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The *Winkler Morden* **Voice**

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 21, 2024

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Sounds of the holidays

Local choral students provided the soundtrack to the Winkler Tree Lighting ceremony last Friday night. For more photos, check out Pg. 4.
PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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Candlelighters Christmas toy drive on now

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Support Group's second annual Christmas Toy Drive is on now.

Every year, the group, which supports families across Manitoba dealing with cancer, hosts a Christmas party where Santa Claus gives each attending child a gift. Additional smaller presents are also handed out through the event's games and other activities.

"It's gotten a little bit costly because our numbers have doubled from two years ago," shares board chair Naomi Fehr. "We have 48 families registered for the event this Christmas."

Upwards of 200 people—childhood cancer patients and survivors and their siblings and parents—have attended the holiday party the last few years.

As with every Candlelighters' event, it's an opportunity to celebrate and lean on one another.

"It's a completely different connection than it would be in the hospital or in clinic," Fehr says. "The kids are feeling great, they're mingling with each other. There's something special about a bond that two kids make who both are fighting cancer themselves, or even siblings [of cancer patients] as well. I see so many lifelong friendships coming out of this."

"I'm still friends with families who were in treatment with us back in 2004," Fehr notes. Her nine-year-old son Josh lost his battle with the disease in

2012.

Each year, over 50 families in Manitoba receive a diagnosis of childhood cancer, and Candlelighters are there to help them through it with advice, care packages, supports like parking passes and food carts at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg, a benevolent fund, and celebrations throughout the year.

The group is a lifeline for many families.

"Candlelighters were our first resource," shares Dena Labossiere, whose son was diagnosed with leukemia at age four. Carson is now a healthy eight-year-old.

"They're the only people that kind of know what you're going through," she says. "They send a little care package and let you know that they're there for you."

Through the years, the Labossieres have continued to attend Candlelighters gatherings, receiving support and giving it in turn.

"We try to do all the Candlelighters events that we possibly can, because it's good for all of us to have the resources of those other parents, to be surrounded by people that know what it's like," Labossiere says. "The last one we went to, I got together with a couple newly diagnosed families and they had questions right away. Like, how do you get medication into your kid at four years old? So we gave them some pointers, my husband and I, from our experience."

Things like the gifts at Christmas put such a smile on the children's faces, Labossiere says.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
Naomi Fehr of the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Support Group is asking for the community's help to fill several donation boxes with toys this month.

"It's kind of just extra spirit they get right for the holidays, something that's not from Mom and Dad. It's somebody else looking at them and saying, 'You're special.' Especially the siblings, because they go through so much too, and not everybody sees that. It includes the whole family."

Continued on page 5

Tree Lighting Celebration

November 23, 2024
- Morden Civic Centre -

5:30 pm - 7 pm | Hot chocolate & s'mores
5:30 pm - 6 pm | Carolling by Isabelle Harder
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7:00pm Altona Civic Centre
(Sponsored by Elmers Manufacturing & Altona Farm Service)

Hot Chocolate, Cookies & Music
7:30pm Altona Mall
(Sponsored by Tim Hortons & Subway)
(Music by local school ensembles)

www.altona.ca

Winkler byelection candidates field questions from voters

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The three candidates in the running in the Dec. 12 Winkler city council byelection fielded questions from voters Monday night.

The City of Winkler and the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce hosted a virtual forum, streamed live on the City's YouTube page.

Voters were able to submit questions in advance or electronically that night.

Here's a few of the concerns that were raised, and how candidates Dustin Brown, Pam Fedack, and Ryan Hildebrand responded, in part.

If a candidate's response is not included, it's because they opted not to answer that question.

How do you plan to attract new businesses and support local entrepreneurs in Winkler?

Hildebrand: I think when we look at the city of Winkler, there's a number things that can be done to attract new businesses ... getting the infrastructure in place so that when new businesses want to come we're ready for them, I think that's a priority.

I think to attract new businesses we also need workers, so we need to work on attracting workers to the area as well.

Our mistake

Our story last week on the *From Everywhere to Bethlehem* living nativity had a typo in the last paragraph that outlined the dates for the show.

The show takes place in Winkler Park this weekend, Nov. 22-24, from 6-9 p.m. on Friday and 5-9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is a non-perishable food item for the local food cupboard. There will also be baked goods for sale, with funds going to support local charities.

We regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Brown: I would highlight some of the success stories ... look at some of the businesses that are here already, see what's working well for them, advertise those types of things. Also mention the different amenities that we have. We have a lot of neat things here that there might not be in other areas down the road.

And, as Ryan mentioned, make sure we have infrastructure in place so that when these businesses are coming, that it's a nice streamline for them to join our community.

Seeing the increased use of such services as food banks and women's shelters, and an increased need for affordable housing, what are some of the things the City should do to support its most vulnerable?

Brown: I think some of the most important things are already happening. The project that the City started with the Headstart to a Home project I think is super important. It helps people own a home for the first time. Also, the affordable housing efforts



SCREENSHOT

From left: Winkler city council byelection candidates Dustin Brown, Pam Fedack, and Ryan Hildebrand took part in a virtual forum Monday night.

that they've done with Central Station, the building going up on Main St., that type of thing, to help look after people looking for apartments to rent—I think those are important.

Obviously, continuing to look after the food bank ... make sure that we're working with them, see what they need, have representation there, and make sure that they're well looked af-

ter as they look after our citizens.

Fedack: I think there is a lot of great work happening already in that area. We need to continue to support those efforts and look to just continue to dive into those areas to see if there's any further resources that can be brought in, whether it's grants or programs that can be tapped into.

Continued on page 9

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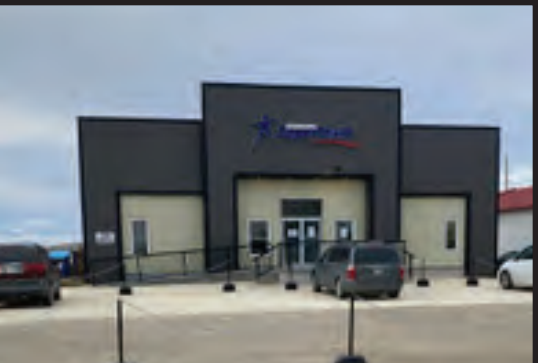
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Monday - Friday

9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Saturday

9:00 am - 5:00 pm





Winkler lights up for the holiday season



The City of Winkler held its Tree Lighting Ceremony in Bethel Heritage Park last Friday night, drawing record-breaking crowds thanks to the unseasonably warm weather. The evening included free hot chocolate and s'mores, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Christmas carols, and a petting zoo. Below: Mayor Henry Siemens and Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert shared a few words of greeting and then officially flipped the switch on the light displays located throughout the downtown park.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



Attention Kids...

What's *Your* Christmas story?

- Pick one of the following themes and tell us your best story:
1. Sam's mother was the hardest person on the planet to buy a gift for, but he had the perfect idea ...
 2. When a family goes to bed, their holiday decorations come to life! What do they get up to?
 3. Does your family have a unique holiday or wintertime tradition? Tell us about it!
 4. It's a SNOW DAY! How do you enjoy it?

We have TWO grand prizes up for grabs!
One K-4 and one Gr. 5-8 student will each win a free movie party at Landmark Cinemas for them and five friends, complete with snacks.

Please include your first and last name, age/grade, town, and full contact information on your entry. Stories should be no longer than 700 words in length. Send your story to: news@winklermordenvoice.ca

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getinformed

Morden Area Fdn. gets \$10K start to Giving Challenge Week

By Lorne Stelmach

Giving Challenge Week got off to a great start for the Morden Area Foundation.

A \$10,000 donation from the estate of Harold Bollenbach was presented by family members last Tuesday morning, and four of his nieces were happy to be doing it on his behalf.

"I know Uncle Harold would be very proud ... and we are too," said Lois Dudgeon.

She noted that she has donated money in the past during Giving Challenge Week, and she thinks her uncle would have been happy to see the extended impact the campaign's matching donations from Endow Manitoba and the Government of Manitoba provide.

"It's pretty exciting that it's doubled in size," said Dudgeon. "I thought this was the perfect time to earmark the monies he had set aside for the foundation and contribute to this, because it's matched."

Sandra Bollenbach felt he would particularly like supporting the foundation because it does so much for the community that he cared so much about.

"He always kept up on the business of the town, so he knew what was going on," she said. "He was always our scribe for our family. He wrote stories ... he put letters in the paper."

"He had an opinion about pretty well everything ... if he didn't agree, he wasn't shy about saying what he thought."

Foundation board chair Sue Nelson hoped a gift like this might perhaps

"THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO PUT MONEY IN ... NOT ONLY IS IT USED RIGHT NOW, BUT IT CONTINUES FOREVER."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Daphne Andrew Peers, Sandra Bollenbach, Carol Burton and Lois Dudgeon with Morden Area Foundation treasurer Robert Friesen and chairperson Sue Nelson, donating \$10,000 in memory of Harold Bollenbach.

be an additional encouragement to others thinking of donating.

"We are absolutely thrilled ... it's wonderful to highlight the beginning of the Giving Challenge," she said. "This is a great way to put money in ... not only is it used right now, but it continues forever."

"We made just over \$35,000 in our

Giving Challenge last year," she shared. "I am cautiously optimistic that we can raise \$50,000."

The foundation is now looking forward to announcing its next set of grants as part of their annual Christmas gathering Dec. 11 at the Morden Legion hall.

Two killed after semi-truck runs stop sign

By Voice staff

A mother and her daughter were killed on the highway near Altona Friday night after their vehicle was struck by a semi-trailer.

Just after 7 p.m., Pembina Valley RCMP responded to a report of a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Provincial Road 201 and Provincial Road 306, about 13 kilometres west of Altona.

Police say the semi, which was being driven by a 25-year-old man from Brampton, Ontario, was travelling eastbound on PR 201 when it failed to stop at the intersection with PR 306.

It collided with a southbound SUV

being driven by a 35-year-old woman from the RM of Rhineland. She was pronounced deceased on scene. Her eight-year-old daughter was trans-

ported to hospital in Winnipeg with life-threatening-injuries, to which she later succumbed.

The driver of the truck was taken to

hospital where he was treated and released.

Pembina Valley RCMP continue to investigate. Charges are anticipated.

> TOY DRIVE, FROM PG. 2

Last year, Candlelighters turned to Manitobans for help to support the Christmas magic.

"We ended up with four of these boxes full of toys," says Fehr, gesturing to the donation box at Canadian Tire in Winkler, one of seven locations throughout Morden-Winkler accepting new, unwrapped toys on behalf of the campaign this month.

As with last year, any toys that come in that aren't needed by Candlelighters will be donated to the Children's Hospital to hand out to patients there.

All kinds of toys are welcome, for all ages.

"It's for kids 0 to 17. The youngest kid I think we've had diagnosed in our group was two and a half months," Fehr says. "So anything

from a baby gift to a 17-year-old boy or girl gift ... it's all just so appreciated."

You can drop off your donation until Saturday, Nov. 30 at Janzen's Paint & Decorating, Renew Wellness Center, LMS Ag Equipment, Friesens Insurance Brokers, Best Western Plus Morden, Canadian Tire, and Sheer Bliss.

The **Voice**

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

Everything is too expensive

To ask if you feel like you are spending money more these days on basics like food and gas would be almost ridiculous. Of course you feel this way—because you are spending more.

The reality is that according to a report from Canadians for Tax Fairness, corporate pre-tax profits in Canada were 54 per cent higher in 2023 than in pre-COVID 2019.

In 2023 the average pre-tax profit margin for corporations was 10.7 per cent. Between 2010-2029 the average was 8.1 per cent annually. Consider that cost of living measurements pre-COVID (and more recently) were typically two per cent while profits were higher than eight per cent and you already smell something fishy.

What is going on?

Well, way back in the COVID years the world ran into what is called a supply shock. This is when global or national circumstances conspire very quickly to narrow supply chains, restricting shipment and delivery of key items.

When this happens, corporations respond by raising prices as demand increases over supply. It happens so fast and so broadly it almost feels like industry players are colluding with one another to force the increase, however the price increase response is so second nature that no collusion is

required—industry players all know how the market will respond and automatically drive prices higher.

“But COVID is long past,” you say, “why aren’t prices coming down?”

Yes, it’s true, supply chains have largely recovered to meet demand, but prices remain stubbornly high. One key reason: it is difficult for corporations, especially large ones, to reduce prices once they have driven them so high. The market has responded in a way that says, “Hey, we don’t like these high prices but what choice do we have? We must keep paying.”

The fact that consumers are still buying at higher prices combined with constant shareholder demand for profits and dividends means prices stay high. At the end of the day, corporations are largely structured to be focused on maximum profit. Even businesses who are more client-focused can be affected through the supply chain.

For instance, while large grocery chains like Loblaws have increased prices to drive profits to record levels, smaller, client-focused businesses like a Co-op are still affected by things like increasing oil and gas costs.

More than any other industry the oil and gas sector has driven prices

to obscenely high record profit levels. By doing this, other parts of the supply chain that rely on oil and gas for transportation of goods, like grocery stores, are directly impacted, and their prices rise accordingly.

So what can you do about it?

Well, shopping locally whenever possible can help. Smaller businesses whose existence depends on a happy customer base and not on shareholder value should be supported. Sure, they cannot control every aspect of their prices because of the supply chain, but they are closer to the consumer than a national or international body.

A short email or letter to your MLA or MP simply letting them know that you would appreciate more customer advocacy over corporate shareholder profits can also send a message.

At the end of the day, businesses, no matter how large, rely solely on you and I for their profits. As a large and reasonably organized group, we can have an impact and work to pressure prices to come down simply by modifying our purchasing habits wherever possible.

In these uncertain times one thing remains steadfastly certain: apathy will not change anything. Action, however small, can move the needle.

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

Send your letters to us by e-mail at news@winklermordenvoice.ca.

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Altona Community Foundation celebrates 30 years of local impact

By Lori Penner

The Altona Community Foundation (ACF) recently marked 30 years of service to the community, celebrating its journey from humble beginnings to a thriving cornerstone of local support.

Dozens of past and present board members, donors, and community leaders celebrated this milestone at The Community Exchange last week.

ACF granting committee member Al Friesen welcomed guests on behalf of the board, noting that three things became evident as they planned the event: gratitude to the original steering committee members who became the very first board of directors for the foundation, inspiration from the organizations and community leaders whose projects and improvements they were able to financially support and who have continued to grow the community, and, finally, anticipation in what lies ahead for the organization and town and their role in helping facilitate those aspirations.

"As has been said many times, for today's needs and tomorrow's dreams," Friesen said.

Robert Martens, a founding member of ACF, reflected on the organization's evolution since its establishment in 1994, and expressed pride in what they have achieved.

"When you start these things, you just don't know if they will sustain themselves," he shared. "But to see what it has become is truly gratifying." It's great to see that those who were very young when the foundation began are now involved in leading it.

Martens reflected on how in its early days, the ACF secured \$200,000 in initial funding and a \$100,000 matching grant from the Thomas Sill Foundation, a testament to the community's commitment to the cause.

Today, the ACF manages nearly \$2.6 million in assets across 11 funds, including scholarships, memorial awards, and specialized grants.

These funds have collectively contributed over \$1 million to Altona and surrounding areas since inception. Martens said the scale of growth exceeded their early expectations.

"We can see now that it has flourished and continued to grow."

With a new generation joining the board, Martens said, "It's great to see that those who were very young when the foundation began are now involved in leading it."

One of these leaders is current board

president, Haydon Friesen.

"Thirty years ago, a group of visionaries came together, with a shared passion for our community," he said. "Their dream blended with the generosity of our community, providing the framework for establishing the foundation we have today. It's an honour to continue the legacy.

"We're building on the incredible work of those who brought us here and striving to carry that momentum forward. Programs like Youth in Philanthropy (YIP), involving students from W.C. Miller Collegiate, also plays a crucial role in fostering this next generation of stewards."

The past year has been especially noteworthy for ACF. In 2023, the foundation approved its largest-ever single grant: \$50,000 over five years for the Kiddie Sunshine Center expansion project.

Additionally, the Thomas Sill Foundation contributed \$750,000, the largest single donation in ACF's history, pushing the foundation's total assets past \$2.5 million.

These milestones have ensured that grant funding will continue to grow, supporting even more local projects in the years ahead.

"This success is a testament to the generosity of our donors, the dedication of our volunteer boards, and the passion of grant recipients who drive our mission to enhance the community as a whole," Friesen said.

"Our community faces new challenges and opportunities. Our foundation is committed to being a catalyst for positive change. Let's honour the legacy of our past, by committing ourselves to a bright future. Together we can create a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

The celebration concluded with granting committee member Vic Loeven announcing the ACF's fall grant recipients, with a total \$31,500 supporting local organizations, including:

- Gretna Stars Rec. Hockey: \$1,250 for a skate sharpener.
- Altona Minor Baseball: \$2,750 for diamond clay and bricks.
- Gardens on Tenth: \$3,500 for an industrial dishwasher.
- Kiddie Sunshine Centre: \$2,200 for cleaning equipment and a laptop in the main building, and \$600 for a vacuum cleaner in the Centre Ave. site.
- Youth for Christ: \$1,750 for sports equipment.
- Pembina Counselling Centre: \$1,750 for new computers.
- Altona Angels Softball: \$4,500 for



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Altona Community Foundation handed out \$31,500 in fall grants to representatives from nine community groups and projects last week. Right: As the organization celebrated 30 years of giving, president Haydon Friesen said the current board continues to build on the successes and vision of ACF's founding members.

dugout roofs.

- Altona Community Healthcare Board: \$1,700 for office renovations.
- Access Field: \$2,900 for digital video boards.

Friesen concluded the event by saying, "We're always looking to grow the assets and the ability to support the needs and dreams of our town. It's not by accident that we chose the week of the Endow Manitoba Giving



Challenge to host the event."

He encouraged guests to contribute. "This crowd, the people who have been with us since day one, we thank you for what you have done and what you continue to do."

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Winkler council byelection candidates make their pitch

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winklerites have a choice between three candidates in the upcoming city council byelection.

Residents head to the polls Dec. 12 to cast their vote for either Dustin Brown, Pam Fedack, or Ryan Hildebrand. The winner will serve a two-year term at the council table, filling the seat left vacant after the death of councillor Don Fehr this fall.

The *Voice* sat down with each candidate to find out who they are and why they feel they deserve your vote.

You can also check out our coverage of Monday night's virtual byelection forum on Pg. 3.

DUSTIN BROWN

Dustin Brown has called Winkler home his entire life and has a keen interest in the community's ongoing growth and success.

"I was born and raised here, and I really enjoy it here," he shares. "I enjoy the people, the culture. I'm looking to give back in a way, put my name out there and try and make a contribution and be involved with the goings-on behind the scenes and just try and make a difference."

Brown has worked at Lode King Industries for the past 20 years. In his spare time, he serves on the board of directors of the Winkler Flyers and has been involved as a volunteer with the Winkler Citizens on Patrol Program for 22 years. Earlier this fall he was elected chair of the provincial Citizens on Patrol Program.

"Volunteering is very important to me," Brown says. "I joined Citizens on Patrol within weeks of getting my driver's licence, so that is very important to me."

"The Flyers board is more recent—I've only been there three years—but it's been a lot of fun. I've followed the Flyers since I was in Kindergarten, and gone to so many games. And there again, I thought it would be neat to help them behind the scenes."

"Winkler is really good at having a lot of people willing to put their time and effort into giving back to those kinds of organizations, and I love being a part of that."

Brown has long had an interest in

local politics, and first threw his hat in the ring in the 2022 municipal election.

While he was unsuccessful in that bid, he very much enjoyed getting out into the community to hear what people had to say, and he's looking forward to doing the same again this time around.

"[I enjoy] taking the time to listen to people, because at the end of the day, that is the biggest thing. People here have a lot of good ideas."

He feels he'd bring a lot to the role of councillor.

"I think that I would bring some similar attributes as the existing council of being very open and transparent, being approachable," Brown says. "But at the same time, maybe bringing a different dynamic, reaching out to some of the slightly younger generation as well and figuring out what's important to them."

Municipal infrastructure is something Braun is eager to tackle.

"Winkler is growing at a very impressive rate, and with that brings its own set of challenges of water and sewer and roads and all that stuff," he says. "I think Winkler is in a really good spot with the way they've been handling things in the past and present. But at the same time, the asset management has recently been brought in and that really needs to be looked at to see what do we need to do to maintain the infrastructure that we have and also keep planning for the future if we want Winkler to continue growing the way it has been."

He's also eager to see the city's new public transportation plans rolled out, and, if elected, to have a hand in pursuing meeting the targets in council's recently released strategic plan.

"I was at the release there a couple weeks ago and it was interesting to see the recommendations from professionals on how we should work together regionally. I think it's super important in a lot of the ways that we can to try and offset costs and efficiencies and keep the city running smoothly and look for ways to improve. Because there are always improvements to be had."

PAM FEDACK

While this is her first time running for public office, Pam Fedack is certainly no stranger to municipal politics—she covered it as a news reporter on local radio for over 20 years before moving on to new opportunities this summer.

Fedack spent her early years on a poultry farm north of Winkler and lat-

er an acreage in the Winkler-Morden corridor, attending school in Winkler.

"It's been a community that I've loved and cherished," Fedack shares. "Our kids were all born here, and they all want to stay and make roots in the community too."

Fedack's career in broadcasting started at CKMW Radio in 1996. She joined the Golden West news team in 2001, and has extensively covered local and regional politics and provincial news, as well as community events and sports.

"Over 20+ years of attending various meetings—council meetings, school board meetings in Winkler, RM of Stanley, Morden, Carman, and many others—I've interviewed and followed along with many projects in the area, delving into things to find out some of the backgrounds," she says. "You learn so much, and I find it so fascinating."

Running for office has always been in the back of her mind, and this byelection came along at the perfect time for her to jump in.

"As soon as I made that decision that I wanted to do it, I knew it was the right decision," she says, reflecting that she feels she would "bring a very strong listening ear" to the role. "Compassionate and fair and a calmness—I'm somebody that likes order and likes to get things done."

"And also with the knowledge that I have with interviews and the people I've talked to over the years, I just feel I would be able to really hit the ground running with the things I know."

Fedack's community involvements include volunteering in the Boundary Trails Health Centre's chemotherapy unit.

"It was something that I really wanted to get involved with after my mom had cancer; she passed away from cancer," she shares. "During her cancer journey, she was there having chemo and I was with her. So when I saw the call for volunteers, I felt like that was something I could do."

It's given her a unique viewpoint on local healthcare, Fedack says, which is something she has on her list of priorities as a council candidate.

"I want to work in conjunction with the Winkler and District Health Care Board to ensure Winkler residents have the best access to health services."

They do such a fantastic job, but the work is never done," she says, pointing to the need to support ongoing physician and medical staff recruitment and retention.

Identifying and addressing gaps in Winkler's recreational offerings, finding ways to attract job and education training opportunities to the area, and working with local poverty reduction groups to ensure everyone in our community has the opportunity to thrive are some of the other priorities on her list.

"I'm passionate about people and about serving," Fedack says, "and just want to be a listening ear, to be here to listen to the needs and some of the wants, and hear what people are thinking."

RYAN HILDEBRAND

Ryan Hildebrand may have grown up in southern Ontario, but he's long since put down roots in this community.

He spent childhood summers visiting family in the area and then returned to study at the Winkler Bible Institute as a young adult, later moving here for good to raise his family.

Hildebrand worked in accounting for 20 years, including a decade as the chief financial officer for Eden Health Care Services.

"This is where I developed my passion for affordable housing, having seen firsthand the need in this community and throughout Manitoba," he shares.

Hildebrand has served on the board of Central Community Homes (formerly Winkler Affordable Housing) as treasurer for nearly 10 years and was involved provincially on the Manitoba Not for Profit Housing Board as a director.

"It takes a long time to get an affordable housing project moving," Hildebrand reflects. "This one across the street here [the apartment complex going up on North Railway Ave.], is probably four years in the making. It takes time, but I don't mind that kind of behind the scenes stuff."

He's worked extensively with various government departments on projects, including health, families and housing, addictions, and homelessness.



Dustin Brown



Pam Fedack



Ryan Hildebrand

Thunder Christmas Cheer game returns Nov. 29

By Lorne Stelmach

It's become a holiday season tradition in recent years, and it is happening again next week in support of Christmas Cheer in Morden.

The Morden Thunder take on the 'Guns N' Hoses' team of police officers and firefighters in the annual fundraiser for the Morden Christmas Cheer.

The evening gets underway at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29 at the Access Event Centre. Admission for students is by donation, while adults is \$5 with a donation to the Cheer Board.

"This is something we had done in

the past. It went away for a couple years, but it's back again," Sgt. Sean Aune said last Thursday as the two sides posed for a promotional photo outside the Morden fire hall. "What better way for us to go have some fun and make it an entertaining time for the crowd and to support something as worthwhile as Christmas cheer.

"There will be a bit of shenanigans going on," he said, agreeing there is a bit of a friendly, competitive rivalry. "The goal ultimately is Christmas cheer, to raise some money and some awareness for it, so it's a good combination."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Thunder hockey team is ready to square off against local firefighters and police officers in support of Morden Christmas Cheer next week.

> BYELECTION FORUM, FROM PG. 3

The building that's going up on Main St. is going to be a huge welcome when that is completed, and also the Winkler and District Food Cupboard, that is run a lot by volunteers. [We need to] make sure that that is supported so those volunteers don't get tired, because that is a lot of work to keep up with.

Hildebrand: I think the city has already started to help in some of these areas. They created the Winkler Affordable Housing committee, which is now Central Community Homes. That committee is doing some great work ...

I think when we're talking about Genesis House and the food bank, those are issues that really involve three levels of government that need to be there. So, certainly, leveraging relationships that council, that the City has with ministers ... to get those projects moving.

How would you improve public safety and emergency services?

Hildebrand: Obviously I would support a strong police service here in Winkler and I think we ... need to talk to them first of all to figure out what they need to resource them appropriately.

As far as working with the health care board, I've been a part of the health care board for a number of years, and so [it's a matter of] leveraging relationships there to make sure that the services are as good as can be.

Brown: I would go talk to them. I would want to talk to the police board, talk to the medical services team, and just see what can we do to improve. Is it work conditions? Is it

staffing shortages? What is needed? What would make things easier? What would make things more efficient?

I think we do have services here that are envied by a lot of places. I know we do. And I work very closely with the police service [as Citizen on Patrol coordinator], but certainly there is always room for improvements there.

Regarding the recent Vital Signs report, what were your main takeaways and what do you think the number one priority should be?

Brown: For me, it was nice to see our overall score was a B ... I would look at the areas that scored a little lower, one of them being education. So although education is usually provincially funded, there is a lot of work that goes on at a municipal level to work with the school division, to work with the Department of Education just to see what exactly is needed, what can we do to help get better results there and to make it a little bit easier for the schools to function properly.

Hildebrand: What stood out to me was the post-secondary education part. How can we work with the school division and the Ministry of Education to make some things available in this area ... I know with my own daughter, she ended up having to go to Calgary because she wanted to go to Red River but the program that she wanted wasn't available here.

Also, the things that always stands out to me are the affordable housing, the vacancy rate of 0.6 per cent in Winkler ... and then also the rising demand at the food cupboard, when

you look at it basically doubling in five years ...

What's your views on prioritizing and planning for an indoor pool in Winkler?

Hildebrand: When we looked at it the last time ... it was around a \$47 million project ... I think that we have a lot of expensive infrastructure that we're working through right now ... wastewater treatment, water treatment ... I think we have to get through those pieces before we start taking on another huge project.

Brown: My view would be similar. I don't think it should be a high priority. We do have a lot of expensive projects on the go, important projects on the go. With that being said, maybe this is something we could add to a community survey and see maybe if more people feel it's very important than I personally think it is, but at this time I don't see [the project] being a feasible option.

Fedack: My view is a little bit different. I do believe in being fiscally responsible and being very careful with how taxpayer money is spent.

However, I do think a facility like an indoor pool would be a huge advantage for Winkler and its citizens and would draw many new people to the community ... I think that is one of the gaps that exists right now, and with the innovative thinkers that we have here with finding ways to make projects work, I think that is something that if we brainstorm and work hard on we could make it happen sooner than later.

What plans do you have for making Winkler a more sustainable and eco-friendly community?

Hildebrand: That's not a forté of

mine, so I think reaching out to people that are more versed in those types of things would be important. Listening to people—where do we want to go with this? What things are out there? What do we need to do?

Fedack: I also don't have a sound plan on this, but it's a definite interest of mine. I think you look at the fact that we all live in a watershed and I think that [we need to] continue to educate on these things and focus on recycling and taking care of even our local waterways, because that's also a huge thing.

We have our Discovery Nature Sanctuary here in Winkler which has also been teaching our young people about the environment and sustaining our natural eco-system. So continue to do more of that.

Brown: I think one of the things is obviously looking at even city facilities. So with the arena, with the renovation happening right now ... I would think things like that would be thought of. Continuing to work with residents on recycling, composting. The new public transit demo that's coming out obviously helps us look at being more eco-friendly ... I think just continuing to look at programs like that and making sure they're well-supported.

What is your approach or ideas for enhancing community programs, especially for youth, seniors, and families?

Fedack: As I've been talking to people, I've heard from a variety of individuals [of all ages] in Winkler that would love to see a facility such as an indoor pool ... I see that as a way to keep people healthy ... I think that would be a great way for families to get out. That would be one way, ab-

Continued on page 10



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

From left: Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder, Altona Panthers head coach Jason Hildebrand, ARES Chief Greg Zimmerman, Winkler Bear Paws head coach Michelle Goertzen, Special Olympics athlete Janell Brown, Altona Police Chief Dan Defer, Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe, and Borderland MLA Josh Guenter at the Altona Emergency Services Ball Saturday, which raised \$10,000 in support of local Special Olympics teams. The night included music, dance, and presentations by local dignitaries and emergency services leaders. Right: Special Olympics athlete Janell Brown shared her journey of training to be part of Canada's snowshoe team for the 2025 Special Olympics World Games in Turin, Italy.

Ball raises \$10K for Special O



> BYELECTION FORUM, FROM PG. 9

solutely.

Hildebrand: At the Buhler centre we have the Winkler Senior Centre ... they also run a number of programs in their building for seniors ... there's lots of opportunities for people to get out and get involved there.

I know the city is also moving forward with a new pickleball facility, and I'm sure there's different ways that can be utilized as well. I think there's things in the community already, but I think that certainly there's always ways to enhance things and I'm open to people's ideas and their feedback.

Brown: I would work with the existing programs—Winkler Family Resource Centre jumps out, they do a lot of good work with families, [and] the senior centre—just to kind of get feedback about what's working well, do you need supports ... and just make sure that those programs are all well supported so that our seniors and our families are well looked after.

What's your stance on property taxes, and how will you ensure fair rates for residents and businesses?

Hildebrand: I think when we want the services, when we want the indoor pool, when we want the infrastructure, the wastewater treatment, all these types of projects, I think it's staging those projects in such away that we don't have to raise taxes significantly ... it's about managing all the assets well. It's basically doing the business of the city, managing it well, and that will help keep property taxes stable.

Brown: Property taxes [are] what's used to pay for all the city-run services that we get. How to keep it stable and keep it fair? Obviously we want to look at all the different departments, make sure that departments are spending the money wisely ... as long as we continue to look after that money then we're doing the best job that we can to keep it stable and affordable for our city ratepayers.

How closely should we work with our regional neighbours to get projects done, and does your answer change if it means it doesn't get built in Winkler?

Fedack: I think it's very important to work closely with our neighbours. There's already wonderful relationships and it's great to work together; things get done more efficiently. And I think if it's a project that is going to enhance Winkler and the region ... no, my answer does not change. We should still work closely with our neighbours.

Hildebrand: When we look at Winkler, Stanley, Rhineland, Morden ... there's tremendous economic might. It's been said if we can ever figure out to work together that we'd be something really to watch out for. I think that would come with these types of projects as well.

I think if, for instance, an indoor pool would be built in the RM of Stanley ... I would certainly be supportive of that if all of us are sharing the costs of some of these huge projects.

Brown: I also believe that [regional cooperation] is very important ... there's efficiencies to be found, money savings to be found ...

Does it change if it's not in Winkler? Not really, as long as it's of benefit to the residents of Winkler.

I think it's important and I think our ratepayers would think it's important that they're getting a service likely at a reduced rate than if we were all doing our own thing separately."

What impact would you like to have on the future of Winkler if you're elected?

Brown: I would like to be able to say I was able to accomplish the tasks that were put forward ... I'm just one voice and one vote, but it would be nice to say we had a plan, we had a list of our goals, and we were able to accomplish as many of them as possible ... in a fiscally responsible and organized manner.

Fedack: I want to always make sure that the task at hand is completed. If elected, I would want to contribute in a fair, kind way and just be a councillor with a servant heart and act with integrity and always work for the best of the community in everything.

Hildebrand: I'd like to leave it better than I found it. So I think that working towards the projects that the city needs ... making sure that I'm listening, gathering feedback from the community, being approachable ... I think that's important. Basically, I want it to be that I've made an impact and done what I said I would do.

You can hear all the questions asked and the candidate's responses on the City of Winkler YouTube page.

Check out our candidate profiles, as well, starting on Pg. 8 to learn more about each of their backgrounds.

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

getinformed

Ichkaben Doner Kabab crowned Pizza Week winner

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Morden's Ichkaben Doner Kabab has been crowned the winners of Pizza Week 2024.

A dozen restaurants across Morden-Winkler-Stanley participated in the Explore Morden-Winkler promotional campaign Nov. 4-9, but it was Ichkaben Doner Kabab's "Cheesy Shawarma Fusion" pizza that came out on top, earning first-place honours.

"It's a special pizza, not from our regular menu. We wanted to mix both beef and chicken, and bring in the taste of shawarma on pizza, which is unheard of," explains Niby Moulick, who owns the eatery alongside husband Mrinmoy Moulick.

Moulick says the tasty creation was such a hit that they found themselves overwhelmed with orders. She estimates they easily surpassed 500 pizzas through the week.

"We did not expect this much," she says, noting they had double the usual staff working just to keep up. "We ran out of boxes. We had to borrow

for boxes. But it was amazing."

Moulick says they heard from many customers who are hoping the special will become a regular on their menu.

"We're thinking about it now," she says.

The first-place nod is certainly an honour, Moulick says, considering how many different kinds of pizzas were on offer across the region that week.

"It was quite a good competition," she says. "We knew that we were popular, but because of the diversity and so many restaurants participating ... it was a surprise."

The Moulicks purchased their restaurant, located in the Food Hall and Market at 282 Loren Dr., just a few months ago, so this is their first time taking part in one of Explore Morden-Winkler's themed food weeks.

It was a great opportunity to reach new customers, Mrinmoy Moulick says.

"We know that our pizza is good, but I don't know people are all aware of that," he says, noting they make their own pizza dough in-house.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Explore Morden-Winkler's Peter Loewen and Karina Bueckert last week presented Ichkaben Doner Kabab's owners Mrinmoy and Niby Moulick and staff with the first-place prize in the 2024 Pizza Week promotion.

"We wanted to reach out and tell people that it's a good combination, shawarma and pizza," adds Niby. "It's different cuisine all together and people should come out and try more."

Joining Ichkaben Doner Kabab in the top three was Mulligan's Restaurant and Lounge's The Bella Bocca pizza in second place and Leparq Pizzeria's Grape & Blue Cheese pizza in third.

There was certainly no shortage in creativity amongst the participating restaurants, observes Explore Morden-Winkler's Peter Loewen.

"Pizza is quite accessible, but you can get creative with it," he says. "I

tried them and they were all amazing."

The next themed food week—possibly another Burger Week—will take place in spring, Loewen says, based on feedback from local restaurants.

"It's a great way to get everybody to move between the three communities," he says, "exploring different places."

> BYELECTION CANDIDATES, FROM PG. 8

"I've spent years kind of cultivating and developing those relationships. I think that's a big part" of what he'd bring to the council table, Hildebrand says. "I understand how this process goes and have the patience to see it out."

Hildebrand has served on boards ranging from the Winkler & District Health Care Board and the Winkler & District Chamber of Commerce to the Central Station Community Centre, amongst others.

For the past four years, he has worked as the executive director at the Buhler Active Living Centre, which has given him the opportunity to work with and hear from many local seniors.

"Working with the seniors has been amazing. I've really enjoyed it," he says. "There's lots of wonderful personalities in this building, and outside of here as well in this kind of seniors core community downtown."

This is his first crack at running for political office, but it's been a dream of his for some time, and now it seemed right to take the plunge.

"For something like this byelection to come along, it's a unique opportunity," Hildebrand says. "And I think I have the experience and the skills that would be useful. I think I would bring different perspective to the table."

"I think Winkler is in a great spot," he adds. "The

councils that have come before us have done a really good job of preparing the community for growth, but obviously there's some big challenges that are still coming up when you look at some of the projects that are in the process but not quite started yet. And that part's interesting to me.

"As the community keeps on growing, there's all kinds of challenges that come with that ... helping the community grow through that is something I want to be a part of."

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Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund brings joy to local families

By Lori Penner

After over four decades, the Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund remains a cherished part of Christmas for many local households.

"The Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund is where we can provide a little bit of extra help during Christmas time," explained committee chair Ang Dueck.

"We do gifts for the kids, and we do food gift cards for the families in need. Grocery gift cards will range from \$125 to \$325, depending on the size of the family, and gifts are provided for children aged 0-18 years. Last year, we gifted about 220 families."

In previous years, the committee used to pack and deliver hampers filled with food. However, the shift to gift cards has been well-received.

"We have a variety of different cultures represented in our communities. This way, every family or individual can shop for their own specific needs," Dueck said, adding that those cards will be mailed out.

Now is also the time to submit referrals.

"If you or someone you know would like to receive food vouchers and gifts from the Empty Stocking Fund this Christmas, please register by calling 431-342-0525 or email rhinelandesf@gmail.com. Please leave a name and phone number if you get voicemail. We will call you back," said Dueck.

The deadline for registration is Nov. 30.

Deliveries are scheduled for Dec. 14 between 9 a.m. and noon.

Dueck noted that additional volunteers are not currently needed for deliveries.

"We have a pretty good crew that works together every year. It's very strategic. Our committee does a great job organizing everything," she said, adding that "it is important that someone is home at that time to accept the gifts."

Meanwhile, the Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund is hoping you will consider supporting its efforts to add a little extra joy to someone's Christmas.

"We are always looking for monetary donations to ensure every need is met. Prices have gone up, so our costs are higher as well. It would be nice to have a bit of a buffer as referrals come in," Dueck explained.

"The need and the costs get bigger every year. People are all trying to make ends meet these days, and Christmas time can be especially challenging. Your ongoing support is always greatly appreciated."

Donations can be sent to Box 2255, Altona, R0G 0B0, or dropped off at Pembina Valley Pharmacy or Access Credit Union in Altona, Gretna, and Plum Coulee.

"By contributing, we can help bring joy and comfort to families in our communities this Christmas season."



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Rhineland Empty Stocking Fund committee chair Ang Dueck is excited about this year's campaign to help local families have a merry Christmas.

"WE CAN PROVIDE A LITTLE BIT OF EXTRA HELP DURING CHRISTMAS TIME."

Eden hosting Light Up the Night event Nov. 28

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The holidays can be a stressful time, especially for those struggling with mental health challenges.

That's why Eden Health Care Services is setting out to Light Up the Night at its facility in Winkler next week.

The Eden Foundation is hosting a tree lighting ceremony on the green space at the Pembina Ave. health centre on Thursday, Nov. 28 from 4-6 p.m.

"We want to bring love and hope to those in our community. It's a really rough time of the year for so many," says foundation events coordinator Quinn Friesen. "Whether you're ex-

periencing mental health, whether you've experienced a loss, the holidays are not easy."

A 20-foot tall Christmas tree built out of rebar will be lit up in front of the health care centre that evening.

"We want it to be like a beacon of hope," Friesen says. "It's going to be lit for the entire Christmas and winter season, so every time someone sees it, they'll see they're not alone. There's community, there's people who love you, support you."

Tribute ribbons will be available by donation for you to write a message or name on in memory of a loved one, and then hang it on the tree.

The evening will also serve as the launch of Eden's Stuff the Stocking campaign. They're collecting essential items to bring comfort and joy to patients at Eden.

"Something that most people actually don't know is that the centre relies heavily on donations of clothing, toiletries, mitts, hats, socks—you name it—because they actually don't get the funding from the government to help supply those things," Friesen shares. "There are people coming into the centre and sometimes all they have is the clothes they have on their back. They might be there for weeks, and they need something to change into."

Donations of toiletries, slippers, mitts, hats, scarves, socks, games, puzzles and more are most welcome.

"Everything is appreciated," Friesen says.

The event will also feature a few Eden staff speaking, hay rides around town, and cookies, hot chocolate, and s'mores courtesy of King's Deli.

"This is open to everyone," Friesen stresses. "We want people to know there is support for them, and as a community we're coming together to support them. It is very dear to my heart that people feel that love."

The ***Voice***

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Einarson's new book tells the stories behind the stories

By Lorne Stelmach

John Einarson changed his focus for his newest book. The Winnipeg-born music historian, broadcaster, author and one-time Morden teacher has written more than 20 music biographies, but his most recent creation is much more about himself and his process.

Words And Music is telling the stories behind compiling the stories about such artists as John Kay, Ian & Sylvia Tyson, The Guess Who, The Byrds, Flying Burrito Brothers, Arthur Lee & Love and Buffalo Springfield.

"In other books, I'm writing about a subject, whether it's Randy Bachman or Neil Young or Steppenwolf or Ian and Sylvia," said Einarson, who talked about the book last Tuesday at the Morden library. "But this book looks at each one of those books. Each chapter in the book is that particular book, but it looks at the back story.

"I've been using the analogy that it's like an iceberg—the tip of the iceberg is kind of the book ... but there's everything going on underneath that you don't see," he said. "Each of them looks at how I go about doing what I want to do and talking also about the process of writing biographies and the dos and don'ts."

It was an interesting process for him to go beneath the surface, expanding on the stories that grace the pages of his books, revealing untold narratives and personal experiences.

For example, in doing a book on The Byrds, Einarson met David Crosby for an interview and chatted with him for two and a half hours backstage before a show.

"And I made him cry. I made David Crosby cry ... I took him back to The Byrds days, and he admitted he was a jerk," said Einarson, recalling how Crosby treated band member Gene Clark. "Gene has since died, and Crosby was tearing up, recalling how mean he was to him ... so those are the kinds of stories you don't get in the actual book itself."

In working on a book about Ian and Sylvia Tyson, he got invited to Gordon Lightfoot's house,

which Einarson described as a mansion but "very funky" inside.

"There was an old couch in the foyer with the stuffing coming out," he recalled.

"He was really gracious because he acknowledged that Ian and Sylvia really kickstarted his career because they were the first to record his song *Early Morning Rain* ... it still annoyed him though that when Ian and Sylvia recorded it, they added an A minor chord," he added. "So he played *Early Morning Rain* to me ... my favourite Gordon Lightfoot song ... and every time he came to that chord, he kind of glared at me and then didn't play it."

There are many other stories like how he ended up helping a member of The Eagles unload some furniture and when a interview about Buffalo Springfield was arranged for a Sunday morning, but Einarson was told to have a case of beer with him.

Ian and Sylvia meanwhile both decided they would be good with doing a book but thought the other would not agree to it. And another time had Einarson sitting up with Neil Young on his ranch in northern California until 2 a.m.

"And I went on tour with John Kay and Steppenwolf," said Einarson, who recalled the crowd having lots of Vietnam war vets and aging hippies. "Yet you see them weeping when John Kay is playing *Born to be Wild* or *Magic Carpet Ride*."

And then there's the account of how one guy came up after a show and told Kay that he had saved his life.

"He explained how we were pinned down in a foxhole, and we had a cassette player, and it was playing Steppenwolf ... so he said we took it and threw into another foxhole, and all the enemy fire went there, and we were able to run away."

In the end, Einarson feels *Words and Music* is a good addition to his collection of books.

"It's me telling these sto-

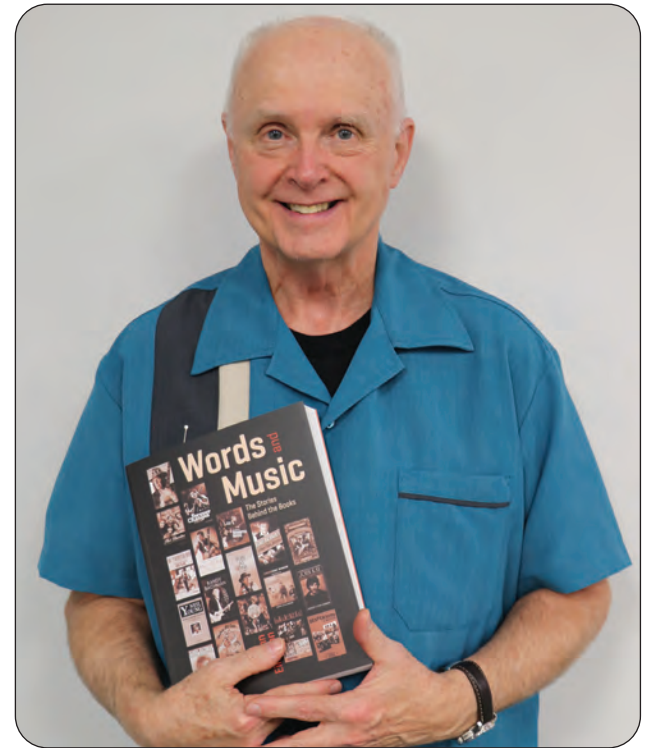


PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Author John Einarson was at the Morden library last week to read from his new book, *Words and Music*.

ries like how I had to convince Randy Bachman to agree to do a biography because he felt it would mean his career is over," said Einarson. "There's more of me in this book than any of my other books."

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

PTH 14 Intersection Improvements and Twinning at PTH 32 and 0.5-1.9 km East of PTH 32

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI), Tetra Tech, and Landmark Planning & Design are pleased to invite you to a public open house regarding a functional design study for potential twinning and intersection improvements along Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) 14 at PTH 32, Circle K Drive, and Eastview Drive. As a nearby resident, landowner, business owner, Rights Holder, or other stakeholder, you may have an interest in this project.

The purpose of the open house is to share an overview of the proposed project, provide project considerations and design alternatives, gather input, and outline next steps. Please RSVP to RSVP@landmarkplanning.ca with the subject line "PTH 14 Improvements" or by telephone at 204-453-8008.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024

IN PERSON EVENT

Time: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Come and Go Format

Location:

Central Station
Community Centre
555 Main Street
Winkler, MB



If you are unable to attend this event or would like to discuss the project in an alternate format, please contact us via email at RSVP@landmarkplanning.ca or via telephone at 204-453-8008.



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getinformed

Fundraising continues for Morris School playground upgrades

Smile Cookie sales benefiting project this week

By Sean Conway

In 2023, the Morris School Playground Improvement Committee began raising funds for improving the accessibility of the playground.

This year, the committee has stepped up their efforts by signing up for Tim Hortons' Holiday Smile Cookie campaign.

"Our goal is to make our school environment inclusive to all," said Crystal Legary, Morris School student services administration assistant. "We want our new playground to be a safe, engaging play area that welcome every member of our community."



PHOTO BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Crystal Legary in front of the current Morris School playground. The school's Playground Improvement Committee is raising funds to add more accessible play structures to ensure every child is able to join in on recess fun and games.

project, which includes the purchase and installation of several accessible structures. They hope to see it happen in the next 2-3 years, but it will depend on funding.

The committee has applied to the Morris Area Foundation for a grant to add a three-bay swing set immediately, including one bay with accessible swings.

"The new swing set has a bucket seat you can lift people in and out of," says Legary. "Swings are our most popular play structure. We hope to get the swing set installed this year to show some progress and generate some interest."

With a little under \$10,000 raised so far, the project's committee expanded this year from just school staff members to parents with a newly formed parent advisory council.

"The parents are eager to help. The first job of the PAC will be to put smiles on those cookies," said Legary.

Pre-sales of Holiday Smile Cookies started two weeks ago. A thousand have already been ordered and will be delivered throughout the community this week. You can also stop by the restaurant through to Sunday to purchase cookies.

Proceeds from the week will be split between the playground project and Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.

Morris School principal Mike Watson has fired up students to sell cookies by putting his job on the line: the top cookie seller gets to be principal for a day. The kids have also been working hard to earn other fun prizes.

If you can't make it to Tim Hortons for a cookie this week but still want to support the playground project, contact the school to make a donation or reach out to Legary at clegary@rrvsd.ca or 204-746-2612, extension 3225.

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The current school play structure is 25 years old and not accessible to people with special needs. The pea gravel makes the play area safe but unsuitable for wheelchairs. The improvement project won't remove old equipment, only add new pieces.

"We have settled on a play structure design that is more inclusive to people with mobility issues," says Legary. "This includes kids that are just learning to climb. When complete, the playground will increase enjoyment, outdoor play time, and physical and mental well-being for students but also for the community."

Legary shared an estimate of \$150,000 to complete the



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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Families packed the Morden library Saturday morning for a holiday story and craft time in support of the Morden Christmas Cheer Board. The proceeds from registration went to the holiday hamper campaign, which also received some donations of cash and food. The snacks were courtesy of Gardenland Coop, and the craft ornaments were provided by Clay Owl Studio and Boutique. The library donated the space for the event.

Crafts and stories for the Cheer Board



MORDEN LIBRARY PHOTO

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

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Your FARM



True North Foods expands and introduces innovative waste-to-energy technology



By Ty Dilello

True North Foods in Carman, which is Manitoba's only federally certified ruminant processing facility, recently announced the completion of a 32,500 square-foot facility expansion featuring the installation of the cutting-edge Rapid Organic Converter (ROC) Technology by Innovative NRG of Manitoba.

This project received nearly \$1.4 million in federal support through the Agricultural Clean Technology Program, delivered by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.

"Businesses like True North Foods

know the importance of taking care of the environment and staying on the cutting edge of technology and innovation," said the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "Our federal investment through the Agricultural Clean Technology Program will help them make their operations even more sustainable – helping the planet and their bottom line."

This advancement positions True North Foods at the forefront of environmental sustainability within the meat processing industry, significantly enhancing both operational efficiency and environmental steward-



PHOTOS BY PHILLIP DUNPHY

True North Foods in Carman recently hosted a ribbon cutting for a plant expansion that incorporated an innovative and sustainable Rapid Organic Converter. This project was partially supported by the federal and provincial governments. Left: Calvin Vaags, CEO of True North Foods, speaks at the event.

ship in Manitoba.

The new Rapid Organic Converter (ROC) Technology, a hybrid gasification system, revolutionizes waste management by converting all organic waste into clean thermal energy. This autonomous, flameless process generates on-site clean thermal energy that can heat water or buildings, reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The ROC also minimizes landfill use

and reduces transportation-related emissions by processing waste at its source, significantly reducing True North Foods' carbon footprint.

"ROC technology was one cornerstone of our plant expansion," stated Calvin Vaags, President and CEO of True North Foods. "We needed to expand to meet customer demand for Manitoba Beef, so we took a thoughtful approach to expansion in order to expand in a way that is sustainable long-term economically and environmentally."

True North Foods has offered producers a made-in-Manitoba option for slaughtering Manitoba-raised beef for about ten years. It is now the only federally certified beef slaughterhouse between Alberta and Ontario and the only one with Canadian ownership.

"Expansion provides significant growth opportunities," said Vaags. "Grow volume goes from 700 per week to 2,000 per week (after adding a second shift), with the capability to process organic, halal, kosher and grass-fed beef. Additionally, we've added value to production by processing pet food ingredients. The ROC technology provides significant carbon reduction by diverting waste from landfills. It will also produce



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Continued on page 17

Your FARM



Shelterbelt program continues to GROW

By Lorne Stelmach

A program of the Pembina Valley Watershed District is making an impact especially in promoting shelterbelts.

Through the GROW Growing Outcomes in Watershed Program, the watershed district has planted more than 55,000 trees since its inception in 2020.

The fifth application of the program covering 2024 and into 2025 involved over \$1.3 million in support, and the district will now be looking at the sixth application of the program that will cover projects in 2025-26.

"It's actually been really well received here," said Dean Richards, program co-ordinator for the east region of the PVWD.

GROW promotes conservation of natural areas and land uses that provide ecological goods and services by helping farmers develop projects that maintain or improve local watershed

health and work for their operations.

Shelterbelts are especially important because planting shelterbelts in fields, around livestock facilities, near dug-outs and along vulnerable riparian areas offer many benefits, said Richards.

These include conserving fertile soil on our agro landscape, protecting water quality, increased aquifer recharge, reduction of energy bills while increasing carbon sequestration, creating habitat for birds and wildlife, providing shelter to farmyards and livestock, and aiding in the stabilization of vulnerable stream banks.

"It really gives us the ability to offer solutions to growers, agricultural producers in the Pembina Valley Watershed District," said Richards.

And it is a region with such varied terrain that there are a variety of different challenges faced by growers, he added.

"The Pembina Valley Watershed District stretches all the way from Boissevain to Letellier to the Red River ... so we have a pretty wide district. It's fairly narrow, but we cover quite



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Pembina Valley Watershed District's GROW shelterbelt program is already making plans for the next planting season and beyond.

a large area.

"Some guys are plowing all their trees down ... so we offer programs and incentives to have guys plant trees back into the landscape again."

Richards added the programs of the watershed district overall can really be fit to need, whether large or small.

"A very large retention project might cost \$50,000 to \$100,000," he suggested. "At the opposite end of the spectrum ... a half mile of trees might only cost \$5,000."

For more information on the funds and programs available, head to www.pvwd.ca.

> TRUE NORTH, FROM PG. 16

energy which we can use to offset natural gas for hot water."

Vargas notes that this project has been under development for two years and that it has a large economic impact on Carman, as True North Foods is the town's largest employer.

"We're very excited to have this completed as it opens many new doors for the company. We make a point of using local trades as much as possible. The project was \$14 million in total, and a significant portion of that went to contractors in the municipality."

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The **Voice**

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Friesens Corp. embraces cutting-edge tech with new printing presses

Friesens Corporation, based in Altona, is renowned for its innovative approach to technology, continually evolving to stay competitive in the book manufacturing industry. President Byron Loeppky highlights that this strategy enhances efficiency, market expansion, and competitive advantage. Staff eagerly anticipate new equipment and technological upgrades.

"One of the challenges over the last 15 years has been keeping up with new technology," he shares. "The life cycle of machinery is now shorter, with much more reliance on electronics and computers and less on gears and shafts."

To maintain their edge, Friesens has added two new four/four 40-inch Manroland LED perfecting presses to their arsenal, replacing older models.

"LED printing offers numerous benefits for books, including energy efficiency, quick drying times, and reduced risk of ghosting or image transfer. It also produces sharp and vibrant colors, ensuring high-quality images and text. Moreover, LED technology's durability and longevity mean that books printed with this method will maintain their quality over time," Loeppky explains. "Another benefit is that since the ink dries instantly on the substrate, print quality improves, and we'll use less ink."

A new T-48A press from Timsons will arrive at the end of the month, complementing Friesens' existing Timson presses. This press features new technology, a different feeding system, and a modern look.

"This is the first new press from Timson since 2014 and the addition will enhance Friesens web platform with added capacity and modern technology. It's the first press in the world

from Timson's joint venture with CPI, a major European book manufacturer," Loeppky says. The press will be installed in December and requires training due to its advanced LED technology, which is safer, more efficient, and has a smaller footprint than UV or conventional heat-set methods.

"Other people in the industry are eagerly watching to see how this goes."

To further enhance efficiency, a new robotic stacking system (supplied by Innovair out of Winnipeg) will be attached to the new press with a matching system updating an existing Timson press.

Loeppky shares the team's enthusiasm, noting that two staff members were sent to England for a press certification test.

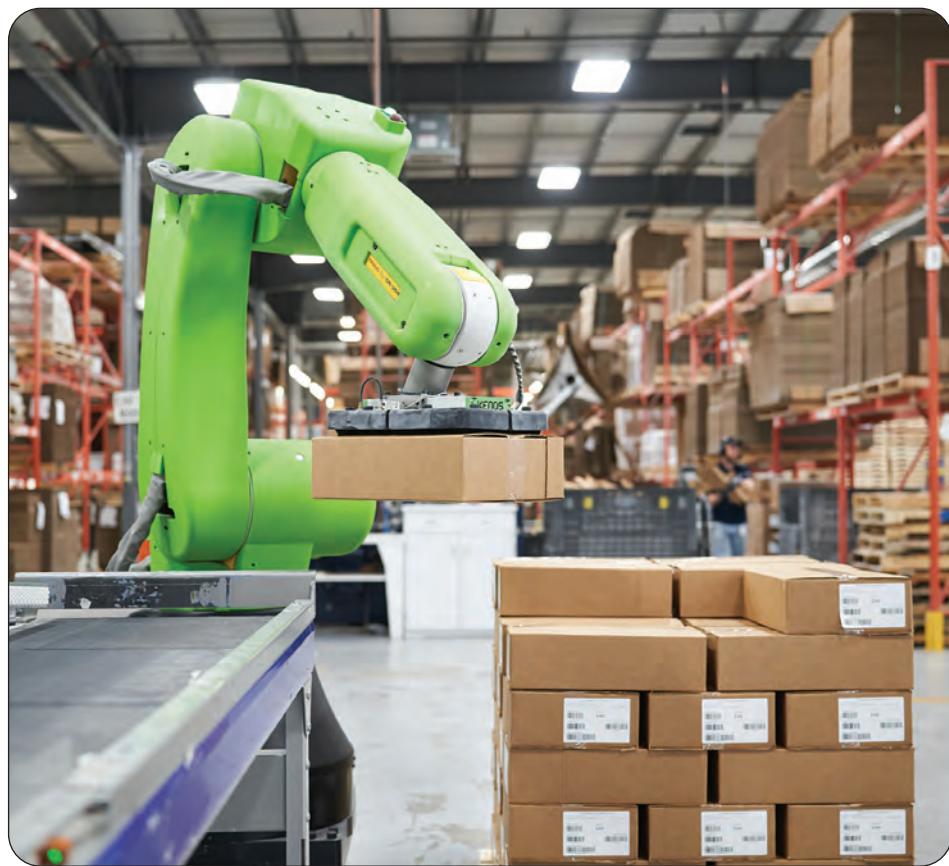
"They returned excited about the press's performance and capabilities. It's wonderful when not just leadership but also the operators are excited about new equipment. Friesens acquires the machine, but the employee-owners maximize its capabilities."

Friesens also recently acquired a machine that allows them to spray the edges of books for decoration.

"This machine will allow us to decorate with any design the customer chooses," Loeppky says. "We investigated it for about six years, tested samples, and now it's gaining traction in North America. We hope to have it installed in mid-November and produce books with sprayed edges by December."

One customer, eager to be first in line, has already placed an order for 200,000 books.

"This large order exemplifies the demand for Friesens' innovative capabilities and reinforces our commitment to staying at the forefront of technology in the book manufactur-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Friesens Corporation is renowned for its innovative approach to technology, continually adding new equipment to stay competitive in the book manufacturing industry.

ing industry," says Loeppky.

In addition to the new equipment, Friesens is also replacing their Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software system.

"It's the guts that runs our entire business. It is used by our customers, our sales team, estimators, right through production," Loeppky says. "This is how we move our jobs through our business."

"We've been working with this for a number of years. We installed it in our think4D division earlier this year, and by mid next year, we aim to transfer our Book and Yearbook divisions to this new ERP system. It will bring more efficiencies and change how we process information and gather data."

Loeppky explained that Friesens currently uses almost 200 programs to keep rolling through the plants. The new ERP system will streamline operations, reduce errors, and require

significant training for all staff.

"This is like starting from scratch and will involve extensive training for every person in the company, affecting every department, particularly estimating, planning, sales, and prepress. We're looking at fewer programs running, with more automation doing the work," Loeppky says.

Friesens prides itself on customer satisfaction and continuous reinvestment in the business.

"Our message to customers and the industry is that we believe in the business and continue to reinvest in it. We're here for the long haul, which raises confidence with our customers. We strive to stay current new with technology and be front runners in our field, solidifying our business in the eyes of our customers."

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arts&culture

The Recipe brings Armin Wiebe's Gutenthal to life

By Lorne Stelmach

Armin Wiebe was reluctant at first to return to a familiar setting and characters for an adaptation that took to the stage at the Manitoba Theatre Centre Tom Hendry Warehouse in Winnipeg this month.

A co-production with Theatre Projects Manitoba, *The Recipe* is described as a heartwarming Prairie gothic tale featuring a cast of misfit characters from his Gutenthal series, which is set in a fictional Mennonite community. The series includes *Murder in Gutenthal*, *The Second Coming of Yeeat Shpanst*, *The Salvation of Yasch Siemens*, and *Grandmother, Laughing*.

"I resisted going back for a long time. There were people who were encouraging me to do an adaptation of *The Salvation of Yasch Siemens*, but I wasn't sure that I wanted to go there," Wiebe said in a phone interview last week.

"But then I decided to try it and wrote a draft of a bad play," he joked. "But in doing so, I came up with the idea ... why don't I take this moment in the novel, change a few things, and see what happens? So I did that, and

a new story developed.

"So I refer to *The Recipe* as a spinoff story rather than an adaptation," Wiebe said of the show, which has been described as funny, poignant, and subversive and not your average coming-of-age tale.

After a whirlwind romance, Oata sets her sights and her heart on life with Yasch, until he reveals his obsession with skinny Sadie Nickel. Tired of being overlooked and busy running her family's farm, Oata wants nothing to do with either of them. But when Sadie arrives at her door, distraught and in desperate need of help, Oata must confront her own insecurities and wrestle with the power of choice.

"The big difference is the novel was a first-person novel from Yasch's point of view and his voice, and *The Recipe* is Oata's play," noted Wiebe. "Over the years, she has become much more interesting to me as a character, so this is her chance to shine, and she certainly does, I think."

Wiebe noted it is quite a different process writing for the stage.

"First of all, you can't get inside people's heads the same way, and everything has to be in the present tense

"[IT'S] A SPINOFF STORY RATHER THAN AN ADAPTATION."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Recipe is on at the Tom Hendry Warehouse theatre through this weekend.

and largely conveyed through the dialogue and some physical action. You can't have narrative summary ... it all has to happen in real time on the stage.

"I thought it would be faster, but it takes just as long as writing a novel," he added.

Wiebe has gained a great appreciation for the setting and characters of his stories.

"I like to think of southern Manitoba as just as a valid place to tell stories out of as any other place ... why invent Middle Earth if you've got the West Reserve?" he joked.

"I think people like to see stories where they can maybe recognize themselves in some way ... and when

it comes right down to it, there haven't really

been that many stories written about our landscape here in southern Manitoba.

"Stories grow out of a place," he added. "I use to try to discourage my students from writing stories in generic midwestern United States towns ... our place isn't boring."

Wiebe simply hopes people enjoy the show.

"I hope they enjoy spending a little over an hour and a half with these characters as they struggle with their insecurities and ambitions and desires ... it's in some ways a coming of age story; almost a romance but not quite."

The show's monthlong run wraps up this weekend. Learn more online at royalmtc.ca/Current-Plays/The-Recipe.aspx.

Douglas Kuhl School of Music's fall/winter concert coming up Dec. 1

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Douglas Kuhl School of Music (DKSM) is inviting the community to enjoy the sounds of the season at its fall/winter concert next month.

Their "Christmas Mystery & Magic" show takes place at the Winkler MB Church (120 Pineview Drive) on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m.

"We've got four string ensembles again this year," shares organizer Wes Hamm, referring to the Allegro Strings, DeCapo Strings, Encore Strings, and the Post Road Orchestra, all of which feature performers of a range of ages and skill levels.

"And the Winkler Senior Choir will also be performing," he says, noting that group is made up of about two dozen local seniors with a love of music. "I think it's a wonderful thing for the youth to see this is something they can do all their lives."

Hamm says that all five groups have been hard at work preparing for the concert and are excited to showcase their musical talents.

"A lot of the music will be Christmas music," he shares. "We expect it to be a good evening."

Admission to the concert is free, though donations will be accepted towards DKSM's ongoing musical programming.

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Breakfast With Santa Dec. 7 to support Morris Christmas Cheer

Financial and toy donations being accepted at drop boxes throughout the community

By Siobhan Maas

For a 33rd season, the Morris & Area Christmas Cheer Board is organizing donations and providing hampers for those less fortunate.

"This is an opportunity for the community to come together in bringing a measure of joy and kindness to people's lives," said board co-chair Sherri Siemens, "The hampers are meant to be a support to those with low income or are going through financial struggles. [We service] mostly families and seniors living in the area."

For at least the last 15 years, the Christmas Cheer Board has partnered with Morris Area Recreation Commission to bring Breakfast with Santa to the Morris Multiplex, a fundraising initiative for community members to support the campaign with donations while enjoying a hearty breakfast.

The annual event takes place this year on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to noon with a team of 10 volunteers making and serving pancakes, eggs, and sausages.

"Santa usually walks into the room

around 9:30, ringing his bell, saying good morning to everyone," smiled Arien Peterson, multiplex manager. "We're excited that, following a brief hiatus, Mrs. Claus is expected to visit with families this year."

Santa's elves—players from the Twisters hockey team—will also be on site helping out with the breakfast. The Morris high school band will play holiday songs and The Lollipop Fairy & Friends will provide roaming entertainment and face painting free of charge.

Last year over 100 families had breakfast with Santa. Children have the opportunity to visit with Santa, have their photo taken, and receive a special Christmas treat.

Admission to the event is a new, unwrapped toy or a monetary donation for the Cheer Board.

If you are unable to attend Breakfast with Santa, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at several locations around Morris, including Essence Hair Salon, Morris Bigway, Home Hardware, the Town of Morris office, and Superthrift Pharmacy.



PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

Emery Falk and Mikayla, employees at Morris Bigway, with the Morris & Area Christmas Cheer Board box for toy donations. The Cheer Board expects to pack over 100 hampers for families in need this Christmas. Left: The 2023 hampers being put together by local volunteers.

"We depend on the faithful and generous cash and toy donations of businesses and individuals," shared Siemens. "Every child [in a household gifted a hamper] receives a new, donated and then wrapped toy."

In previous years between 110 and 137 individuals and families in and around the communities of Lowe Farm, Morris, and Rosenort have received hampers.

"We expect a similar outcome this year," said Siemens.

If you or someone you know would benefit from a hamper this holiday season, the application form and full details can be found online at townofmorris.ca/cheerboard. Deadline to apply is Dec. 11.

Hampers will be packed on Dec. 13 by volunteers, with pick-up or delivery taking place on Saturday, Dec. 14. A full Christmas meal, basic grocery staples, and gifts for children in the household are included.

Anyone wanting to contribute their time to Christmas Cheer can email morrisareachristmascheer@gmail.com. For those interested in helping during Breakfast with Santa, contact Meagan Dilts at 204-746-2832 or recreation@townofmorris.ca.

Donations to the Morris & Area Christmas Cheer can be made by cheque payable to the Town of Morris or e-transfer to recreation@townofmorris.ca.



Night of Lights to usher in holiday season with a bang

By Lori Penner

The Town of Altona invites you to get into the spirit of the season as they present their annual Night of Lights celebration on Friday, Nov. 29.

Altona recreation programmer Britany Winkler says they've got a fun evening planned for the whole family.

The excitement begins at 6 p.m. with holiday hayrides up and down the streets of Altona.

"We've decided to do this instead of the usual horse and sleigh rides.

Instead, there will be a flatbed trailer with hay bales for everyone to sit on. We're hoping to decorate it, as well. They'll be following the same route around town."

Another much-anticipated event is the free wiener roast at 6:30 p.m. at the Altona Civic Centre, presented by Sun Valley Co-op.

"We'll also have marshmallows this year, sponsored by Altona IGA," Winkler says.

A local Christmas choir will lead everyone in a round of carols around the

fire.

The grand event, the official lighting of the town Christmas tree, will take place at 7 p.m.

"We're also bringing back the fireworks. We've had some great feedback on that," Winkler says. "It drew a lot of people downtown, and really added something special to this much-anticipated family event."

Fireworks are sponsored by Elmer's Manufacturing and Altona Farm Service.

After the fireworks, everyone can

head down to the Altona Mall to warm up with some free hot chocolate and cookies, presented by Altona IGA and Subway.

"While they're enjoying that, they can stick around and listen to some Christmas music presented by local school holiday band ensembles," says Winkler. "And let's not forget to mention our special guest: Santa Claus will be there to talk to all the kids about their Christmas wishes."

An artistic journey through the seasons

By Lorne Stelmach

It is very fitting that Marge Fehr and Mary Klassen are jointly exhibiting their work this month at Winkler Arts and Culture.

The sisters routinely paint together, so that time they spend working on their art makes it extra special, and they very much inspire each other as well.

"She inspired me first of all to get started. She said now is the time, and it was a perfect time for me because I had just gone through a really rough time," shared Klassen.

"We really enjoy doing it together. It's very special," added Fehr.

"We will usually spend a whole day from nine in the morning until four or five in the afternoon," she noted. "We chat for a bit, but then we get quiet, turn on some music and just paint away ... it's just a really good time, spending time together and painting ... it encourages each other."

The exhibit entitled *Seasonal Expressions* is on display until Nov. 30, with an opening reception having been held last Friday.

The sisters have developed distinct yet complementary painting styles,

and they enjoy exploring a variety of subjects in their work.

As you view the exhibit, you will travel through spring, summer, fall, and winter. That theme arose somewhat by happenstance.

"We each have our own styles ... and we have different interests. She paints a lot of children ... but somehow it just worked out that this was a good name for it," said Fehr.

"I had said something about the seasonal idea," said Klassen. "I just realized I had stuff for all the four seasons, and she's got so much painting she has done so it was easy for her to put the four seasons together too."

They both only began pursuing art more seriously about seven years ago when the two of them started painting together, shared Klassen.

"We both had struggles, and we just found that doing art and doing it together is so much like therapy for both of us, and we both enjoy it ... I've always enjoyed art; I just never took the time to do it, to paint.

"It brings lots of healing ... and we both love nature so much, we both love the beauty of flowers. She does more scenery. I have always enjoyed kids, and kids always inspire me be-



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The work of sisters Marge Fehr and Mary Klassen will take visitors to the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre through the seasons. *Seasonal Expression* is on display through Nov. 30.

cause there's so much life ahead for them.

"We actually take turns going to each other's house and try to do it once a week together, we spend the day together ... we have our coffee, and then we paint, listen to music ... many moments of silence in between ... it's all very special."

"It's been very exciting to do an exhibit now," said Fehr, who recalled really enjoying art in school but then putting it aside while raising her family.

They have had a few works shown on a small scale before now, but this is

their first full exhibit.

"It's a big step for us, and I feel that just hearing from people, having them come out and view your work ... it is encouraging for sure to keep going with it," Fehr said. "I just hope that it will inspire others who are interested in painting to actually step up and do it."

Klassen echoed that sentiment.

"I'm just hoping people are inspired. I'm hoping they have joy in seeing the show."



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden was alive with shoppers last Thursday evening for the annual Wrapping Up A Morden Christmas promotion of the Morden Chamber of Commerce. There were 24 businesses and locations participating. While people shopped, they got stamps on their passports to have an opportunity to win prizes from participating local businesses at the end of the evening.

Wrapping up a Morden Christmas



'Weight We Carry' on display at Morden gallery this month

By Lorne Stelmach

This month's exhibit at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden is rooted in both the artist's traditions and personal experiences.

With the collection of work called *Weight We Carry*, Kristy Janvier continues to contemplate the healing aspect as in her previous work, and she is also exploring how we carry so much while gracefully dancing through the transition to motherhood.

"Ideas just kind of come, and it's usually when I'm doing yoga maybe or out in nature for a walk," said Janvier, explaining how her inspirations come to her very naturally. "Ideas come to me of things I want to make, and most of the things I do make are just from my personal experiences."

Janvier was born and raised in Flin Flon and is of Dene and mixed European descent from the English River First Nation in northern Saskatchewan.

She is very much a multimedia artist with a background in dance as well as visual art, and her performances have been influenced by improvisation yet structured from personal stories while incorporating images, installation, sound recording, and/or video.

At 18, she began working overseas as a professional actress and dancer. After 15 years of working with Disney, she returned to Canada.

In addition to performance work, Janvier

has been sewing bead work since 2018. Sales from her work—Secret Life of Beads—go toward funding her family's bush cabin started in 1934 for future generations.

As well, she explored her research on water, the rivers, bloodlines and healing with the support of the Young Lungs Dance Exchange in Winnipeg in the winter of 2016-17.

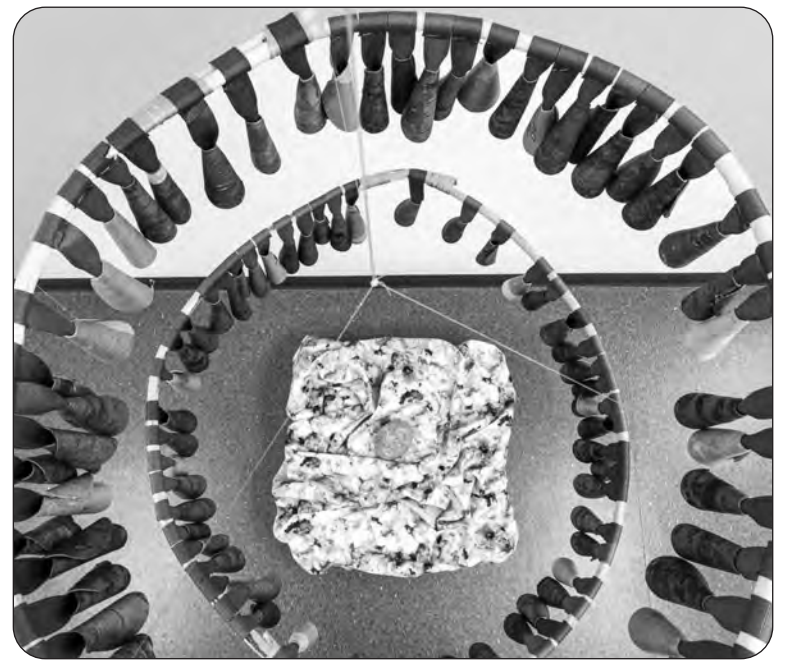
"When the pandemic hit, I began to focus more on my visual arts practice again," said Janvier in touching on the genesis of *Weight We Carry*, which is an interdisciplinary work made during her rural arts mentorship with Lita Fontaine in 2022.

"It started when I had the online mentorship with Lita Fontaine ... and I knew at the end of that one-year mentorship, we had to have a show," she explained.

"Some of the ideas I had been sitting on for quite a while," she added, recalling how "during that time, I was also postpartum, had my first child, so there was a lot of that transition into motherhood, adjusting to all the changes ... and there was the thought of the responsibilities of that weight of carrying that next generation forward, so I'm using rocks in a lot of the project."

Janvier chose rocks for her performance artifact. Being weighed down by the rock, balancing the weight and carrying the rock become a symbolic representation of motherhood.

Works include Healing Dress, which involves two willow hoops, 100 birch bark



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The work of artist Kristy Janvier is on display at the Pembina Hills Art Gallery in downtown Morden this month.

cones, stones, ribbon, imitation sinew, fabric and small stone.

Moss Bag is a weighted moss bag made of paper, which is a fragile material but will hold the sturdy rocks placed inside. Flower Rock is bead work on a photograph of rocks.

In the end, Janvier sees people as taking in her work through the lens of their own experiences.

"There can be different meanings to the work to different people, just kind of depending on their stories and backgrounds."

Doing more with less

MCM's Climate Action Working Group hosting guest speakers in Altona Saturday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A presentation at The Community Exchange in Altona this weekend is taking a look at doing more with less.

Mennonite Church Manitoba's Climate Action Working Group is hosting the Saturday conversation night, dubbed "The Upside-down Economics of Jesus—Household Action and Global Change."

The evening revolves around a question: in a world driven by economic growth and unending consumption, how might Jesus be calling us to live?

Seeking to answer that are guest speakers Zachary Rempel and Karla Braun.

Braun is a Mennonite World Conference writer and editor who strives to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

"She is the most intensely aware consumer that I know," shares event organizer Kenton Lobe, who is a professor of international development

studies at CMU and a member of the working group. "She's super thoughtful, super engaged, and active ... she'll have lots to share."

Rempel, meanwhile, will help participants look at the bigger picture. He holds a master's degree in natural resources management, has worked on issues related to Indigenous engagement with the natural resource extraction industry in Canada, and researches degrowth and ecological economics.

"Philosophically, he's asking about degrowth," Lobe explains. "Challenging the idea that we can forever just keep growing, and if not we're going to figure out technologies to solve it. But we actually need to slow it down."

These topics are right in line with the mandate of MCM's Climate Action Working Group, which has members across Manitoba.

"It's made up of a diverse group of people and a diverse age representation from across Mennonite churches in the province," shares fellow member Marilyn Houser Hamm. "We're working in cooperation with and alongside various faith-based groups under an umbrella for the love of creation."

The group was started with the belief that humans are the stewards of this planet created for us, and so it is our responsibility to take action on climate change.

It's a matter of recognizing that "walking here on Earth with our Creator is a gift," says Houser Hamm, "and that we are part of all living things and that we must care for one another. Caring for the Earth is part of how I understand God's love and God's calling of love for all of creation."

"The way of Christ that we seek to embody calls us to that care," she continues, reflecting on the importance of living mindfully. "Spirituality is not separate from action."

Modern consumption habits are having an impact on the world, notes Lobe. It's time to take a hard look at those habits, though he acknowledges it can be challenging to know where to start.

"When I'm teaching environmental studies, it's impossible to get around this glaring reality that we're trashing the place," he says. "I know that there are people ... full of ecological grief, full of sadness and despair for a deep, long look at something that is profoundly sad, it's profoundly difficult. There's room at this gathering for that."

"There's also room for people that think this is all bunk ... we've had conversations across a range of differences. We're comfortable with the whole range that might come together."

While the evening is being put on by Mennonite churches, Houser Hamm emphasizes that the discussion is aimed at all people of faith, regardless of denomination.

"We're hoping that particularly through this way of inviting people into this event that the wider community can engage in this conversation with us," she says. "This is a call to community. This is a call to hope. And this is a call to vision."

Saturday's event starts with a free supper at 6 p.m. (you can RSVP for that at mennochurch.mb.ca) followed by the program starting at 7 p.m. (no registration is needed for that portion of the evening).

sports & recreation

Bombers blank Northstars

Morden's Reed Peters makes a toe save and would go on to record a shutout in the 5-0 win over the visiting Ile des Chene Northstars in SEMHL action last week.

PHOTO BY RICK
HIEBERT/VOICE



By Lorne Stelmach

Morden and Winkler were on the opposite ends of shutouts this past weekend in SEMHL action, while Red River picked up their second straight win.

Winkler was blanked 5-0 Saturday by Notre Dame in the Royals' lone game of the week.

Notre Dame took control of the game with a four goal first period. Christopher Lesage got the 20-save shutout, while Matthew Thiessen did his best to keep the Royals in the game by stopping 50 of 55 shots.

Morden meanwhile broke open a close game with four unanswered goals in the third period Saturday for their 5-0 win over Ile des Chene.

Collin Shirley and Jaden Townsend each scored a pair for the Bombers, with the other goal coming from Keane Boucher. Reed Peters had a 33-save shutout as Morden outshot the Northstars 53-33.

A three goal second period turned the tide in favour of the Red River Wild Friday as they edged the Springfield Winterhawks 4-3.

Troy Lehmann, Gavin Froese, Colin Baudry, and Jonah Wasylak scored for Red River, while Jayden

Catellier stopped 19 of 22 shots he faced in net. The Wild sent 31 shots the other way.

Red River is in third place with an 3-2 record, which ties them with Notre Dame (3-2-0) and Warren (3-1-0) at six points.

Winkler is seventh place at 1-3-1 for three points while Morden sits in eighth at 1-3-0 and two points.

This weekend, Red River hosts Portage Saturday and Winkler hosts Warren Sunday. The Bombers get a week off—their next game is Nov. 30 against the Wild.

Lady Hawks end losing streak with two victories

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks halted a four game winless slide with a pair of victories on a three game road trip this past weekend.

After dropping a 5-3 decision to the Westman Wildcats Friday, the Hawks rebounded to edge the Brandon Wheat Kings 2-1 in overtime Saturday and then beat the Yellowhead Chiefs 7-4 Sunday.

Pembina Valley couldn't quite recover Friday after giving up four goals to Westman in the first period.

Rory Perrin, Leah Klaassen, and Hayden Arkle scored for the Hawks in response. In net, Madison Froese made 28 saves as the Wildcats held a slight 32-30 edge in shots on goal.

Casey O'Brien was the hero then Saturday as she scored in the third period to tie the game and then potted the winner with 3:32 left in overtime.

Kasia Rakowski earned the win with 36 saves as the Hawks outshot Brandon 41-37.

Pembina Valley took period leads of 3-1 and 4-2 against Yellowhead before putting it away with three more goals in the final frame.

O'Brien led the way with a hat trick, while the other goals were scored by Klaassen, Arkle, Abigail Brigg, and Jessica Anderson.

Shots were 49-34 in favour of Yel-

lowhead, so Rakowski came up big in goal with a 45-save win.

The Hawks improved to 4-7-0 for eight points, and it has them sitting in fifth place. They are even with Yellowhead and two back of the Winnipeg Ice but also just one up on Brandon and two ahead of Central Plains.

Pembina Valley hosts Eastman Wednesday and Central Plains Friday followed by a road game against Eastman next Monday.



PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

Eight teams squared off for a good cause at the Kurling for Kids bonspiel in Altona Saturday. Team Sweepin' It Forward clinched first place followed J Rocks in second and Hogline Heroes in third place.

Kurling for Kids bonspiel raises \$11K for BTHC pediatrics program

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The very first Kurling for Kids (K4K) event in Manitoba proved to be a success in Altona last weekend.

K4K is a charity that supports children's hospitals. They've been putting on fundraising bonspiels in Quebec for decades, but on Saturday were at the Altona Curling Club to raise money for the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

"We didn't get more than eight teams, but even with half of the teams that we had wanted, we still managed to raise over \$10,000," says Sandy Friesen, regional manager for K4K in

Manitoba.

The day in fact brought in \$11,120 for BTHC to purchase medical equipment for its growing pediatrics program.

Guest speakers shared with curlers a bit about how the funds will be used and the impact the program has on local families.

"We had Dr. Don Klassen speak, and we had Dylan Wiebe share about his experience with his daughter, and it was very moving," shares Friesen. Wiebe's daughter spent months in hospital in Winnipeg as a newborn. The family's story highlights "how important it would be to have some-

thing closer, to be able to have more family around, and just how important the pediatrics program is at BTHC."

Plans are already in the works to host the K4K bonspiel again next year.

"We had such a positive response," Friesen says, thanking everyone who came out to curl or who supported the event with donations or sponsorships.

"It was such a fun day," she adds. "I had people saying, 'Sign us up for next year' and 'I'm looking forward

to doing this for the next 25 years.'

"Hopefully next year it'll be bigger, better, more teams, maybe more clubs," Friesen says, noting other curling clubs in Manitoba are welcome to reach out to K4K to learn about hosting their own fundraising competition for a local hospital.

You can learn more online at www.kurlingforkids.org.

"HOPEFULLY NEXT YEAR IT'LL BE BIGGER, BETTER ..."

Flyers edge Niverville Nighthawks 3-2 in overtime

By Lorne Stelmach

The Winkler Flyers picked up a fourth straight win Sunday by edging the Niverville Nighthawks in overtime.

Brody Beauchemin connected for his sixth goal of the season 4:25 into the extra session to give the Flyers the extra point.

Trevor Dalton and Liam Carlone scored in the first period to give Winkler the lead, but Niverville connected twice in the third period to even things out.

Liam Ernst got the win in net with 27 saves as Winkler outshot the Nighthawks 40-29.

The victory kept the Flyers in third place in the MJHL East Division on a record of 14-6-0-0 for 28 points. They sit one ahead of Selkirk and four and five behind Portage and Steinbach.

Winkler was to begin their week with a visit to Waywayseecappo Tuesday. Results were not available at press time. They then have a pair of home games Friday and Saturday against Swan Valley and Steinbach.

In other news, a pair of Flyers were named to the MJHL's three stars of the week for Nov. 4-10.

Goaltender Liam Ernst earns his star after two impressive performances where he had a shutout against the

Blues and had a solid night against Virden.

Forward Brady Craik got the honour for scoring four points in two games. Craik sits 13th in league scoring with 12 goals and 10 assists.

The **Voice**
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Twisters hire new general manager in hopes to stop the bleeding



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Pembina Valley Twisters recently announced that John Mintenko will become the team's new general manager. Pictured left to right, John Mintenko and Twisters' owner Pat Schmitke.

By Ty Dilello

So far, the Pembina Valley Twisters have had a season to forget. The Morris-based MMJHL is 2-13-1, good for last place in the league standings.

The Twisters played just once last week as they got whacked on Nov. 15 in a 7-1 loss to the St. James Jr. Canucks. Noah Slobozian had the Twisters' lone goal, while a beleaguered Darion Penner stopped 52 shots in net for the loss.

On Nov. 16, the Twisters announced that John Mintenko would take over as the team's general manager. The team's press release stated, "John brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the Twisters, and we are confident that his vision will guide our team to new heights. With a deep-rooted passion for the game, John's strategic approach aligns perfectly with our goals of fostering talent, building team unity, and achieving excellence on and off the ice."

Twisters' head coach, Braeden Beernaerts, was

pleased with the hire and is happy to get the help to hopefully get his club back on the right track.

"John is a great addition to our team as he brings in a lot of knowledge and experience in the management position," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "We look forward to working with him and working towards putting this team back at the top of the standings."

The Twisters are back in action with a pair of games this week. First, they're on the road to play the Stonewall Jets on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 8 p.m. Then, on Friday, Nov. 22, they're on the road against the Charleswood Hawks; puck drop is at 7:30 p.m.

"In practice coming up, we're just working on the simple things and defensive zone responsibilities," said Beernaerts. "As a young team, it's easy to stray away from that, especially when it's all new. It takes time to gel, but I'm confident this group will overcome the start we've had."

Morris Maverick named MHSAA Athlete of the Week

By Voice staff

A Morris Maverick has been named the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba Athlete of the Week by the Manitoba High School Athletic Association.

Nicolas Leflar is described as an outstanding athlete and a driving force on the Morris Mavericks varsity boys volleyball team.

"Nic is a co-captain of the Mavs and is a passionate, vocal leader," the citation reads. "He holds himself and his teammates to a high standard in both games and practices. He has made outstanding contributions to the team as a middle blocker, a setter, and an

outside hitter. Most recently, Nic was selected as a tournament all star in the Elton tournament, where he helped lead the Mavericks to the tournament victory."

Leflar also plays basketball, beach volleyball, and badminton. He is currently taking vocational classes as well as university entrance courses. He maintains an overall academic average above 90 per cent.



Male Hawks down Cougars

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks maintained their place in the middle of the pack with an overtime victory in their lone game of the past week.

Adrien McIntosh scored 1:57 into the extra frame Sunday to give the Hawks a 3-2 victory over the Southwest Cougars.

All of the other scoring was done in the second period, with Haiden Friesen opening things up with a pair of goals before the Cougars came back to tie and force overtime.

Shots on goal were 40-32 in favour of Southwest, and Ryler Gates earned the win for Pembina Valley on a solid 38-save performance.

The victory improved Pembina Valley to 8-7-1-1, good for 18 points and seventh place. They're one back of Interlake while also just one ahead of the Winnipeg Thrashers and Eastman.

The Hawks head north this weekend for a doubleheader against Norman Saturday and Sunday.



FACEBOOK.COM/GVCZODIACS

Garden Valley Collegiate's volleyball teams were flying high after earning three Zone 4 banners last week. Both the junior varsity teams won their championships by beating teams from W.C. Miller. At the varsity level, the male Zodiacs downed Morden in three sets, while the girls lost to Altona in four. The championship teams now play in the AAA provincials in Winnipeg this week. Meanwhile, at the AA level, Rosenort's varsity teams both won the Zone 4 banner as well. And in the South Central Athletic Conference, the Northlands Parkway Collegiate JV girls volleyball team came in second after falling to the Olympians in three sets in the AAA championship.

take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

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COMING EVENTS



**Valley Agricultural Society
Annual General Meeting**
December 4, 2024
Morris Multiplex - North Hall
7:00 p.m.

(Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
The Valley Agricultural Society would like to invite all members, volunteers, as well as the public, to attend.

2025 Memberships - \$20 each.
Saddle Club Memberships
will also be available.

**Cash Bar, Door Prizes and
Light Snack Provided**
For more information,
please contact the VAS office
at 204-746-2552

CAREERS

BUNGE

MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

Bunge Altona has an opening for a Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright. Work involves process equipment installation, maintenance and repair, lubrication, steel fabrication and welding.

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible.

Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
 - Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
 - Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
 - Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience
- This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

Starting Wages:

- Mechanic \$32.70/hour
- Red Seal Millwright: \$38.08/hour

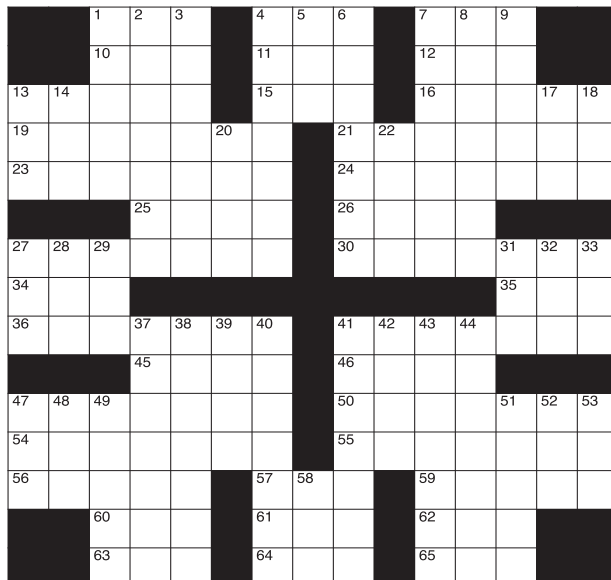
A job description for this position can be found online on the Bunge website: <https://obs.bunge.com/>. enter "Altona" in the field "Search by Location". Click on "Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright" to read the description. Applications should be made online with an attached resume.

Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

CROSSWORD

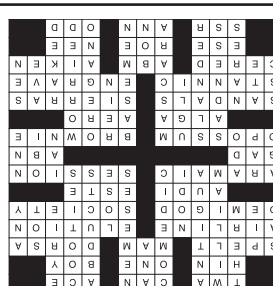
CLUES ACROSS

1. Defunct airline
4. Beverage container
7. A team's best pitcher
10. Unit of liquid capacity
11. It comes before two
12. Male child
13. Type of wheat
15. One's mother
16. Upper side of an organism
19. United is one
21. Extraction process
23. A being with lesser divine status
24. People living together in a community
25. Luxury automaker
26. This (Spanish)
27. Semitic language
30. Period for a defined purpose
34. Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
35. Up in the air (abbr.)
36. American marsupial
41. Decadent dessert
45. Aquatic plant
46. About aviation
47. Summer footwear
50. Rugged mountain ranges
54. With tin
55. Cut on the surface of a hard object
56. Wrapped in cloth
57. Defensive nuclear weapon
59. "American Idol" contestant Clay
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Court decision "___ v. Wade"
62. Born of
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Actress ___-Margaret
65. Not even



2. ___ Faulkner, American writer
3. Guatemalan town
4. Of funny things
5. Actress ___ de Armas
6. Agents of one's downfall
7. Takes forcibly
8. Body lice
9. Large nest of a bird of prey
13. Unhappy
14. Popular holiday dessert
17. Habitual drunkard
18. Used of a number or amount not specified
20. Complications
22. Fail to win
27. Before the present
28. Musical genre
29. Flurry
31. 007's creator
32. Indiana Pacer Toppin
33. Midway between north and northeast
37. Feeling
38. Damage another's reputation
39. Mottled citrus fruit
40. Beauty product

41. They man first, second and third
42. Harness
43. Herb
44. Expressed concern
47. Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
48. Consumed
49. Nostrils
51. Gathered fallen leaves
52. Express good wishes
53. Monetary unit of Brunei
58. Japanese Buddhist festival




Crossword Answer

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The Winkler Morden Voice

PUBLIC NOTICE



GARDEN VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION

Public Consultation Forum

2025 – 2026 Pre-Budget Discussion

Tues., Nov. 26, 2024 • 7:00 p.m.

The Trustees of Garden Valley School Division invite you to a public discussion as they set the priorities for the 2025 – 2026 GVSD budget.

Northlands Parkway Collegiate
MPR Room
Tuesday, November 26, 2024
7:00 p.m.

The Board of Trustees welcomes all suggestions and feedback on our operating budget for the upcoming year.

CAREERS

The Rural Municipality of Stanley

Invites Applications for a Career Opportunity Position



Finance & Administration Supervisor

Located in the hub of busy southern Manitoba, the RM of Stanley is a strong and progressive municipality experiencing significant growth and development.

Reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Finance & Administration Supervisor is responsible for the financial functions of the Municipality, protecting and ensuring the efficient use of financial resources while providing supervision and direction to those staff assigned to the accounting and clerical activities. As part of the management team, this individual will assist the CAO in various project management functions.

The successful candidate will be a dedicated professional with strong analytical skills and a thorough knowledge of management accounting acquired through a combination of post-secondary education and work experience. Preference will be given to applicants who have completed or are actively enrolled in a professional accounting program. This individual will have or be willing to complete the Manitoba Municipal Administrator Certificate program.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Experience preparing financial statements, managing tangible capital assets, annual and multi-year budgets, audit functions, investments & reserves, payroll and familiarity with fund accounting.
- Professional accounting designation (CPA, CMA, or equivalent training and experience).
- Advanced skills in Excel, Word, and other Microsoft programs and accounting software.
- Exceptional analytical and organization skills.
- A high degree of professional judgment and creativity in problem solving.
- Proven ability to provide financial leadership, advice and reporting.
- Management training or experience.
- Demonstrated effective communication skills.
- Knowledge of municipal operations, and provincial statutes as they relate to municipalities.
- A strong aptitude for public service.
- A commitment to details.
- The ability to think critically and solve problems independently.

Candidates being considered will be required to complete a Criminal Record Check.

The RM of Stanley offers a competitive compensation and health benefits package including a pension plan.

Interested applicants should forward a resume and cover letter to the undersigned.

Please note that only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.

Terry Penner
Chief Administrative Officer
RM of Stanley
1-23111 PTH 14 Stanley, MB R6P 0B1

Phone: (204) 325-4101
tpenner@rmofstanley.ca
www.rmofstanley.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF APPLICATION PEMBINA VALLEY WATER COOPERATIVE REVISED WATER RATES - November 14, 2024

The Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (Co-op) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised water rates for Pembina Valley Water Cooperative Utility (Utility) as set out in rate study dated August 2024. Rates were last approved in 2022 in Board Order No. 138/22, with current rates coming into effect January 1, 2024.

The current and proposed rates are as follows:

	Jan 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027			
Current and approved future rates - Board Order No. 138/22							
Water (per cubic meter)*	\$2.44	\$2.50	\$2.57	\$2.65			
Proposed revised rates**							
Water (per cubic meter)*		Jan 1, 2025	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
		\$2.50	\$2.67	\$2.89	\$3.10	\$3.29	\$3.46

*Current rates based on 1,000 gallons; proposed rates based on cubic meters. Current and approved future rates have been converted to cubic meters for comparison purposes.

**The Coop is anticipating Year 1 rates to be effective later in 2025 and Year 2 rates beginning in 2027.

The current customers for the PWWC include:

RM of Dufferin	RM of Stanley	Town of Altona
RM of Grey	RM of Thompson	Town of Carman
RM of Montcalm	Roseau River First Nation	Town of Morris
RM of Morris	Municipality of Emerson-Franklin	City of Winkler
RM of Rhineland	Blumengart Colony	City of Morden
RM of Roland	Halbstadt Marais Water Coop	Altona Rural Water Coop
Municipality of Emerson-Franklin	Roseau River First Nation	

Details of the Co-op's application are available for review at the Co-op office or the Public Utilities Board's office. Any questions concerning the application for revised rates, or the operation of the Utility, should be sent directly to the Co-op.

If you have concerns/comments regarding the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative's application for water rates, please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment. Please note all comments will be forwarded to the Co-op.

Questions or comments should be sent on or before **December 29, 2024**.

The Public Utilities Board is the provincial regulatory agency that reviews and approves rates for water and wastewater utilities in Manitoba, with the exception of the City of Winnipeg. The Board's review process involves:

- the Utility filing a rate application to the Board,
- a public notification of proposed rate changes,
- the Board's review of the application through a public hearing or paper review process, and
- the issuance of an Order which outlines the Board's decision on the rate application and the rates to be charged.

The Manitoba Ombudsman has privacy guidelines for administrative tribunals. The Board is mindful of its obligations under those guidelines. Its decisions in respect of the application being considered will be sensitive to the guidelines. Personal information will not be disclosed unless it is appropriate and necessary to do so. However, the Board advises participants that these proceedings are public and that as a result, personal information protections are reduced.

The Board will then decide whether any further notice is required and whether to proceed with a public hearing or paper review process. All concerns received by the Board will be considered in the Board's decision on rates to be charged.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MAY OR MAY NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RATES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED FOR BY THE APPLICANT.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at www.pubmanitoba.ca.



Jennifer Dubois, CPA, CMA
Assistant Associate Secretary Manitoba Public Utilities Board

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ANNIVERSARY



Be devoted to one another in love,
Honour one another above yourselves.
Romans 12:10

Wishing Harry and Doreen Wiebe
a Happy 60th Anniversary
on November 15th



-Much love,
from your family

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call the Voice
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ANNIVERSARY



Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary
John and Dianne Harder
November 16th

-Love from your daughter Amanda,
son in-law Patrick,
grandson Grayson Dueck
and son Danny Harder

CAREERS



Research Instructor - Agronomist in Residence Russ Edwards School of Agriculture & Environmental

Prairie Innovation Centre for Sustainable Agriculture

Full-Time, 3-year term (Jan 6/25 to Dec 24/27)

Brandon, MB - Comp #57-24/25

Salary: \$63,431 to \$97,078 annually (\$33.65 to \$51.50 hourly)
(Educational Supplement: Masters \$1.52/hour; PhD \$3.03/hour)

About Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers

The Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers (MPSG) is a non-profit, member-based corporation representing farmers in Manitoba. Directed and funded by producers, MPSG exists to advance all phases of the provincial pulse and soybean crop-growing industry. The MPSG mission is to provide research, production knowledge and market development support to Manitoba pulse and soybean farmers.

Position Overview:

Come be part of a growing team with an exceptional opportunity to shape the future of education and research in this vital sector. Assiniboine College (AC) and Manitoba Pulse Growers (MPSG) share the vision of an AC faculty member conducting research, teaching course(s) and performing extension in sustainable pesticide use.

We are seeking a dynamic and accomplished individual to serve as the inaugural Agronomist in Residence (AiR) in sustainable pesticide use. The AiR will lead applied research in practical knowledge about how to utilize pesticides to protect farm profit, prevent the onset of resistance including the protection of agro-ecosystem health. The position will collaborate with industry and commodity organizations, provincial specialists and faculty to develop research and extension opportunities. The position will be responsible for developing research protocols, conducting field research, supervising research staff, reporting and summarizing findings and providing extension materials to convey information to producers. The position will work with existing research coordinators to engage and secure research proposals and funding to further the goals of their program.

How to Apply:

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to this competition to careers@assiniboine.net. We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.



UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR RE-ZONING By-Law # 1826/2024

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

HILDEBRAND JASON, (applicant) of ALTONA, MB has made an application to amend the Town of Altona Zoning By-Law 1792/2021 and Re-Zone the land legally described as Lot 1 Plan 43586 in the 08-02-01-WPM, civic address 472-9TH ST NW, roll # 204300.000 from RR - Rural Residential" to RLD - Residential Low Density"

HEARING Town of Altona Council Chambers

LOCATION: 111 Centre Avenue East, Altona

DATE& TIME: December 03, 2024 at 6:00 PM

GENERAL INTENT:

The applicant is applying to rezone the property to RLD - Residential Low Density from RR - Rural Residential on the property described above. A Public Hearing is required for this purpose. Notices were sent out within 100 Metres.



Schedule "A"

Attached to and forming part of
By-Law No. 1826-2024

Amending Schedule "A" of the
Town of Altona Zoning By-law 1792-2021

LEGEND: Portion to be rezoned

1. From: "RR" Rural Residential Zone

To: "RLD" Residential Low Density Zone

Town of Altona

Lot 1, Plan 43586 MLTO
Pt. NW 1/4 8-2-1 WPM



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lucie Maynard, Planning Manager

109 - 3rd Ave NE, Box 270 Altona, MB R0G 0B0

Phone: (204) 324-5357 ext.3 Email: manager@rpgamb.ca

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OBITUARY



Susan Harms

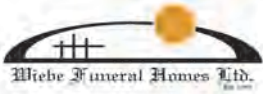
Our feisty and wonderful mom, grandma and great-grandma entered the presence of Jesus on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. We will miss her ever caring presence in our lives but will never forget the impact she left on us.

Lovingly remembered by her daughter Shirley and Paul Janzen – Tessa and Roberto Kort (Bella, Parker and Luca), Brett and Gina Janzen, Jayna and Cam Wiens (Theo). And by Randy's daughter Taryn and Jamil Lalani (Lochlan and Ronan).

She was predeceased in 1997 by John, her loving husband of 40 years and by her son Randy in 2021.

Thank you to everyone involved in Mom's care over the past year and a half. You have blessed us – may God bless you! Rest in peace mamma – we'll see you soon!

Wiebe Funeral Homes, Winkler
in care of arrangements
www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



OBITUARY



Waltraud (Wallie) Rhymer (nee Werth)
June 30, 1947 - November 12, 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Waltraud Rhymer on November 12, 2024 at the Carman Memorial Hospital at the age of 77 years old.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband, Lloyd Allen Rhymer, of 47 years.

She will be lovingly remembered by her three children: son James (Camille) Rhymer, grandchildren Hailey and Amanda, daughter Julie (Alan) Stack, grandchildren Sophie and Rory, and daughter Jillian (Myron) Krahn, grandchildren Cadence and Keira.

Celebration of Life will be held on December 20th, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the Morris United Church.

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(\$29.78 to \$41.38 hourly)

Operating Shift Engineer

Full-Time, Regular - Brandon, MB #52-24/25
Salary: \$61,490.81 to \$74,776 annually
(\$29.56 to \$35.95 hourly)

Shift Power Engineer

Full-Time, Regular – Brandon, MB #53-24/25
Salary: \$69,108.99 to \$83,824 annually
(\$33.23 to \$40.30 hourly)

Assistant Operating Engineer

Full-Time, Regular - Brandon, MB #54-24/25
Salary: \$58,058.26 to \$70,699.20 annually
(\$27.91 to \$33.99 hourly)

For more detailed information, please visit our careers website: www.assiniboine.net/careers!

How to Apply:

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to this competition to careers@assiniboine.net. We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

IN MEMORIAM



Rienold Holenski

August 22, 1938 – November 19, 2023

You have left our lives,
But you will never leave our hearts.
We miss your laugh and sense of humour every time we gather as a family without your presence. In loving memory of a truly wonderful husband, father, grandfather, ggpapa as well as a friend to many.

-With love from all your family,
Wendy, Gail and Rod,
Kevin, David, Amber and Adam,
Louise and Rosa;
Cathy and Mark, Connie and Wayne,
Diane and Bim, Rabin and Khetan,
as well as nephew Norman and Tracy Pappel and family

CAREERS



The Morden Corn & Apple Festival is offering an exciting new opportunity for a vibrant, enthusiastic, self-motivated person. If you are passionate about the City of Morden and the Festival, are a strong team player with excellent people skills and computer skills, then you need to apply for this position.

Festival Administrator

Contract - 1,200 hours approximate

The Festival Administrator is the primary face and representative of the Morden Corn & Apple Festival to the larger community. The individual is responsible for all day-to-day operations of the Corn & Apple Festival and is responsible to execute the strategic initiatives laid out by the Board of Directors.

Key Responsibilities

- To execute the strategic initiatives of the Corn and Apple Board
- To be financially efficient in the day to day operations of the Corn & Apple Festival
- To provide administrative responsibilities on a day to day basis, including preparing reports, answering phones, etc.
- Coordination of grants, lotteries and other sources of revenues
- Social media execution and website maintenance
- Maintain a positive public image with all levels of stakeholders
- Recruit and supervise Corn & Apple Festival staff
- Responsible for Volunteer relations

Qualifications

- Administrative and/or public relations experience required
- Well-developed leadership skills
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to build rapport across all generations
- Proven ability to work independently

The Morden Corn & Apple Festival offers a competitive negotiable rate of pay and flexible work life balance.

Please email your resume and cover letter to:

Dale Stambuski, Morden Corn & Apple Festival Inc President
management@eagleeyedesign.ca

This posting remains open until the position has been filled.

We thank all applicants; however only those invited for an interview will be contacted.

PUBLIC NOITCE

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY BY-LAW 11-24
Being amendments to the Reinfeld Secondary Plan

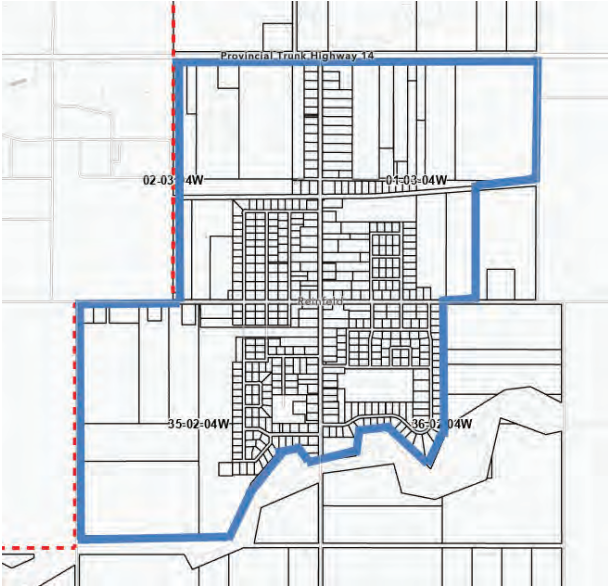
HEARING: R.M. of Stanley Council Chambers

LOCATION: 1-23111 PTH 14, SW 7-3-4W

DATE & TIME: December 5, 2024 at 9:05 a.m.

GENERAL INTENT: To amend the Reinfeld Secondary Plan. A Secondary Plan is a land use policy document that contains guidance on land use, infrastructure, servicing, and future zoning related decisions for the specific area.

AFFECTED AREA: The Village of Reinfeld



FOR INFORMATION
CONTACT:

Melissa Groening, Planning and Development Officer
Rural Municipality of Stanley
1-23111 PTH 14
Phone: (204) 325-4101
Email: mgroening@rmofstanley.ca

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken, upon request.

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OBITUARY



Wayne Kroetsch

In the early hours of November 13, 2024, Wayne Kroetsch peacefully passed away, held close in the love of his family.

Leaving to mourn is Wayne's beloved wife of almost 55 years, Lorraine Kroetsch (nee Stiff); daughter Nikki Bergstresser, husband Kevin, granddaughters Amy Layne and Emma Grace, son Jason Kroetsch, wife Anna, granddaughter Serra Lorraine, son Curt Kroetsch, grandsons Carter Reid and Nolan Kennedy and their mother Jennie, Curt's wife Jennifer and her daughter Logan.

Wayne was predeceased by parents Edward and Esther Kroetsch, sister Rosalind, brother Barry, sister Darlene, sister Suzanne and great niece Annika Ginther.

Born Easter Sunday on April 12, 1936 in Walhalla, North Dakota, Wayne grew up on the Kroetsch homestead in the Pembina Valley. It was on the 320-acre valley homestead where Wayne spent his

formative years. During this time, his lifelong love of flora and fauna began to grow. Many stories have been told of adventures in his beloved valley and special family times spent together.

Wayne attended a one room country school in Point Douglas School District No. 1475. Walking to school through snowstorms, he often recalled taking his horse to make the journey a little shorter. An 18-year-old teacher gave Wayne his first year of formal education in grade one, instilling in him a love for learning that never diminished. When Wayne was a teenager, he left the school system to help support his family. Working many long hours at the Morden cannery contributed to Wayne's strong work ethic. With the value of education always in the back of Wayne's mind, he went back to high school attending Morden Collegiate as a mature student, all while continuing to work a job at night. Wayne graduated in a class of 13 students.

A love of learning and sharing of knowledge led Wayne to teachers' college. From there, he taught in several one room schools and the school in Darlingford. Wayne then moved on to teach grade seven in Morden. It was at this time he met the love of his life, Lorraine Stiff, who was also teaching junior high. A school romance! Wayne and Lorraine married in Pilot Mound on March 28, 1970. Lorraine's parents, Don and Florence Stiff, had a special bond with Wayne over a shared love of flowers, gardening and feeding the birds.

Building a house out in the country, Wayne and Lorraine raised their three children, Nikki, Jason and Curt. Between school and taking classes, much of Wayne's spare time was spent nurturing his large garden filled with rows of gladiolus flowers and copious amounts of produce that was canned and preserved to enjoy during the winter months. He loved taking his family on hikes in the woods behind the house and impressed his children when he caught a fish by hand from the Dead Horse Creek that flowed behind their property.

Not only did Wayne love to teach and inspire, it brought him joy to mentor other educators. Continuing on in his pursuit of learning, Wayne headed back to university through Winnipeg and Brandon, taking a plethora of courses over the years to support his various roles as administrator of Morden Elementary School and eventually Coordinator of Support Services for Western School Division. Wayne led countless committees and represented the school division in various provincial educational programs. He had a heart for giving children opportunities to learn and meet their individual needs, recognizing not all students learn in the same way. Wayne believed all learners should have a right to thrive in their education. In between various administrative roles, Wayne missed being in the classroom, leading him to take a position teaching grade three across the hall from his sweet Lorraine. Teaching together again was something Wayne treasured.

Wayne believed in giving back to the community and served on numerous committees. One close to his heart was the Tabor Home Fundraising Committee. He was humbled in 2014 to receive the Morden Volunteer of the Year Award. He believed each person has a responsibility to contribute to the betterment of their community, if you see a need for change, be that person who is willing to step up and take action.

In retirement years, Wayne did not fully retire. He developed programs for Red River College and oversaw the distance educational assistants' program and supervised student teachers. Eventually, Wayne began to step back from the busy. One of Wayne's most meaningful titles became the role of Poppa. He cherished moments with his precious grandchildren. Wayne loved to scrapbook and make albums for the grandkids and give homemade cards for every occasion that always included a meaningful message or poem he wrote. Writing and researching family history was also a passion. Wayne read and read and read, this time it was purely for pleasure and not work related. Several trips out to BC with Lorraine to visit his daughter and her family was also a source of fun and adventure.

How does one sum up a life of 88 years onto a page of print? You can't. There's countless stories, connections, and journeys that lie between the paragraphs of these words. It is a story of a man who lived his life with strength, determination, courage, compassion and kindness. This world is better and a little more gentle, because he was in it. So, when you think of Wayne Kroetsch, know that he loved and lived with all his heart.

Wayne's family would like to thank the Kowalski and Hatley families for loving their neighbours in the most practical ways throughout the years doing yard work, snow shoveling, soups, baked treats and the occasional wrangling of gophers. Your kindness has filled our hearts.

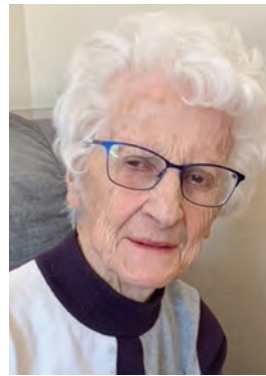
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pembina Valley Humane Society or another charity of your choosing.

A Celebration of Life will occur in the upcoming spring.

In remembrance of Wayne, feed the birds, plant some flowers and pause to breathe in the beauty around you.

The gift of you will be
 Felt in the gentle spring breeze
 Seen in a flower's blossom
 Heard in the bird's morning song.
 For it is in these, we keep
 Treasured reminders,
 You will always be close by.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Morden
 in care of arrangements
 www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



Sylvia Mutcheson (Hartnell)

With heartbreaking sadness, the family of Sylvia Mutcheson announce her peaceful passing on the evening of November 15, 2024.

Sylvia was an adored mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was predeceased by her son, Michael, her husband Jim and most recently her son, Joey. She is survived by her children, Heather (Richard Condo), Maureen (widow of Michael), Raymond (Candace), Laura (Ray Rawlings), Jim (Loretta), Jack (Janice), Jill (widow of Joey) and Matt (Crystal). She was deeply devoted to all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; her love for her family was immeasurable. Family visits warmed her heart and lifted her spirits always but particularly during the most recent years.

Sylvia was born on December 21, 1928 to Harold and Vera Hartnell in Kipling, Saskatchewan. She was the third of 12 children. They were a close and loving family throughout life. She dearly loved her 'kinfolk' as she called them. She looked forward to her yearly trips out to gatherings of these much loved people where visits were cherished by all. Lots of laughter, stories, reminiscing and sharing updates on their ever expanding families.

Sylvia met and fell in love with Jim Mutcheson in Portage la Prairie where she was working. They married in January 1949 and moved to Morden, Manitoba. Except for an eight-year stay in Steinbach for Jim's work, they lived their lives in the community of Morden, which they loved. Sylvia was an exceptional mother whose devotion to her family was unending and exceptional. She worked day and night ensuring her family was well cared for and their home a nurturing place for them. She was a master of many skills - cooking, baking, gardening, sewing and any other skill required to equip her family to be successful. She worked tirelessly to ensure that her family felt safe, loved and important. She was the family's foundation and the wind beneath all of our wings. We all adored her.

Sylvia was also a dedicated member of her church community and the Legion Ladies Auxiliary. She enjoyed and excelled in bowling; her competitive spirit was infectious. Her greatest joy however, was supporting her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at their sporting events. Whether on the baseball field, hockey rink or the Ultimate frisbee field, she was there with her characteristic enthusiasm, cheering for us. She showed up for all the important events of our lives.

We are forever grateful for the professional, caring and competent care of Tabor Home during these last two years. Their kindness and support for Sylvia and her family has been wonderful.

Rest in peace our beloved mother.

Funeral service will be Friday, November 22, 2024 at 11 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Morden, Manitoba. Interment will take place in Hillside Cemetery, Morden, MB.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Boundary Trails Hospital Foundation or to Tabor Home Inc.

Doyle's Funeral Home
 in care of arrangements
 www.doylesfuneralhome.ca

OBITUARY



Mrs. Verna (Bergen) Hiebert

Mrs. Verna (Bergen) Hiebert, seven months over 100 and from Morden, MB, passed away on November 7, 2024. Her strength had gradually declined in the past few years.

In recent years, Verna had lived at Tabor Home in Morden. Earlier, she served as the wife of a Mennonite pastor and as a nurse, co-manager of a thrift store and pastoral visitor.

For over 25 years, Verna assisted her husband, Rev. Abe W. Hiebert, as he served at the Bergthaler Mennonite Church in Steinbach, MB; Zion Mennonite Church in Swift Current, SK; Homewood Mennonite Church in Carman, MB; Bergthaler Mennonite Church, Morden, MB; and as interim pastor at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler, MB.

After Abe retired, Verna and he served as co-managers of the Mennonite Central Committee Thrift Store in Winkler. Later they

worked as pastoral care visitors in hospitals in Winnipeg and Winkler.

Verna was born in 1924 in Shoenthal-Altona, MB, to John D. and Katherine (Dueck) Bergen. She grew up on a farm where she helped milk cows, weed beets and performed other farm tasks. She graduated in 1952 with a licensed practical nurse diploma at St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg after which she held various nursing positions including at Bethesda Hospital in Steinbach, MB; Tuxedo Villa Personal Care Home in Winnipeg, MB; Swift Current General Hospital, Swift Current, SK; and Boyne Senior Home in Carman, MB.

Verna is survived by four children: Murray (wife Linda Gibson), Robert (wife Heather Bruce), Karen and Merlin. Her surviving seven grandchildren: Ann (husband Israel Tejeda) and Jonathan (wife Laura Kennedy) (Murray's and Linda's children); Lynley (husband Riley Box) and Arin (husband Ryan McMaster) (Robert's and Heather's children); Trevor (wife Shanley Peters), Trenton (wife Rita Mendoza) and Andrea (husband Matt Duda) (Karen's children); and Dale Cadott, Jeffrey Landry and Jennifer Collette (husband Richard Collette) (Merlin and Kelly's children).

Verna's other survivors include 15 great-grandchildren: Nicholas and Samuel (children of Ann and Israel); Logan and Sophie (children of Jonathan and Laura); Isla, Harvey and Vera (children of Lynley and Riley); Owen and Chloe (children of Trevor and Shanley); Jaden and Olivia (children of Trenton and Rita); Lukas and Brooklyn (children of Andrea and Matt); and Violet and Lily (daughters of Jennifer and Richard).

Verna is survived by two sisters, Lorraine Toews and Marlene Hiebert.

Verna was preceded in death by her husband Abe and daughter-in-law Kelly Hiebert.

Verna's family offers all the Tabor Home staff their deepest appreciation for all the love and care they provided her in final years.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Canada Foodgrains Bank, P.O. Box 767, Winnipeg, MB.

The funeral service for Verna Hiebert will be held at 11 a.m. on November 21 at the Bergthaler Mennonite Church in Winkler, MB.

Wiebe Funeral Homes, Winkler
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 www.wiebefuneralhomes.com



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STOCK #244423
25,000 KMS

SPORT MODEL, LOCAL **\$34,988⁰⁰**

2022 Honda Pilot EX-L Navi



STOCK #220403
110,000 KMS

LEATHER, NAVIGATION,
ONE OWNER, LOCAL **\$39,988⁰⁰**

2022 Honda Civic Sedan LX



STOCK #220234
86,000 KMS

2.0 L, GREAT PRICE **\$26,988⁰⁰**

2021 Toyota Corolla LE



STOCK #215640
85,000 KMS

1.8 L, 4 CYL, FWD **\$23,988⁰⁰**




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*Honda Loyalty Program, **Lease Rate, ***Vehicles not exactly as pictured.