, there was an opportunity in focusing on such ideas as attracting people for day visits, for example, and continuing to promote the key attractions in the region.

There were new attractions like the water park at Lake Minnewasta, and the area's golf courses also flourished, suggested Braun, who added the Meridian Exhibition Centre in Winkler will also be providing a big boost

down the road.

"Our region's ability to attract and host major events will increase significantly," he said.

"It really was our vision to turn inward due to the loss of external tourism, to unite our region's businesses and communities alike through local events," Drew Friesen reiterated in his marketing report.

"There is an opportunity to be had in looking local and building brand ... and connecting communities with that brand and creating local experiences to make that happen."

Continued on page 18

## Co-op@Home bids Stoesz a fond farewell

For many customers, Co-op@Home will just not be the same without the friendly, familiar face of Ed Stoesz.

His co-workers, family, and friends came together last Thursday to mark his retirement after many years with Co-op.

"I like the people. I like the customers. I like the staff. It's just been an interesting ride for me," said the modest Stoesz on his last day of work.

"These other guys here are going to have to pick up the slack," joked manager Al Ruttan. "He's going to really be missed."

Stoesz first started working for Co-op at age 17, soon going from part-time to full-time.

He did spend years at other workplaces, including Triple E, but he kept returning to Co-op and has put in 21 years there overall.

"They hired me three times here," Stoesz said. "My vision was to start with Co-op and end with Co-op, and I have fulfilled my vision."

Stoesz cited Ruttan particularly for bringing him back the last time to work

at Co-op@Home.

"We get along really well ... I like working for him, and I like working for Co-op. Good benefits, good pension plan and good people to work for," he said.

Stoesz has always done sales with a focus on appliances, including some service calls.

"I just started into it. Nothing really drew me, but I just enjoyed selling appliances," he said. "I don't know that I'm gifted, but it came to me, and I just enjoy selling stuff. I like to see what the customer wants to buy, and I like to satisfy the customer."

Stoesz's lengthy run with Co-op has meant he's been able to serve multiple generations of local families.

"I got to know a lot of young kids as well as the parents. That's been interesting," he said, noting that the bottom line for him was never just about making the sale. "I like to keep the customer happy right from start to finish."

"He's being humble. The way he serves the customers is why they are so

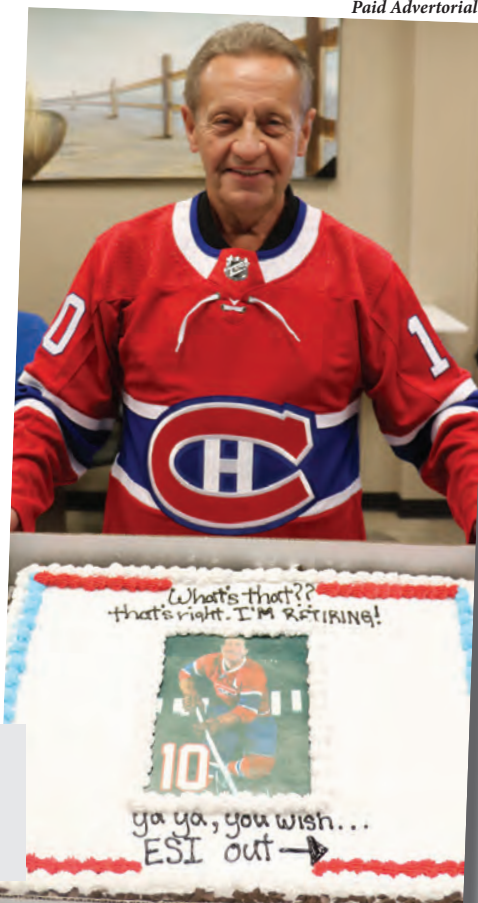
loyal to Ed," noted Ruttan.

"Ed honestly has been one of the hardest working people in the store. It feels like he does the work of multiple people, and it is really interesting to see how he interacts with his customers," he added. "They come in, and they want to talk to Ed. He's got a very loyal following; they don't want to deal with anybody else."

"Ed has taken care of them from the start of the sale through the delivery of the sale, and the guy has even gone out and done deliveries in the evenings after work, on his lunch break ... he goes and fixes people's stoves."

"It's been a great journey because Ed is an amazing salesperson, and he does legitimately care about his clients ... he's always gone above and beyond every day."

**Ed Stoesz worked his last day at Co-op@Home in Winkler last Thursday, wrapping up a long career with the company.**



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# New director for Manitoba Beef Producers needed in District 3

By Becca Myskiw

Manitoba Beef Producers is making its way through their 14 district meetings, one of the most recent ones being District 3, which includes the Morden-Winkler area.

On Oct. 20, the district had their virtual meeting with a long agenda that included voting on a new director for the area—but no voting members joined the meeting.

Because of that, Manitoba Beef Producers has yet to name a director for District 3 and they're still looking for beef producers to apply.

Peter Penner from Winkler was the previous area director. After three terms, his time is up in the position.

Penner said the role was a big learning experience for him, but one that he enjoyed.

"If you get involved, you get so much out of it," he said.

Along with being the voice for the beef farmers in the area, Penner was also vice-chair of the finance board for one year and chair of the finance board for five. He was also on the

MBP's communications and research committee.

There are usually eight face-to-face board meetings a year that last for two days each. As summer is quite busy, the organization usually does conference calls in July and August. They also do a conference call in November when the agency is busy with their 14 district meetings, as they are now.

A lot of the role is also lobbying to the government for the beef producers in the province, Penner explained, adding he hopes a few more local beef producers will throw their name into the running for the director role.

Manitoba Beef Producers general manager Carson Callum said once they have candidates to choose from the organization will appoint a director for District 3.

"We'll have to get a willing director in the area to let their name stand," he said.

Anyone who's interested in sitting on the board can contact Manitoba Beef Producers at 204-772-0458.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Winkler area producer Peter Penner is retiring as District 3 director this year for Manitoba Beef Producers. The agency is looking for someone to step up and fill the role.

## > REMEMBRANCE, FROM PG. 11

but for newcomers, when they're starting to see people in the community wearing these red flowers ... they may be wondering what's going on here," said Toews, who enlisted the help of students Emma Wood and Jasmine Lian in preparing the presentation.

"I was really interested in helping new settlers in Canada or our community learn more about the history of this country through Remembrance Day," said Lian.

"The process of searching and combining information and knowledge of the Remembrance Day was very intriguing and informing," she added. "We found a lot of facts about the Remembrance Day that we didn't know before."

"It was an amazing experience to me, and I'm glad to hear that there are many compliments on the presentation."

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# Living on a miniature scale: Roland woman makes tiny houses

By Becca Myskiw

Donna Cameron has spent the last two years making miniature houses.

In her summer kitchen in her home by Roland, Cameron has four miniature buildings: a Victorian house, a 1950s house, an Irish cottage, and a

one room schoolhouse.

As a child, Cameron made houses from cardboard; 41 years later and she's upgraded to wood.

"I just find it a pleasure," she said. "I sit in here, I'm in my quiet zone, I can just lose myself in my imaginary little world."

Her first creation was the Victorian houses, the biggest of the four. One side of the house is the outer part, showing the siding and yard. The other side is open to show the interior and its many rooms, each decorated by Cameron.

The box set this house came in didn't include a room for the maid, but Cameron thought it needed one. So, she added a maid's quarters herself.

Each room has been thought out by Cameron, too, in terms of decorations. Her mom, she said, always had a quilt on the go, so in one room there's a quilt being made. In that same room is an old-fashioned sewing machine just like Cameron's grandma had taught her to sew on.

Small versions of *Anne of Green Ga-*

Continued on page 18



PHOTOS BY BECCA MYSKIW/VOICE

Donna Cameron started building these miniature houses just two years ago.



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Getting Down to Business

## Finding ways to fill the gaps

Meeting a need in the market and ongoing diversification have been key factors behind the success of IS - Image Promotions.

That has continued to be the case for Brad and Gloria Letkeman since the inception of the business in 1994.

"I found my passion in life, and that was this ... doing signage and that sort of thing," said Brad.

"As we grew and saw the needs of the community, from doing just signage we moved into doing promotional items," he said. "Since then, we've always tweaked. We've always been trying to look for how we can fill any gaps in the community in our area of services."

"We're a manufacturing type promotional company. We like to do hands-on," Brad added. "We like to be in control of not only the product but the production of it."

"[The promotional items] really started heavily when we did flood of the century T-shirts," noted Gloria, recalling how doing about 6,000 T-shirts in 1997 helped raise over \$36,000 in support of flood relief.

"From there, we fine-tuned the promotional end of things. We got into laser engraving," said Brad. "Anybody who wants one-offs, we're more than happy to look after that as well."

"It's just an ongoing thing for us, that we just feel the need to always be looking where is there a gap that we can fill," he stressed, noting for example how they've expanded into doing vehicle wraps and paint protection film.

"It is very fortunate that we are this diversified because if we were not ... considering the COVID hit ... we have different avenues to draw from," Brad said. "The people who work here are also that mentality. They don't do just one thing ... we have a great team."

Their relocation from Cochlan Drive to Stephen Street also proved to be a beneficial change for the company.

"We needed more space, so we actually have an install garage where Brad does the paint protection film and the wraps. It's a very

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Brad and Gloria Letkeman of IS-Image Promotions credits the success of their business to its diversification and willingness to embrace change.

specific environment," noted Gloria.

As for what the future might hold, Brad reiterated they are always looking for further opportunities, and he cited the example of considering going into window coverings.

"Not only for commercial but for residential," he explained. "It's almost like window tinting for vehicles, but this is for office buildings and homes. I'm looking into it to see if it's feasible."

"We're just doing our utmost best to maintain it all and keep it strong and make sure that everybody is busy," Brad said. "There's lots that can be done with what we already have in place."

Through it all, their relationships with their customers remains paramount.

"We become very close knit. It's not just a client," said Gloria. "They can call us up on a last minute thing that needs to be done, and we do what we can for them."

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NOT FOR PROFIT OF THE YEAR: MANY HANDS RESOURCE CENTRE**



# Provincial grant helps keep the Wi-Fi on at SCRL

By Lorne Stelmach

Offering services like internet and Wi-Fi is not only a benefit to its communities but provides a financial boost for the South Central Regional Library as well.

Providing those kinds of services is behind a grant of \$21,548.51 from the provincial Rural Library Technology Sustainability Grants Program. Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen stopped by the Winkler branch recently to celebrate the library receiving the funding.

The annual grant program is designed to help libraries continue to maintain and upgrade their resources for patrons.

"We get it every year, and it's based on the libraries offering Wi-Fi and internet to the public. It's based on the previous year's commitment to that service," explained Cathy Ching, SCCR director of library services.

"It's a government incentive for us to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen and SCRL director of library services Cathy Ching at the Winkler library last month to celebrate a provincial technology sustainability grant the library received.

offer these services," she added, noting they are fortunate here to have in most part been able to continue operating this year while some other smaller libraries have not been as fortunate.

"Next year, when we do our reporting, it may be considerably different because a lot of libraries have not been open," Ching noted. "There's a certain amount of money in the pot ... and other libraries will take up that portion of the pot. It's a win/lose situation. We gain from their loss, but things will settle out again."

Ching said they see these services as getting significant use by local patrons.

"For some of the communities that have sketchier internet, we try to make sure they have better equipment," she said. "Having Wi-Fi services available to the public is very important, and this grant is something that helps us to continue with these services."

## Agency to continue highlighting local biz, events

From Pg. 14

Friesen highlighted some of those initiatives, including the recent Burger Week, which he described as a real "home run" for them.

"I think that the region was quite hungry in many ways for a local event that they could take some pride in ... it was a record success," he said, noting it resulted in over 6,000 burgers and more than \$80,000 worth of sales for the participating businesses. Traffic to the Explore Morden Winkler website also increased by 3,000 per cent during the campaign.

Friesen said they aim to continue to highlight local businesses and events as things open up further again in the future. In the meantime, they are also looking to do two more events in the next few months including perhaps something related to Christmas lighting and possibly a pizza week early in the new year.

Michelle Sawatzky reported on plans to create a promotional video for the region while also emphasizing the need for them to bring in more sponsorship and support from local business and industry.

"We know we need to have partners in our communities to help drive this brand ... we're really starting with the momentum," she said.

Braun added another part of their sustainability is their hope for a new funding commitment from the three municipalities after the original three-year commitment expires at the end of this year.

Financially, the organization came out of 2019 with a small surplus from revenue of about \$16,700 including \$15,000 from the municipal partners and expenses of just under \$14,000 including \$5,300 for marketing and \$5,900 billboards.

Also at the meeting, Travel Manitoba president and CEO Colin Ferguson offered an overall assessment of the

impact on tourism in Canada, including sharing one estimate that there has been up to an 80 per cent decline in revenues nationally.

"If you put that against a \$1.6 billion return in 2019, at the worst case scenario, you're close to a billion dollar loss," he said.

"We know in certain segments we had one of the best summers ever ... if you owned a golf course, you had a great summer," Ferguson suggested. "If you were in the meetings and conventions business, if you're in the festivals and events business, it was a particularly tough year."

"We saw a very active group of Manitobans travelling around the province this summer. We did have places that were experiencing real challenges ... the hotel industry has been hit particularly hard," he continued.

"We don't think it's going to be that bad here," Ferguson added, noting as well that a significant portion of revenue here in the province is generated by Manitobans. "We're anticipating our numbers might be a little bit better, but we don't want to put anything too confident out at this time because we honestly don't know."

### > MINIATURE HOUSES, FROM PG. 16

*bles* and *What Sarah Did* sit on a coffee table in one room as well. Cameron said those were books her mom read to her and her siblings as children. The dining table is covered in Cameron's favourite meal: roast beef, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, deviled eggs, vegetables, and cake.

As the decorations and things that adorn each house are so miniscule, Cameron has bought them all.

The Irish cottage also came from a box kit, but as she does with all her creations, Cameron made it her own. She added stucco to the outside of

the house by putting plaster on then using a nail brush to get her desired texture.

The one room schoolhouse is the only one so far that Cameron has made from scratch. As each house is a 1/12 scale, she spent a lot of time making sure everything was just right.

It's called McNab School like the one she attended just north of Myrtle where she grew up. Inside are double desks, a piano, and a wooden chair in the corner with a shirt and tie on it.

Cameron's teacher had a shirt and tie on a wooden chair in the back of the classroom for students to change into when their own clothes got wet. Then, their clothes would dry on the grate on the floor. Cameron added the grate to her miniature schoolhouse too.

Next up for Cameron is a sod house and one of the Painted Lady houses of San Francisco.

"I'm going to beg braver, too," said Cameron. "I'm going to start making furniture."



# Pembina Valley RCMP recover firearms during search

By Voice staff

An Altona man is in custody and facing multiple firearms charges in connection with an ongoing RCMP investigation.

On Oct. 27, Pembina Valley RCMP, along with assistance from the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST), the Emergency Response Team (ERT), and Police Dog Services (PDS), executed a search warrant at a residence in the RM of Stanley.

The search resulted in the seizure of a stolen firearm equipped with a

homemade silencer, ammunition, several crossbows, and other types of small weapons.

Prior to the search, police located and arrested 22-year-old Sergio Cruz, who was remanded into custody on charges of possession of a weapon obtained by crime, unsafe storage of a firearm, possession of a firearm with a tampered serial number, unauthorized possession of a firearm, and several counts of possession of a weapon contrary to court order.

Pembina Valley RCMP continue to investigate.



RCMP PHOTO

Police found this stolen weapon equipped with a homemade silencer in a search of an RM of Stanley home last week. An Altona man has been arrested and charged with multiple firearms offences.

# Province announces remote education supports

By Lorne Stelmach

The province announced Monday that it is establishing a new resource centre to support remote learning in Manitoba.

The transition to more remote learning has been a difficult challenge for teachers, students, and families and more supports are needed, said Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen.

"This is a difficult time of the pandemic that we're in now," Goertzen said as he announced the \$10 million investment to establish the centre, including hiring over 100 teachers, 20 educational assistants, as well as clinicians and IT support for its operations.

"We're very appreciative of those who are working in our school system," he said. "You've had to change, you've had to adapt, and sometimes you've had to do it more quickly than you would like ... but the evidence is ... that your work and your effort has made schools comparatively safe than many other places."

"COVID-19 has changed a lot about our lives, and some of the greatest impacts have been on how we teach, learn and deliver education," Goertzen continued. "This new centre will provide much-needed support to teachers across the province who are leading remote learning, many for the first time, and to parents who have found themselves in the role of teacher and are in need of resources."

The aim of the remote learning cen-

tre is to provide a more co-ordinated approach that ensures all students have access to and engage in high-quality learning regardless of the circumstances posed by COVID-19.

It will support teachers delivering education remotely by establishing a remote learning support team to assist them with blended and remote learning programs and offering targeted professional development opportunities. There will also be support for students and families who are

learning remotely.

The centre will build upon established expertise and resources and access a network of divisions across Manitoba, and leverage existing digital platforms used by many school divisions and students already, said Goertzen, noting funding comes from the federal Safe Return to Class Fund.

"Also, importantly, they'll be developing a lot of resources, so resources that'll be available in terms of material that can be provided to those stu-

dents who are doing at home learning," said Goertzen, who anticipated the centre would be in place and operational this month.

Meanwhile, Goertzen also announced there would be three additional non-instructional days added to the school calendar for the 2020-21 year for school planning as they continue to adapt to more remote learning. Two of these days will be scheduled before Christmas while the third will be in the second semester.

## PVPCC hosting drive-thru supper

By Voice staff

With a sit-down banquet out of the question this fall, the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre is going the drive-thru route to raise some money for its programs and services.

PVPCC hosts its first-ever Cookin' For a Cause Drive Thru Dinner next week Thursday, Nov. 19 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Morden Friendship Centre.

"This pandemic has not stopped women from becoming pregnant and needing support, so we are asking our community to join us in this important work," says Linda Marek, PVPCC executive director. "Every-

one loves food. We all need to eat. Why not have a great dinner in the comfort of your own home while supporting an amazing local organization?"

The centre has teamed up with Exceptional Thymes catering to provide a hearty meal. The adult dinner (\$15) includes cranberry chicken, meatballs, jackson potato, honey dill carrots, bun, and a choice of dessert. The kid's meal (\$5) is chicken fingers, potato wedges, and dessert.

Diners must pre-register by Sunday, Nov. 15. you can do so online at [pvpcc.com/upcoming-events.html](http://pvpcc.com/upcoming-events.html), via email to [officepvpcc@gmail.com](mailto:officepvpcc@gmail.com), or call 204-325-7900 and ask for Joyce.

Thanks to COVID-19, this is only the second fundraising event PVPCC has been able to hold in 2020.

It's been a challenging year, but the agency is grateful to the many donors who have stepped up to help, Marek says.

"We are so very thankful for the families, churches, businesses and places like United Way that have partnered with us in 2020," she says. "Their support has allowed us to keep the doors open and have meaningful conversations with women facing pregnancy and parenting decisions. If you have donated this year, thank you. Please know how much we appreciate you."



# getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

## Winter tires reducing collision claims: MPI

By Voice staff

If you've been waffling on whether or not you need winter tires, recent stats from Manitoba Public Insurance might give you the data you need to make a decision.

The public insurance agency late last month announced the results



of its analysis of winter month claims and found that vehicles equipped with winter tires are in fewer crashes than those without.

It's estimated winter tires reduce collision claim frequency by 6.3 per cent between November to March.

"The analysis also concluded that in the instance of a collision, damage severity was 5.7 per cent lower for the vehicle equipped with winter tires, compared to the vehicle which did not have winter tires," said spokesman Satvir Jatana. "The lower severity for claims with winter tires was consistent for both single and multiple vehicle collisions."

The analysis was based on collision claims over the insurance years 2011-12 to 2017-18. Frequency was measured by comparing claim frequency before and after a

winter tire purchase for 111,872 vehicles.

Of the 111,872 vehicles, there were 13,925 winter-month claims occurring before winter tires were installed and 9,802 winter-month claims occurring after winter tires were installed, stated the report.

Winter tires employ softer rubber compounds to enhance grip. Many industry studies report that braking distances are reduced when the winter-tire equipped vehicle is travelling on snow, slush or ice-covered roads.

Despite the benefits, MPI notes that winter tire use in Manitoba and Saskatchewan is consistently below the national average.

According to the Tire and Rubber Association of Canada, in 2017-18 the two prairie provinces had a 60 per cent winter tire use, compared to the Canadian average of 76 per cent.

## RCMP launch new online crime reporting system

By Voice staff

Manitoba RCMP have created a new, easier way for people to get in touch with them.

The agency launched its Online Crime Reporting system across the province last week following a two-week trial run in the Selkirk, Red River North, and Grand Marais detachment areas.

"The system worked extremely well and residents quickly took advantage of this new online tool," said Chief Superintendent Rob Hill, Criminal Operations Officer for the Manitoba RCMP. "We're hoping that by expanding the system province-wide, especially in today's environment where limiting contact is so critically important, we are giving Manitobans in RCMP jurisdiction a safe, secure and simple way to report crime."

The system can be used if:

- The crime happened within Manitoba RCMP jurisdiction.
- You have lost something that costs less than \$5,000.
- Someone has stolen something from you that costs less than \$5,000.
- Someone has vandalized your property or vehicle and it will cost less than \$5,000 to repair it.

The system cannot be used if there is a witness or suspect, if there are lost or stolen items involving personal identity or firearms, or if there are lost or stolen licence plates or decals.

Crimes that cannot be reported online will have to be reported to police either in person or via telephone.

You can access the Online Crime Reporting system through the Mani-

toba RCMP website, [rcmp-grc.gc.ca/mb](http://rcmp-grc.gc.ca/mb), or directly at [ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/MANITOBA](http://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/MANITOBA).

## Police blotter

• Nov. 2: At about 2:00 p.m., Winkler officers conducted a traffic stop on Eastview Drive with a vehicle that was observed to be travelling faster than other vehicles.

The driver displayed signs of being impaired by alcohol and subsequently failed a roadside breath sample.

The driver was issued an immediate three month licence suspension along with a \$700 fine and a 30 day vehicle impoundment.

• Nov. 3: Morden Police received a complaint of an individual stating that he received a call advising that his Social Insurance Number had been compromised. He was told that he would be arrested if his personal information was not provided.

Police would like to warn citizens

that this is a common scam being reported throughout Canada. The call involves someone calling from a 1-800 number or other local numbers, claiming to be a trusted government employee and stating that there are issues with an individual's Social Insurance Number.

For more information on this scam visit [rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2020/be-careful-the-scam-0](http://rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2020/be-careful-the-scam-0).

• Nov. 4: Winkler Police received a report from a person who had been texting with a female whom he believed was an employee of an online trading company.

The complainant had already sent a substantial amount of money in order to purchase Bitcoin before determining that this was a scam.

• Nov. 6: Winkler Police received a

report from a person who had fallen victim to a scam through an online social media site.

The complainant received three cheques from the fraudster and was directed to deposit those cheques into her account and use those funds to purchase Google Play gift cards. The victim was then instructed to send the numbers from the back of the cards to the fraudster. It was later determined that the cheques the victim had received were not valid.

With the fraudster having the numbers from the back of the cards they are able to access the monetary value of those cards.

• Nov. 7: At 2:55 a.m., Morden Police received a call from an individual stating that her friend was intoxicated at her residence and they would like her removed. When police arrived on scene the individual was argumentative until her cab arrived to take her home.



## • INCREDIBLE CREATURES

# Vampire bats: Knowing when to social distance

By John Gavloski

The week leading up to Halloween was Bat Week, an annual international celebration to raise awareness about bat conservation.

This year for bat week, we will focus on a tropical species, vampire bats, and some interesting social behaviours.

Vampire bats are highly social mammals. But recent research showed that when they get sick their normally social behaviour changes and they keep their distance.

In this month's Incredible Creatures we will explore the interesting biology and social habits of vampire bats:

### Where would you go to find a vampire bat?

There are three species of vampire bats; the common vampire bat, hairy-legged vampire bat and white-winged vampire bat.

They live in Mexico, Central America, and South America. So no, vampire bats would not be found in Transylvania, which is a region in central Romania known for medieval towns and castles such as Bran Castle, a fortress associated with the legend of

Dracula. But if you expect to find any vampire bats there you would be disappointed.

Vampire bats feed on the blood of warm-blooded animals. Despite contrary belief, vampire bats do not suck blood, but rather lap it up with their tongues.

Like snakes, vampire bats are good at sensing heat. And while other bats have almost lost the ability to maneuver on land, vampire bats can walk, jump, and even run.

Another unique adaptation of vampire bats is the sharing of food. A vampire bat can only survive about two days without a meal of blood, yet they cannot be guaranteed of finding food every night. This poses a problem, so when a bat fails to find food it will often "beg" another bat for food. The "host" bat may regurgitate a small amount of blood to sustain the other member of the colony. Vampire bats also engage in social grooming. It usually occurs between females and their offspring, but it can also occur between adult females.

### What do vampire bats do when they feel sick?

New research carried out in Belize

shows that when vampire bats feel sick, they socially distance themselves from groupmates in their roost.

Researchers captured 31 female common vampire bats living inside a hollow tree in Lamanai, Belize. They injected 16 bats with a substance that activated their immune system and made them feel sick for several hours, but did not cause disease. They injected another 15 bats with a placebo (saline). The researchers did not use a real virus or bacteria, because they wanted to isolate the effect of sickness behavior. Some real diseases might make interactions more likely, not less, or they might lead to sick bats being avoided.

Data on the social encounters of these bats was transmitted to scientists by custom-made proximity sensors glued to the bats back. These are miniature computers that weigh less than a penny and fall off within a week or two. They took measures every few seconds of associations involving sick or healthy bats or a combination of the two. After returning the bats to their roost, the scientists analyzed social behaviors in the colony over three days.

Compared to control bats in their



PHOTO BY A. CATENAZZI

Common vampire bat.

hollow-tree home, sick bats interacted with fewer bats, spent less time near others and were overall less interactive with individuals that were well-connected with others in the roost. Healthy bats were also less likely to associate with a sick bat.

Although vampire bats may not be getting information on the latest public health guidelines, they still are able to social distance when necessary.

# RCMP release COVID-19 enforcement stats

Police issued 77 warnings, 42 fines from April to Nov. 1

By Voice staff

RCMP have handed out over 40 fines in connection with COVID-19 regulations since last spring.

Manitoba RCMP last week released its pandemic statistics for the past several months, which show they have issued 77 warnings and 42 fines since April 9.

The past few weeks have been busy

ones for law enforcement across the province. RCMP received 182 calls related to COVID-19 between Oct. 26 and Nov. 1 alone.

Police note that enforcement was not required for most of the calls as they were resolved through education and/or guidance given by officers.

That said, five instances did result in officers issuing a verbal warning and fines were levied in three cases

for failing to comply with provincial emergency health orders:

- On Oct. 28, Stonewall RCMP responded to a report of an intoxicated female causing a disturbance. She was fined for not wearing a mask.
- On Oct. 30, Cross Lake RCMP responded to a house party. The homeowner was fined for having more than five people in her residence.
- Also on Oct. 30, Norway House

RCMP responded to a report of an adult female who was not self-isolating as directed. The female had been warned in the past, and was issued a fine.

"The focus of our officers since the very beginning of the pandemic has been on providing education and issuing warnings, however, with the dramatic rise in cases across the province we recognize that a shift is now required," said Chief Superintendent Rob Hill, Criminal Operations Officer for the Manitoba RCMP.

"While officers will still have discretion, I have made it clear that ticketing is the preferred option for individuals who are blatantly disregarding the public health orders and putting lives at risk," he said. "This is about protecting the health and safety of every Manitoban. We all need to do our part to help reduce and stop the spread of this virus."

Manitobans living outside of Winnipeg are reminded not to call 911 for COVID-19 related issues. Reports of non-compliance can be made to the Manitoba Government Inquiry line at 1-866-626-4862.

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# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## CWE's Extreme Consequences tour hits Morden



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Left: During a tag team match, "Hot Shot" Danny Duggan flies across the ring to land a blow to Kevin O'Doyle in CWE's Extreme Consequences tour stop in Morden Nov. 5. Above: Sammy Peppers throws "Head-line" Shaun Martens to the mat. CWE is scheduled to be back in town with more wrestling Saturday, Dec. 5.

## Flyers get an extra week's break to prepare for Terriers

### Weekend games cancelled as pandemic restrictions increase

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers are on a bit of a breather from gameplay thanks to COVID-19, but that doesn't mean they won't be busy preparing to hit the ice when the league starts up again later this month.

Numerous MJHL games were postponed over the past week as Winnipeg and the Southern Health region moved to code red and the rest of Manitoba went to code orange on the province's pandemic response system.

That included Winkler's home-and-home series against the Steinbach Pistons, which was to run last Friday and Saturday.

"It's just precautionary but it's why they built the schedule the way they did and we can reschedule these games later on and hopefully with no problems," said Flyers head coach Kelvin Cech last Thursday.

Indeed, the second week of November was always scheduled as self-imposed break by the league to allow for some flexibility when it came to dealing with the pandemic and its potential impact on the 12 junior teams spread out across the province.

Still, the games against Steinbach were to be a chance for the Flyers to break the four game losing streak handed to them in back-to-back weekends by the Virden Oil Capitals.

It was a disappointing way to end

October after having started off the month—and the season—winning three out of four games against Neepawa.

"Obviously when you lose four games in a row it doesn't look good, but we played some really good hockey in there," Cech said. "It seems like individual mistakes or rare mistakes were winding up in our net, we're getting surprised by different things."

The first eight games of the season have shone a spotlight on both the team's strengths and its weaknesses.

"We've had the lead in every single game we've played this season. We've scored the first goal five or six out of eight games," Cech said. "Our special

teams really struggled early and then we turned it around and now our special teams are going.

"Now we're having trouble protecting leads. There's no panic here. Process-wise, things look good. But there's specific things that can have a big impact that we need to improve on."

The break gives the team time to work on these things as they prepare to face Portage later this month.

"We're still in our bubble so we can still train and have practise," Cech said, noting the entire team remains healthy and eager to get to work.

At press time, MJHL action was slated to resume next week Friday. The Flyers are scheduled to play four games against the Terriers over the final two weeks of the month.



# Southeastern MB Hockey League season postponed

By Voice staff

South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League fans will have to wait a few more weeks for the season to start.

The league's first games were scheduled for last weekend, but rising COVID-19 cases scuttled those plans.

"With the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in Manitoba, all seven SEMHL teams met virtually this evening [Nov. 2] and have agreed to delay the start of the 2020-21 SEMHL season until

November 26th," the league said in a statement on its website. "This later start will also reduce the regular season from 18 to 12 games per team."

The Morden Bombers will now kick off their season by hosting the Portage Islanders on Thursday, Nov. 26 while the Winkler Royals will hit the road to play the Warren Mercs on Sunday, Nov. 29.

The SEMHL also includes teams from Carman, Altona, and Notre Dame.

# Russel named MMJHL defenceman of the month

By Voice staff

The Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League recently announced their Players of the Month for October.

The Transcona Railer Express' Con-

ner Grunsten was named the player of the month after scoring five goals and producing 14 points in five games.

His teammate, Dylan Arnold, was selected as the league's top goaltender after he posted three wins, a 2.00

goals-against average, and .941 save percentage.

The Pembina Valley Twisters' Caelan Russel was the league's top defenceman.

He tallied twice and had nine points

in just four games.

Transcona's Evan Chudley was picked as the league's top rookie after he scored six goals and added two assists.

# Eastman Region tops MPI's deer collision list

By Voice staff

The Pembina Valley has dropped of Manitoba Public Insurance's top five list for vehicle-deer collisions.

The list, released by MPI last week, remains the same as in 2019 except the Parkland Region replaced the valley in spot five.

Topping the list once again is the Eastman Region with 2,025 yearly collisions, based on statistics collected from 2015-2019.

Next up is Westman (1,980 collisions), Interlake (1,530), Central Plains (840), and Parkland (790).

"At this time of year in particular, there's an increased likelihood of encountering these animals when travelling through these zones.

Awareness is one key to preventing a collision," said MPI's Satvir Jatana.

"There are nearly 9,000 vehicle-deer collisions yearly in Manitoba," he noted. "Our goal is to see that reduced through education, awareness, emerging driver-assist technologies, and drivers taking preventative steps."

One way MPI raises awareness of high-collision hotspots is through warning signs at locations identified as key wildlife-vehicle collisions areas.

A dozen such locations have been identified within Winnipeg (which ranked seventh on this year's list). Riding Mountain National Park also has one.

"These high visibility message signs warn drivers to remain alert for deer and watch for them in these high collision areas," said Jatana. "It's important that drivers are aware when they're entering an area where deer frequent and pay close attention to their surroundings. The boards are up during what is typically the highest collision period."

On average, more than 450 people are injured in wildlife-related collisions yearly. Over the past decade, nine people in Manitoba have been killed in crashes caused by an animal on a road.

Overall, Manitobans are involved in 13,100 vehicle-wildlife collisions yearly, according to Manitoba Public Insurance data.

You can keep yourself safe on the road by:

- Slowing down when you see wildlife crossing signs and driving with extreme caution, scanning the road ahead as well as shoulders and ditches.

- Being aware that animals are normally more active at dawn, dusk and at night.

- Keeping an alert eye wherever brush and tall grass grow near the road.

- Watching for the reflection of headlights in the eyes of a deer, or a dark silhouette.

- Not swerving if an animal does cross in front of your vehicle. Instead, brake firmly to reduce the impact.



## The Funnies

PLANET GARRY

By: Harrison Droll  
Inspired By: Bill Watterson

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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Apple Pear Walnut Crisp

1 tablespoon lemon juice  
ice cream (optional)  
caramel sauce (optional)

To make walnut crisp topping: In food processor, pulse 1 cup walnuts until finely ground.

In small bowl, combine ground walnuts, flour, brown sugar, oats and cinnamon. Cut butter into mixture until coarse crumb forms.

Coarsely chop remaining walnuts and stir into crumb mixture until incorporated. Set aside.

To make apple pear filling: Preheat oven to 350 F.

In bowl, toss apples, pears, sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, salt and lemon juice.

Place fruit mixture in bottom of 10-inch cast-iron pan or baking dish.

Sprinkle walnut crisp topping mixture over fruit.

Bake 45 minutes, or until fruit mixture is hot and bubbly and topping is golden brown.

Top with ice cream and caramel sauce, if desired.

Total time: 1 hour, 5 minutes

Servings: 4

Walnut Crisp Topping:

1 1/2 cups California walnuts, divided

1/4 cup all-purpose flour

1/3 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup quick-cooking oats

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 cup butter, chilled and sliced into 1-tablespoon pieces

Apple Pear Filling:

3 Granny Smith apples, peeled and sliced into 1/4-inch slices

2 D'Anjou pears, peeled and sliced into 1/4-inch slices

1/2 cup granulated sugar

2 tablespoons cornstarch

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon salt



## Pumpkin Walnut Sage Risotto

To make risotto: In medium pot over medium-low heat, heat vegetable stock.

In large, heavy pot over medium heat, heat olive oil. Add onion and cook, stirring often, 5 minutes, or until soft.

Add rice and cook, stirring often, 2-3 minutes until rice is translucent except for white center.

Add hot stock 1 cup at a time, stirring frequently. As stock is absorbed, add another cup. Continue until all stock has been incorporated and rice is cooked al dente, about 20 minutes. Stir in pumpkin and cheese.

To make walnut sage pesto: In bowl of food processor, combine garlic and walnuts; pulse until minced. Add 1/2 cup sage leaves, 1/2 cup cheese and olive oil; pulse until coarse pesto forms. Season with salt, to taste.

In final few minutes, add 1/2 cup walnut sage pesto to risotto, stirring until well incorporated. Season with kosher salt and black pepper, to taste. Garnish with remaining pesto, cheese and fresh sage, if desired.

Total time: 30 minutes

Servings: 6

Risotto:

6 cups vegetable stock

1/4 cup olive oil

1/2 large yellow onion, finely diced

1 1/2 cups Arborio rice

1 cup pumpkin puree

1/4 cup grated pecorino cheese

Walnut Sage Pesto:

2 cloves fresh garlic

1 cup California walnuts

1/2 cup fresh sage leaves, plus additional for garnish, if desired

1/2 cup grated pecorino cheese, plus additional for garnish, if desired

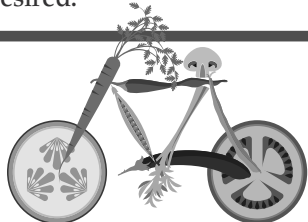
2 tablespoons olive oil

kosher salt, to taste

black pepper, to taste

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faced with risk, while how they really behave, may be completely different. To give you an example, if you are moderately risk averse, you would not want to be invested in a precious metals fund since they potentially have high volatility.

Your investment portfolio should never be left static or on "auto-pilot" with your advisor (no matter how much you like them). Assumptions should not be made when it comes to your money and you should be speaking to your advisor regularly with a routine six-month financial review. As people age, their objectives, financial and personal circumstances and overall risk tolerance change. Proper tax planning should be a part of every investor's overall financial strategy, but not at the expense of more risk adverse investments. Tax minimization should never be the sole objective, nor can it be allowed to overwhelm the other elements of a proper financial plan. Remember that it is the "after-tax income return" that is important. Choosing an investment based solely on a low tax status does not make sense if it results in a lower after-tax rate of return.

The best risk and tax advantages are usually gained by planning early and planning often. Financial plans should be simple, easy to implement, and easy to maintain. Make sure you understand each investment product you have chosen and are aware of the potential risks as well as the potential future rewards.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,  
Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of the best-selling book "How to Retire Debt Free & Wealthy" and a new book *Don't Panic - How to Manage your Finances and Financial Anxieties During and After the Coronavirus* available at all bookstores across Canada. If you have a money question, please email on website: [www.askthemoneylady.ca](http://www.askthemoneylady.ca)

ASK THE MONEY LADY,

Dear Money Lady,

I invest on my own but am thinking of talking to a financial planner from my bank to expand my portfolio. Do you think that is a good idea or should I just keep doing it on my own? Should I take on more risk to get a better return?

Dear John,

Good question – but make sure your new advisor understands your risk tolerance and your future goals.

Most Canadians are invested in the market in some way or another with or without an advisor through mutual funds, market linked GICs, guided stock portfolios or exchange traded funds. Experienced investors understand the risk-return trade-off of the market and are more comfortable with market volatility, constantly looking for opportunities to profit over long time horizons. While it is true that one must accept a higher degree of risk to earn a higher return, not all investors can afford future losses. Our ability to bear risk has a tendency to decrease as we age, and often those investors who believe they have a high tolerance for market risk, suddenly change their minds when the market turns against them.

If you are not a knowledgeable investor John, and plan on relying solely on the decisions of your new advisor, you should make sure you have communicated your risk tolerance and are invested correctly. Often clients fill out risk questionnaires with their advisors the way they would like to behave when

## Caramel French Toast

6 slices white bread, halved  
1/4 cup butter, cubed  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1 tablespoon corn syrup  
3 eggs  
3/4 cup half-and-half  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon salt

powdered sugar (optional)  
Cut bread slices in half.

In saucepan, melt butter. Add brown sugar and corn syrup. Bring to boil, stir-

ring frequently.

Pour into 8-inch square baking dish. Arrange bread slices over caramel mixture.

In small bowl, whisk eggs, half-and-half, vanilla extract, cinnamon and salt. Pour over bread slices. Cover with aluminum foil and refrigerate overnight.

Heat oven to 350 F.

Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking and remove aluminum foil.

Bake 25-35 minutes, or until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean.

Sprinkle with powdered sugar, if desired; serve.



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Dale Toews, C.M.M.A.  
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## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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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!

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

Sudoku Answer

I	S	V	N	I	S	O	H	T	S
I	B	B	V	N	N	I	A	E	B
H	V	T	T	V	E	V	I	E	B
N	E	K	V	O	I	H	S	B	V
N	O	I	J	W	W	O	J	N	I
E	B	N	I	V	J	V	O	V	
H	O	S	V	d					
				O	V	d	d	E	S
				S	V	W	O	N	E
O	I	L	O	d	E	K	A	W	E
E	B	E	N	H	I	O		V	N
S	V	B	V	E	T	V	S	I	d
W	H	V		d	V	H		T	V

Crossword Answer



## CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

- Dutch word for "language"
- Popular music style
- Body part
- Largely dry valleys
- Brew
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Where rockers play
- Human gene
- One point east of northeast
- Adversary
- Small cask or barrel
- About ear
- Benign tumors
- In a different way
- One charged with a crime
- Chinese principle underlying the universe
- Long, narrow straps
- Passover
- Ottoman military commander
- One who does not succeed
- Data
- 3D image
- Whale ship captain
- Japanese title
- Made of wood
- Yokel
- Exercise system \_\_\_-bo
- Supreme being
- Playing card with three spots
- Hostelry
- Spiritual leader
- Single lens reflex
- Time of the 90th meridian, used in the central U.S.
- Thomas \_\_\_, American cartoonist

### CLUES DOWN

- Shuttered airline
- Swiss river
- Port city in Yemen
- It can be straight

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

- Tennis player's tool
- Estranged
- Garden archway
- Assists
- Grain crop
- Millisecond
- U.S. Founding Father Adams
- Small, deerlike buffalo
- Easily manageable
- Male parent
- Nearsightedness
- Patriotic women
- Decorate a cake with frosting
- \_\_\_ fi (slang)
- A joke rooted in wordplay
- Attack violently
- Keyboard key
- \_\_\_ juris: independent
- Corporate executive (abbr.)

- Adult female bird
- Pertains to knowledge
- Pashtoes
- Prefix title for Italian monks
- To be fired from a gun
- A way to position
- \_\_\_ process: produces ammonia
- Follow instructions
- Humanistic discipline
- Throw
- Swiss river
- American hate group
- Actor Idris
- Seizes
- Baseball stat



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## COMING EVENTS

### V.M.A Soup and Pulled Pork Drive-Thru Fundraiser

for Valley Mennonite Academy in Chortitz on Saturday, November 14th from 5-7 PM. At the Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church 189 2nd St. Winkler, MB.  
By donation, proceeds go to general Operating Fund of the school. VMA is non-government funded. All donations are greatly appreciated. Delivery is available in the Winkler, Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld area. Please call (204) 331-1513 between 8 a.m and 12:00 noon on November 14th to place your order. Receipts will be issued for any amount over \$20.00 meal.

#### MENU:

ADULT:	KIDS:
- 1 bowl of soup	- 1 bowl of soup
- 2 pork on a bun sandwich	- 1 pork on a bun sandwich
- 1 piece of pie	- 1 piece of pie



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## CARD OF THANKS

Thank you everyone for the support and kind words of sympathy we received on the loss of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Elizabeth (Betty) Ens. Thank you to those that sent flowers, cards, and the gifts of food. Thank you to the staff at Boundary Trails for your care and compassion. We would like to thank the exceptional staff at Tabor Home for going above and beyond in the care provided for Mom, especially during these challenging times. While it was difficult to not see Mom regularly, we knew she was being well cared for and we are very grateful. Lastly, thank you to Wiebe Funeral Home for your attention to detail and your thoughtfulness. May God Bless you all.

-The family of Betty Ens

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## EMPLOYMENT

# MMJS

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The law firm of McCulloch Mooney Johnston Selby LLP is accepting applications for **full time Legal Secretary.**

The full time position will be Monday to Friday, 40 hours per week. The successful applicant will be based out of one of Morden, Carman or Treherne. Previous legal secretary or paralegal experience is an asset. Experience with Microsoft Windows, PC Law or other accounting software preferred. This position will primarily focus on Real Estate. The successful candidate must possess the following:

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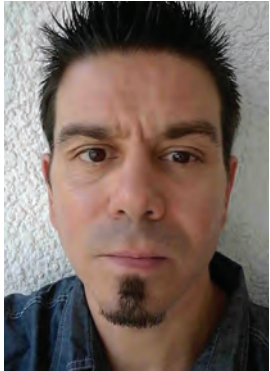


# Announcements

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The Winkler Morden Voice

## OBITUARY



### Jason Matthew Reimer 1975 - 2020

Jason Matthew Reimer passed away at Boundary Trails Health Centre on Friday, October 30, 2020 at the age of 45 years after a 3-month struggle with cancer. We were so thankful that we, his parents and his sister could be there with him.

He will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his parents, Larry and Linda, one son, Riley, sister, Wendy and her children, Grace and Santigi, uncles, aunts, cousins and many true friends.

Cremation has taken place and a private family service was held at Morden Church of God.

Special thanks to all the caring staff and doctors who looked after him at the hospital and to family and friends for their prayers and loving support.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Jason's memory to CancerCare Manitoba or to Adult and Teen Challenge, Winkler.

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



## OBITUARY



### Maria (Marie) Wiebe (nee Klassen) 1949 - 2020

On Thursday, October 29, 2020 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Marie Wiebe, 71 of Winkler, MB went to her eternal rest.

She leaves behind her beloved husband, Henry; three stepdaughters, one stepson, six grandchildren, one sister, six brothers, nieces and nephews and many friends. She was predeceased by her parents and one sister.

Thank you to everyone who visited, called, texted and showed love in some way to Marie and our Dad. A special thank you to the ambulance workers and medical staff at Boundary Trails; they are all a special group of people! Thank you to Joey and Wiebe Funeral Home. Thank you to Pastor Bill, Pastor Henry, the food serving group and all the people at Zion Mennonite Church who know and love Marie and our Dad!

Donations may be made in Marie's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to cancer care.

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



## OBITUARY



### Gerhard (George) Dyck 1935 - 2020

George Dyck of Neuenberg, MB passed away peacefully in his home Thursday, October 29, 2020 in the very spot where he had been born 85 years earlier.

He is survived by his wife, Hilda (nee Fehr) and daughter, Alanna (Ray Lachance), stepchildren, Kim Robbins (Gord Karpinsky) and Keith (Julie) Kartzewski, along with his nephew, Gerald (Mona) Papp, niece, Charlene (Wayne) McIntosh, great-nephews, Riley, Zach, Joe and Breyden and great-niece, Madison.

Born March 24, 1935 to Peter and Anna (nee Klassen) Dyck, George was the youngest of three siblings. He was predeceased by his parents, sister, Irene (Lesley) Papp and brother, Peter (Margaret) Dyck.

Dad was a farmer. It was his life-long occupation, but also the very core of who he was. He would often recount stories of sitting in class as a young boy, in the one-room schoolhouse across the road from his home, and gazing out the window watching the men in the fields. Instead of doing his multiplication tables, he longed to be outside on a tractor. And after his 8th grade studies, that is exactly what he did. But when not busy on the farm, Dad was an avid sportsman with a great love of fishing and hunting, and a member and multiple award recipient of the Winkler Game & Fish. He taught his daughter well, beginning with fishing trips to Rock Lake when I was just a wee tyke and eventually graduating to the premier fishing grounds at Wekusko Lake. It may now be revealed that I was his favourite fishing partner, despite routinely catching more and bigger fish than he. Riding bikes to the mile marker, skipping stones at Moo Moo's Bathtub, target practice with the hunting rifle, tinkering on the tractor, driving the Lincoln through the wheat fields, morning coffee with the boys at the Winkler Motor Inn, BBQs and croquet, photo shoots in the flower beds, picking fruits and vegetables in the garden, planting trees, planting more trees. Always the innovator, as he began to lose his ability to walk, Dad could be found scooting around the farm on his golf cart, carrying out his daily tasks with the aid of various contraptions and reaching devices. He would wheel over to visit with neighbours or have the gang over for boys' night in the barn. Dad called himself "Old Goat", but he remained always a kid at heart, and never lost delight in a good joke.

The family would like to thank Dr. Gacutan of C. W. Wiebe Medical Centre for his dedicated care, as well as the staff of the clinic and hospital and of Heavenly Care Agency for helping to keep Dad comfortable and happy in his home.

A private graveside service was held at the Winkler Cemetery.

Donations may be made in George's memory to The Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba.

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



## OBITUARY



### Doreen Vivien (Cooper) Dudgeon 1928 - 2020

Doreen died peacefully on Sunday morning November 1, 2020 at Boundary Trails Health Centre at the age of 92.

She was born at Marrinhurst, MB, the eldest child of Walter Cooper and Edith Day. She trained as a schoolteacher and taught at Lorne School in the late 1940s. She married Robert Dudgeon on the 14th of July, 1950. They lived in Thornhill first, working together at the elevator, before they bought and moved to the family farm in the Pearce District south of Thornhill, MB.

Doreen will be remembered by her eight children, their spouses, 18 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; Vivien and her children, Andy, Johnny and Timmy; James and his spouse, Crystal, their son, Daniel and daughter, Patricia and her children, Taylor, Hallie and Jordan; Donald and his spouse, Carol and their daughter, Christina and son, Michael (Julie); Betty and her spouse, Irvin Gerbrandt and their daughters, Trisha (Andrew Sadlowski) and their children, Joel and Ella, Katherine (Morgan Chattaway) and their children, Xander and Emmett, Carla (Brian Grice) and their children, Jack and Lochlyn, Valerie (Adam Teeter), and Sarah (Mike Haaland); Murray and his spouse, Lorraine Stevenson and Murray's daughter, Kaleigh (Michael Long); Margaret; Florence and her spouse, David Giroux and their sons, Matthew (Meriam), and Nick (Kayla) and their son, Zachary; Arlene (Ben Wiens), Arlene's son, Tyler and daughter, Alyssa and her son, Killian. Doreen is also survived by her sisters, Louise (Arnold Krueger) and Linda, and her brother, Vernon. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert in 2006, an infant sister, Sheila in 1931 and her brother, Claire in 2009.

Her special interests were reading, gardening and nature. She enjoyed a lifelong association with the Morden and District Horticultural Society. She also sold fruit, vegetables and collectibles at the Morden Farmers' Market. Mom took great interest throughout her life in genealogy research and could recall names and dates of occasions dating back decades. She fed her children from the enormous garden she seeded, weeded, harvested and preserved each year; she always kept her freezers full and her basement shelves lined with jars of canned fruit and vegetables. She loved her apple orchard and fed her family truckloads of applesauce and pie. She was affectionately known as The Energizer Bunny for her boundless energy for work both indoors and out. In later life, when she slowed down (a little), she enjoyed raising exotic chickens and doing home improvements around the farm. Mom retired to the Legion House in Morden in her late 80's where she enjoyed her crossword puzzles, winning at whist, and living contentedly with her plants, knick-knacks, family photos and Fuzzy.

Cremation has taken place and a private graveside service was held at the Knightcot Cemetery. Donations may be made in Doreen's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

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



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The Winkler Morden Voice



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