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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE Volunteers with the Morden Christmas Cheer Board were tasked with preparing and delivering upwards of 240 care hampers last week. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

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GOOD YEAR.

1.844.325.8473(TIRE) sunvalleytire.ca **2** *The Winkler Morden Voice* Thursday, December 27, 2018



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE The Morden Cheer Board's volunteers are like a well-oiled machine when it comes to filling hundreds of hampers for families in need.



Morden volunteers, donors spread Christmas cheer

By Lorne Stelmach

Three full days of hard work wrapped up last week Wednesday with the Morden Christmas Cheer Board delivering close to 240 hampers.

That represented a slight increase from last year when they packed 233 hampers, and the board anticipated the number remaining relatively steady, although they always prepare for last-minute additions.

"If any more come before our delivery day, we can kind of put them together on the fly," said spokesperson Megan Andrew speaking to the *Voice* on Dec. 17.

"We like to be prepared because the day of deliveries we can get phone calls. That has happened consistently in the past, so it's good to anticipate that," she said, noting they also like to have the option of having some leftover goods to donate to Genesis House. "Even if we don't get the 240, we have places to donate all the extras."

Veteran Cheer Board volunteer Denis Myers noted they didn't see as much of a late flurry of applications as they have in the past.

"This year, the way the applications came in, it slowed down toward the end ... we didn't have an influx," he said. "Other years, we've had a lastminute rush."

Observing the volunteers hard at work packing the main groceries at the Morden Mennonite Church, Myers noted how the Cheer Board has the benefit of having so many people who have done this before and know what needs to be done without being told.

"There's lots of experience on the board and there's a ton of experience among the volunteers for these three days," he said.

"It's neat seeing some of the same people come. They come to do this on the same days, doing the same job," he added. "So there's new people coming in, there's experienced people here, and it seems to be working out really well. Everything just seems to be moving nicely."

"All of the volunteers come together so well, and they just really work together really well," agreed Andrew. "Everybody has come together so many times that it's just sort of seamless in the way that people see a need and then they just take care of it."

Aside from the food and household staples, hampers heading to families with kids also include toys or gifts that have come in through programs like Angels Anonymous at Dairy Queen.

"It's pretty heartwarming to see such excellent support from the community and the business community of Morden," said Myers, noting cash and food donations are what make this campaign possible.

"Something that the community doesn't see is when we deliver the hampers," added Andrew. "They don't get to see the appreciation or the gratitude firsthand ... but we get to see that from people firsthand, so it's good for the community to know that it has made a difference."

Local CHAMPS participant grateful for The War Amps

The War Amps 100th anniversary year-long celebration comes to a close this week.

What began as an association to assist war amputee veterans returning home from the First World War has expanded its programs over the years to support all amputees, including Silas Penner, 20, of Winkler.

Penner was born a left leg amputee and grew up with The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, which provides financial assistance for the cost of artificial limbs and recreational devices.

He also attended regional CHAMP seminars where participants and their parents learn about the latest in artificial limbs, dealing with teasing and bullying, and parenting an amputee child.

"The War Amps has been part of my life since I was a toddler," says Penner."Attending the seminars is not only fun, rewarding, and gratifying,





Winklerite Silas Penner grew up with The War Amps Child Amputee Program.



Morden reevaluating plans for Hwy. 3 roundabout

By Lorne Stelmach

Plans for a highway roundabout on the east end of Morden are now up in the air.

The proposed roundabout at the intersection of La Verendrye and Hwy. 3 may still be on the table, but officials are taking another look at it as part of a review of the overall traffic and safety needs for the Pembina Connection area as it continues to develop.

"We have to make a decision on the infrastructure at La Verendrye and Hwy. 3," said Morden Mayor Brandon Burley.

"We have more development going into Pembina Connection that is dependent on that, so we have to, before spring, come up with solutions for that corner. That will be something we will have to do in the first couple months of 2019."

It would have been one of the first roundabouts on a provincial highway in Manitoba after the province completed work this fall on one at the highway intersection in Oak Bluff.

Morden reached an agreement with Manitoba Infrastructure to cost share the project, which was estimated to

PTH.3

CITY OF MORDEN IMAGE

Morden city council plans to spend the first few months of 2019 reconsidering whether a roundabout is the right plan for Hwy. 3.

cost about \$1.7 million. Initial plans were for work to begin in 2019.

"There is nothing set in stone yet. The roundabout is far from a done deal," said Burley, who also suggested the potential costs have increased significantly, so they want to consider all options for controlling safety at that location before moving forward.

"We have several options for control mechanisms that would satisfy Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. We are looking at all those again. We will be doing that review in January."







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One year down, on to the next

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is a funnv ime thing.

As a kid, the year always seemed to stretch on endlessly before me, passing at a snail's pace (or, more

often, something slower than a snail, as I recall ... maybe a drugged sloth).

The weeks and months between the

big annual landmarks—the start and end of the school year, birth-Christmas, days, Halloween, spring break-were vast oceans of time that I simply couldn't

an

traverse

enough.

As

fast adult, though, I'm con-

stantly poking my head up from day-to-day life to exclaim, "Wait, it's Christmas again?" or "Didn't we just do this year-in-review interview a couple of months ago? How is it possible a whole year has passed already? Where did the time go?"

Rationally I know it has something to do with the fact that, as a kid, each moment in time, even relatively short ones, represents a much larger portion of your life to that point, creating the illusion that time is simply c-r-a-w-l-i-n-g by.

As an adult, with more years behind you, each week or month is a now just a tiny part of a much larger whole.

That said, another theory about this whole "adults perceive time as moving faster than kids do" stresses instead that it's the novelties of life (consider the many firsts you experience as a child and teen versus the daily blur of routine adult life so often becomes) that slows things down, regardless of age. So maybe I just need to get out more!

Whatever the cause of this perception, here I am preparing to flip the calendar once again and, as always,

I find myself wondering just how it's possible the year on it could possible read 2019.

That's just ... I mean ... holy cow.

My brain starts to glitch a little bit when I start thinking about how futuristic that date sounded when I was a kid and how we are 19 YEARS into the new millennium, even though it still feels like just a handful have passed since we were partying like it was 1999.

And then I look at these tiny handheld devices we all carry around that can be used to access just about the entire breadth of human knowledge and I realize we've been living in the future for more than a few years now. What marvels will 2019 bring? Who knows, but I'm eager to find out.

From all of us here at the *Voice*, thank you for another great year packed full of stories of this ever-growing, incredibly giving community.

This year's been a blast. Now, on to the next one.

Winkler Gr. 2s raise funds for food cupboard

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Darlene Derksen's Gr. 2 class at Winkler Elementary School did their part to spread holiday cheer last week.

The kids organized a garage sale in their classroom on Dec. 18 that gave other students the chance to purchase affordable Christmas gifts and also raised funds for the Winkler and District Food Cupboard.

"We wanted to do something for the community and, as a class, learn about working together, learn some life skills, and also learn to give and not expect anything in return," said Derksen.

A food cupboard volunteer came out the day before to talk to the class a bit about the work they do. Derksen also hopes to bring the kids on a field trip there one day to lend a hand.

As for the sale itself, the students put in a lot of time and effort to make it happen.

"They brought all the stuff in, they helped sort it, price it," Derksen said.



These Gr. 2 W.E.S. students hosted a fundraising garage sale Dec. 18.

Student Illia Malovanyi said his favourite part was pricing the varied assortment of donated items.

"It's quite fun getting lots of stuff and putting it all out and pricing it," agreed classmate Damian Krahn.

The pair were also excited that the

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

food cupboard is going to benefit from the day's proceeds.

"Because then people can have food ... they'll take the money and buy food," Malovanyi said.

"They'll get to eat," added classmate Marshall Janzen.

By

Ashleigh **Viveiros**



