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The Altona Figure Skating Club ended their 2023 sessions with flair by hosting a "Hello Winter" performance featuring skaters of all ages and skill levels.
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news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know



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ACF receives \$750K gift from Thomas Sill Fdn.

By Lori Penner

The Altona Community Foundation (ACF) received a special Christmas surprise that will add thousands of dollars to support local projects and organizations.

In a year-end announcement, they learned they would be receiving \$750,000 to establish a permanent endowment fund called the Thomas Sill Fund. Grants from this fund will be administered by the ACF with the guideline to "use the annual income

to the greatest benefit in assisting the community."

ACF president Haydon Friesen says he and the board could not be more thrilled.

"This donation is undoubtedly transformative for our foundation and will allow us to grant out even more dollars to the community and surrounding area moving forward and for many years to come."

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona Community Foundation board members Jonathan Toews, Leanne Braun, Al Friesen, Haydon Friesen, Ralph Hamm, and Shauna Giesbrecht with the Thomas Sill Foundation's Robert Martens (third from right) at a special funding announcement last month.

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getinformed

It was a banner year for PVHS Santa Paws campaign

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Humane Society received perhaps the best gift possible this Christmas.

The third year of the Santa Paws initiative was another success as the regional animal shelter put a call out to its communities to help meet the need for such supplies as dog and cat food.

"We also had people just donating money," noted shelter manager Jennifer Young. "It actually was very, very successful. We had met our goal on three items and we were very close on four other items, so that's fantastic.

"The kitten food is something we were in dire need of," she noted. "We had so many kittens coming in, and we were 25 items over our goal for kitten food, so that is fantastic ... it can be hard to get kitten food in town."

Just as important, Young added, are some of the everyday kinds of sup-

plies that also come in through the annual donation drive.

"It's kind of funny because we get excited with some of the items that come in," she said. "We got really excited when someone donated a new mop pail because we needed one. We're even excited when we get the compost bags and the gloves.

"People thinking about even more than just the food is very helpful for us," Young said. "In order to keep all of our animals healthy and even keep our volunteers healthy, we need things like the gloves, the gowns ... we try to do the best we can in so many ways, and it gets really tough sometimes.

The main benefit of the campaign is it can take some of the cost burden off by providing some of these supplies for at least part of the year. PVHS can then focus on using funds to cover vet bills.

Their hope for the 2023 campaign was to get at least 300 cans each of wet cat and dog food along with kitten food, clumping cat litter, and laundry detergent, but equally important was to really engage with the community at large.

"We have done so well this year. I am blown away by how generous so many people are here," said Young.

"There was more coming in than

there was last year or the year before," she said. "I don't if we have more social media posts or such, but it just seems there's a lot more people paying attention.

"I think it really just pulls at the heartstrings, and people are saying, 'What can I do? Can I help?'" Young said. "This community is amazing. It's fantastic how many people want to help in some way."



P e m b i n a Valley Humane Society animal care coordinator Kathleen Wiebe and shelter manager Jennifer Young with shelter resident Merry and some of the goodies that came in through the Santa Paws campaign last month.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Looking for Summer Employment?

Carman Dufferin Recreation is looking for individuals to fill the following positions:

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Pembina & Red River Valleys



Carman Cheer Board packs 175 hampers for the community



By Becca Myskiw

The Carman & District Christmas Cheer Board recently completed one of their busiest years yet, packing hampers for 175 local families and individuals.

On Dec. 19, close to 40 volunteers filled the community hall to pack the food, gifts, and hygiene items into boxes. The Elm Creek School Grade 6 class and three senior high students also came down to pack, along with the Carman Scouts, who bagged all the potatoes and onions for the hampers.

Cheer board director Deana Gauld
PHOTOS SUBMITTED
Carman & District Cheer Board members were busy packing hampers on Dec. 19.

said she can't even begin to guess how many volunteers they had to drive and deliver the hampers this year, noting the entire ordeal was a whirlwind of people coming and going all day.

On a typical year, the cheer board packs around 150 hampers. They have staples like soup, pasta, sauce, canned fruit, cranberry sauce, stuffing, canned vegetables, potatoes, carrots, and a cake mix for dessert, on top of other things. Families also get a Co-op gift card to buy their Christmas dinner meat and anything else they may need. Each hamper also has a toy for all children in the family, complete with wrapping paper and tape, and new this year was hygiene packs for teens and adults.

> ALTONA COMMUNITY FDN, FROM PG. 2

The announcement comes in the wake of the Thomas Sill Foundation's decision to discontinue its operations after decades of dispersing millions of dollars in grants to community foundations across the province.

The fledgling ACF received its very first donation from the Thomas Sill Foundation 30 years ago. That "one for two dollars raised" commitment to a maximum contribution of \$100,000 provided the spark for the establishment of the ACF, which in the years since has grown its assets to over \$2 million and invested more than \$800,000 to a variety of community projects.

"You don't have to look very far to see all the different projects that are happening within Altona and the surrounding area and the organizations the com-

munity foundation has been able to support over the last number of years, or over the last 30 years really, and the impact that those financial contributions has been able to move those projects forward or bring them to completion," says Friesen. "It's very exciting to see.

"We look forward to growing over the next number of years as well and increasing those granting dollars that become available on a year-to-year basis."

Thomas Sill was a Winnipeg accountant who visited many of his firm's offices scattered throughout southern Manitoba, growing an affinity for those communities, explained Robert Martens, a governor with the Thomas Sill Foundation and founding member of the ACF.

Most of the money being disbursed from the closure of the foundation is going to The Winnipeg Foundation into a Thomas Sill Rural Community Fund that will continue to issue grants to the nearly 60 eligible community foundations outside of the capital.

Meanwhile, the communities where Sill's company had offices are receiving additional disbursements from the foundation's capital assets.

Over the 36 years that the Thomas Sill Foun-

dation operated, it granted out just over \$46 million to charities, non-profits, and causes in Manitoba.

"Whenever there was a donation or a grant to an organization in Winnipeg, it was usually focused on is it something that rural Manitobans can also use?" Martens noted.

"So, health facilities or public museums or those kinds of things, and everyone could benefit, but it was always keeping in mind the rural component."

Speaking as a founding member of ACF, Martens said this latest investment is exciting to see.

"When we started, it was always, 'Oh, we've got so little money and there's so many needs in the community.' You can only give away your income and so there was always just a little bit. As it's grown,

there was a little bit more and a little more. And now, if you take, say, a five per cent return on that, it should be maybe \$35,000 extra that can go to organizations served by Altona Community Foundation. That's just going to be outstanding."

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO GROWING OVER THE NEXT NUMBER OF YEARS AS WELL AND INCREASING THOSE GRANTING DOLLARS ..."

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“We are the lucky ones”

By Ashleigh Viveiros

“We are the lucky ones,” Blessing Yacibu shared as the Regional Connections Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) held its first year-end celebration last month.

“Being a refugee is a great privilege. I am glad and blessed to be here,” Yacibu said as dozens of refugee families who have arrived in the Pembina Valley over the past two years gathered to celebrate their new lives at a party held in Winkler Dec. 19.

“I want to say thank you to everyone who has made it possible for me to have this beautiful life,” she continued. “I pray that all the refugees in all the countries would have the opportunity to be here in Canada, because there’s a better future here. And beautiful people.”

Yacibu was orphaned at the age of eight and left her native Nigeria for Morocco, looking for work.

Instead, she found herself the victim of human trafficking. The United Nations helped her escape and brought her to Canada at the end of 2022.

She knew very little about Canada and nothing at all about Winkler. But now it has become her home.

Without the Resettlement Assistance Program, through which the federal government provides financial assistance and other supports for refugees to establish themselves in their new home, Yacibu’s new life wouldn’t have been possible.

“Considering my situation, I could never afford to move to Canada on my own,” she said. “So it’s something I will all my life appreciate the government and the UN for bringing me here ... now I am safe. My future is safe.”

Though RAP provides 12 months of government assistance, Yacibu found

employment and became financial independent just two months after arriving in the Pembina Valley.

“A lot of people said, no, you don’t have to rush to work. I said no, I do. Because I know where I’m coming from. There is thousands of refugees out there. They are looking for opportunity, for a home. Begging on the streets, in the cold. There’s a lot of us waiting ... so the money they are supposed to be paying me for the period of one year, I hope they can use to sponsor another orphan to come to Canada and experience the happiness, the joy that I’m having right now.”

Yacibu wants Canadians to know just how important programs like RAP are.

“If you are contributing to help refugees, it is not a waste,” she stressed. “It is changing people’s lives. It changed my life.”

She hopes she can return the favour, giving back to her adopted community and paying the kindness she has received forward.

“We’re not going to let Canada down,” she said.

Najibullah Abasi came to Winkler with his wife and five children just two months ago, fleeing the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

“We came here to educate our children,” he said. “And for a safer future.”

It has been a challenging few months for the family, coping with the Manitoba cold and not having a vehicle to get around with, Abasi shared, but he is grateful for the support of Regional Connections and for the welcome his family has received from the community at large.

“We have friends who support us, neighbours who support and help us,” he said. “There is very good peo-



PHOTOS BY
ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Newcomers from around the world gathered in Winkler last month for a year-end celebration of the local Resettlement Assistance Program, which has helped dozens of refugees settle in the Pembina Valley. The party included games for kids and adults alike, prizes, and plenty of food (above). Right: Blessing Yacibu arrived here over a year ago and says she feels so lucky to have found a safe, welcoming new home.



ple here in Winkler. Everyone helps us.”

“I’M PROUD OF THESE FAMILIES”

It has been a busy couple of years for RAP in the Pembina Valley, said program coordinator Russelle Collantes.

“This program started last year, January 2022,” he said, explaining they initially received government funding for 50 refugees, but that agreement has since been expanded significantly.

“As of now, we do have 156 clients that we welcomed here in our region,” Collantes said, noting some refugees move on from the area after a time to be closer to family or to pursue work opportunities, but others have put down roots. “As of now, 23 families have decided to settle here in our area.”

They come here from all over the world, fleeing strife in their native lands and seeking a better future in Canada.

“Some of them are from Afghanistan, Syria, some of them are from

places from Africa,” Collantes said. “It’s a mix of cultures.”

While the government provides these families with financial support, it falls on Regional Connections to help them settle into their new homes.

“Our responsibility is to make sure that these families could integrate in our area,” Collantes said, noting that there are many challenges for newcomers when it comes to securing affordable housing and getting around towns that don’t have public transportation systems. “But I’m proud of these families because even ... with all those circumstances, they’re really willing to help themselves to be independent.”

The year-end gathering was meant to be a celebration of their resilience.

“It’s thanks giving,” Collantes said. “Thanks giving for our staff, the RAP workers.”

“And also it’s just celebrating the families’ new beginnings here in our region ... their new life here in Canada, the freedom that they’ll have, their better future, their family’s better future.”



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The **Voice**

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Our commitment to you: we want to help build stronger communities through articles that both inform and entertain you about what's going on throughout the Pembina Valley. This is your community newspaper—let us know what you want to see in it.

OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



A comedy of communication

Dear reader: We here at Columns Incorporated recognize that our content needs to reflect the varied and diverse region that is the Pembina Valley. Included in that responsibility is a duty to ensure all communities are lampooned fairly.

With these things in mind, we would like to point out that recently we have, perhaps, paid an inordinate amount of attention to the comedic elements that make up municipal management and governance at the expense of the more serious.

In some ways this winter has brought upon us a veritable snowstorm of merit (the only snowstorm we have seen so far).

We would like to assure you that this is a matter we are seeking to rectify.

Unfortunately, cities everywhere have practically become cornucopias of clownishness lately that have become very difficult to ignore given the importance of timing and the deeply comedic nature of some of their various and sundry decisions and pronouncements.

Decisions such as applying a fee to a particular hobby in order to generate an enormous sum of hundreds (perhaps even as much as two thousand) dollars in order to buy a shovel or some other implement may seem

good on paper, but not so good in practice.

Honestly, a lot of the fun seems to result from decisions innocently made by a group of seven or 10 people (perhaps as many as a dozen) behind closed doors on behalf of the masses without even the smallest amount of intentional communication that said decision is being considered, fearing, perhaps, a modicum of common sense may be injected and derail the whole thing.

Then suddenly, mere hours before taking effect, the cold, wet snowball of rapid communication slams into the unsuspecting faces of residents to their great unhappiness, at which point the natural consequences unfold, pitchforks are retrieved, torches are lit, and columnists like me engage in a kind of written schadenfreude.

Honestly, the best way to avoid such circus-like atmospheres is the performance of ongoing, crystal clear, communication of intent and process to the community from beginning to end. The five W's of the issue boldly and intentionally presented to the community instead of hidden within barely recorded events like council minutes, etc.

I hate to say it for fear of losing all of the comedy gold, but this kind of prac-

tice in communication (you know, the kind every politician campaigns on but NEVER implements) would kill almost every slapstick opportunity to write about before it happened.

Please note that we take great pains to remind ourselves of the fact that there are very real people at the end of the loaded shotgun of shtick that is our column and wish them each to understand that our intent is one of farce and satire and never meant to be mean spirited.

Most likely we are simply experiencing a season of coincidence as regards the humorous nature of various municipal decisions (not unlike a kind of El Nino of Hilarity) which has unduly increased this phenomenon at the expense of other, more tempered and important subjects.

We expect shortly that a more regular and serious rhythm will once again return as the Jolly Jetstream strengthens, holding back the Polar Vortex of Vaudeville and resulting in less ridiculous pronouncements on a more frequent basis.

In the meantime, we sit at our keyboard in dire fear that such a boring time will ever arrive.

Sincerely,
Your Chief Clown in Residence



By Peter Cantelon

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.

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

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

get informed

Penner, Klassen, and Krause win their election bids

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden got back to business after Christmas with new faces on council.

The Dec. 20 by-election saw Nancy Penner elected as mayor and Brenda Klassen and Tracey Krause elected as councillors.

Penner won the mayoral race with 1,567 votes, or 83 per cent of ballots cast, while Nicholas Hoepfner received 314 votes.

"It's very humbling to be elected mayor of Morden, and I have to extend a huge thank you to the citizens of Morden for their overwhelming support and confidence in my ability to fulfill this role," said Penner, who had resigned her council seat to run for mayor after Brandon Burley stepped down this fall.

"The city, as a community, was so engaged by this by-election," Penner said. "I thank all of the candidates for putting their names forward for council.

"And I really have to thank Nicholas Hoepfner for putting his name on the ballot for mayor," she added. "He really shows his commitment to Morden, and his goal of raising interest in the younger population of our community to get involved in the governance of our city was admirable."

Penner felt her previous experience on council was a primary factor in her favour.

"When you're looking at a candidate, you're looking at their experience, whether it's work experience or experience on council or even experience in the community."

Penner felt well positioned to get to work, with council already having had a meeting on Dec. 27.

"My first order of business was to be sworn in as mayor," she noted. "I had been off council for two months, and I had a lot of catch-up ahead of me.

"We are fortunate to have a strong council to build on an already strong council and to have that opportunity to build an even stronger team," said Penner, who welcomed having two more female councillors at the table alongside her. "To have that diversity and to have such strong diversity ... to have strong women who come with strong backgrounds, strong skill sets, and strong community backgrounds."

In the race for councillor, Klassen earned about 32 per cent of the vote, with 1,146 Mordenites voting for her, while Krause earned 615 votes.

Losing their election bids were Dave Hildebrand (550 votes), Allan Spearman (509 votes), Chris Abrams (413 votes), Megan Giesbrecht (260 votes),



SUPPLIED PHOTO

From left: Tracey Krause, Nancy Penner, and Brenda Klassen have joined Morden City Council after last month's by-election.

and Darlene Wiebe (121 votes).

"I am humbled by the vote of confidence that the people of Morden have given me," Klassen said. "Thank you all for your support. Also, congratulations to all the candidates who put their name forward.

"I will work hard for you and do my best on council," she added. "I am so pleased that three strong women won."

"I'm really grateful that people trusted me enough to vote for me," said Krause, noting she's "looking forward to getting started."

She recalled taking in a council meeting pri-

or to the election and seeing Klassen there as well.

"She kind of winked at me and said wouldn't the three of us make a good addition to council. I was totally in agreement."

And she sees the new council as being a strong team overall.

"Everybody seems professional and genuinely interested in doing the best they can for Morden, and that's my interest too. My main interest is in serving everyone and leading Morden in a way that is best for all of the people who live here."

Christmas celebration



PHOTO BY ROSS BURSEY

The Carman Community Christmas Dinner was held on Dec. 25 at the Carman Community Hall. Approximately 225 people attended the dinner in addition to 25 volunteers, who made the dinner possible. There was plenty of food and tons of desserts to go around on the evening.

Notice of Environment Act Proposal

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change invites public comment on the following proposal:

TRUE NORTH FOODS LTD. (6381023 MANITOBA LTD.) - TRUE NORTH FOODS GASIFICATION FACILITY - FILE: 6199.00

True North Foods Ltd. (6381023 Manitoba Ltd.) proposes to install and operate a 350 kg per hour capacity Rapid Organic Converter gasification facility at the True North Foods slaughterhouse and meat processing facility located in the Rural Municipality of Dufferin. The gasification facility processes specific risk materials (SRM) and other inedible wastes generated at the slaughterhouse and meat processing facility.

Anyone likely to be affected by the proposal and who wishes to comment, should contact Eshetu Beshada, Senior Environmental Engineer, in writing or by email at Eshetu.Beshada@gov.mb.ca no later than February 05, 2024. Further information is available from the Public Registry: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries

Information submitted in response to this proposal will be available to the proponent and placed on the public registry per Section 17 of The Environment Act.

Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change

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Manitoba 

MP Brandon Leslie looking forward to year ahead

By Ty Dilello

With about six months of experience under his belt as the MP for Portage-Lisgar, Brandon Leslie is getting the hang of things with his new job and serving the community's needs as best as he can.

Leslie was elected to the role after winning a June 19 by-election for the Conservatives over Maxime Bernier of the People's Party by a 15,000-vote margin.

"Gaining the support of our community to be their voice in Ottawa this past June was the honour of a lifetime, and a responsibility I do not take lightly," he said recently.

Since taking his seat in Parliament in September, Leslie has dived right in.

"I have given lots of speeches and statements in the House of Commons on the issues that are important to our constituency, and have asked lots of questions during Question Period," he shared.

Leslie is currently a member of the Environment Committee and has thoroughly enjoyed bringing a rural and agricultural perspective to the table.

"It's been a good outlet to remind the Liberals, NDP, and BQ how decisions made in Ottawa impact our way of life. It is abundantly clear that they have no idea about Western Canada or the people who call our region home.

"Overall, it has been an incredible first few months representing our community in Ottawa," Leslie said. "Now that I have gotten my feet wet, I look forward to continuing to stand up for our region's needs even more strongly

in 2024."

Since being elected, Leslie has had the opportunity to meet with municipal leaders across the region to hear their needs and priorities, as well as how to best advocate for them in Ottawa.

"I have also had the chance to tour so many of the businesses that are the economic backbone of our region, and to see firsthand the great work they are doing to manufacture, build, and produce."

Beyond that, some of Leslie's biggest highlights have been taking part in events across the riding and getting to meet as many people as possible.

"Perhaps one of the biggest highlights was, days after being elected, speaking to new Canadians at a citizenship swearing-in ceremony on Canada Day," he said. "The pride of becoming Canadian was so visible on the faces of participants, and a stark reminder of how lucky we are to call this great nation our home."

In the new year, Leslie looks forward to continuing to build relationships with the new provincial MLAs and with municipal councils.

"Additionally, I look forward to meeting as many people as I can out in the community, at various events, and even just in the grocery store," he said. "Obviously, our former MP, Candice Bergen, was very recognizable, having served our community for nearly 15 years. As many people still don't know me, I hope that they'll begin to recognize me more as time passes. Don't ever feel shy to come up and say hello and tell me what's on your mind."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Brandon Leslie says he's greatly enjoyed his first six months on the job as the MP in Ottawa for the Portage-Lisgar riding.

Also in the new year, Leslie will continue to call on the Liberals to scrap the carbon tax and to make life more affordable. He notes that we are in a cost-of-living crisis, and the last thing families, seniors, and local businesses can afford is more taxes.

On a personal note, Leslie and his wife, Cailey, are expecting their first child this month. He looks forward to spending some quality time with his family in the weeks ahead.

"We are so excited, and I can't wait for what I know will be a busy 2024 fighting for our region in Ottawa, aided by the reminder that it's not just about today, but it's about ensuring that the next generation is able to live in a Canada that remains true north, strong and free."

Pattern Energy Group lends local food banks a helping hand

By Sean Conway

The nine employees of the Pattern Energy Group wind farm in St. Joseph showed up on the doorstep of the Red River Food Bank over the holidays to make a gift of a thousand pounds of food.

"Our company has a community engagement plan," explained spokesperson Kelly Hildebrand. "We wanted to do more than just send a cheque. Why not get all the employees to help deliver food stores to food banks?"

The group not only visited the Red River Food Bank, but also made monetary donations to the food cupboards in Altona and Emerson.

Pattern Energy Group uses scientific expertise and extensive experience to develop wind projects that harness strong local winds to create a significant source of renewable energy. The wind farms in the RM of Montcalm and Rhineland reached full operation in 2011, becoming the largest wind energy project in Manitoba.

The St. Joseph wind farm has 60 tow-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS BY BRANDY DELORMEE

Employees of the Pattern Energy Group wind farm in St. Joseph stopped by the Red River Food Bank in Morris last month armed with hundreds of pounds of food donations.

ers spread over an area of 125 square kilometres. The wind from just near the RM of Rhineland landfill site west to Highway 75 generates electricity that feeds into Manitoba Hydro's power grid at their field site located just on the outskirts of the community of St. Joseph's. Each tower can produce 2.3 megawatts of power. The farm generates 13 megawatts daily.

"Our wind farms are a part of small communities. They are on local land and employ local people," noted Hildebrand. "This year we wanted to reach out into those communities and help. One of our employees knows of a person who uses the food bank. Now the donation become personal."

The Red River Food Bank relies on donations to stock its shelves. The



gift givers from the St. Joseph wind farm made it personal by calling and getting a list of needed items, which included cases of diapers, cartons of tuna, and rolls of toilet paper.

"We won't need to make a food order this week to stock the shelves," noted food bank director Pat Remple.

Continued on page 9

Morris Christmas dinner brings community together

By Sean Conway

The doors of the Emmanuel Baptist Church hall in Morris opened on Dec. 25 at 3 p.m. to welcome visitors to the Celebration of Christmas and Christmas Dinner.

The event provided a buffet style sit down meal or pre-ordered take-out with free delivery. Morris District Handi-Van service Inc offered free transportation to seniors and people with mobility challenges.

Event coordinator Pat Remple started the Christmas dinner in 1999 to help overcome her struggles with her mother's passing.

"I wanted to find a place for people who are by themselves to gather so they would not be alone."

The dinner's original gathering place was at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 11 hall in Morris. They moved the venue to the church in 2018 after the Legion sold the building.

This year's gathering featured a hearty meal of ham, meatballs, mashed potatoes, pierogies, and cole slaw. Fresh baked buns and desert was also on the menu.

Paul Brant Trucking donated the five hams for the feast and a surplus of potatoes from the food bank provided this year's staple starch. Other fixings were homemade or purchased.

In professional football leagues, there are units made up of players from the offensive and defensive squads that are on the field to perform specific tasks. These units are called special teams. Special teams of volunteers make the Morris Christmas Din-

ner happen.

Two days before the dinner, a special team visited the hall to put on the tablecloths, pull out the paper plates and plastic cutlery, and light up the festive decorations. The same folks returned to the kitchen on dinner day to take on other tasks.

"I have a guy that comes in to mash potatoes. He has done it for years. He then sticks around for kitchen clean-up," says kitchen lead and specialist ham slicer Dave Thiessen.

Before mashing the potatoes, someone needs to prepare them. A team came the night before to peel the spuds.

On the big day, the delivery team specialist were tasked with checking the list for takeout. There were 21 orders for the evening, all of which needed to be bagged and numbered to go out.

Other volunteers focused on stacking the portion-divided takeout trays so they were ready to receive the food.

Another special team for entertainment sung carols to the musical lead of a guitar player.

At 5 p.m. Christmas Day, it was time for dinner to be served. A call went out for hands to move the food to serving trays in the buffet line. Cake cutters put down knives and took up spoons, while punch makers became coffee makers tasked with refilling urns.

As the meal service was completed, some teams headed to open tables to eat, while others moved to the kitchen to start cleanup.

After bagging and freezing, the vol-



PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

An army of volunteers came together to welcome guests to the community Christmas dinner in Morris Dec. 25 at the Emmanuel Baptist Church.

unteers brought the leftovers to the local food bank. A team plans to have the leftovers retrieved at a later date for distribution to a food kitchen.

Close to 70 guests attended this year's event. The takeout had some late additions, taking the last count to 27.

In January, the committee will gather to review how things went, and what might be improved for next year.



> FOOD BANK, FROM PG. 8

The Pattern Energy team wanted to acknowledge Chris Klassen.

"The Morris drop-off is the only visit where everyone was available," Hildebrand noted. "We had to leave someone back at the office to answer the phones.

"Our corporate structure changed this year. We now employ six technicians and three office staff locally," Hildebrand shared. "They live and

work here. We had the manpower on site to actually deliver the stuff ourselves.

"Food is expensive. There is a need and our team wanted to help fill that need," was the parting comments expressed by Hildebrand as the Red River Food Bank staff extended thank-you handshakes for the welcome delivery.

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Discover and Go passes available until March 2024

By Ty Dilello

Storytime with Santa was a success at the Boyne Regional Library on Dec. 16. That afternoon, Santa stopped by the library to read several Christmas books to children under the library's Christmas tree.

"As he entered the building, children lit up as they heard 'Ho Ho Ho!' and followed him to our sitting area," said Lynsey Hannah of Boyne Regional Library. "The children were all very excited to interact with him in such a fun way. He read some classic stories and some funny holiday stories too. Some children were dressed up, and took photos with him after the storytime."

The library is also promoting its Discover And Go program, which will continue until March of 2024. The program was funded by a grant that the library received from the Arts, Culture, and Sports Community Fund.

"The grant was awarded in the spring of 2023 and has had a lot of success at the library since then," said Hannah. "The purpose of the Discover And Go Program is to provide free passes to community programs, workshops, and events using a valid library membership. Our Discover And Go program is a way of connecting people to each other and their community."

Currently, complimentary passes are available for Carman Collegiate Cougar hockey home games,



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Boyne Regional Library launched their Discover an Go Program, which will be offered until March of 2024.

Beaver hockey home games, and the Active Living Centre classes, including fitness, pickleball, table tennis and dances. The passes are available on a first-come basis.

Boyne Regional Library encourages the community to follow their social media accounts and check out their website often for more ticket releases.



PHOTO BY LYNSEY HANNAH

Santa Clause paid a visit to the Boyne Regional Library on Dec. 16 for Storytime with Santa. Over the course of the afternoon, Santa read stories to local children at the library and posed for pictures.

Burley making the rounds as province's regional liaison

By Lorne Stelmach

Former Morden mayor Brandon Burley was back at a city council meeting recently, but this time on the other side as a delegation.

Now heading up the provincial government's new southern Manitoba regional cabinet office, Burley noted it was not only interesting to be addressing council at its Dec. 27 meeting but also gave him affirmation about taking on his new role as a regional liaison for the province.

"I didn't know what I would think going in, but when I got in there, I realized I had made the right decision," he said following his presentation. "It's good to get a little bit of closure on it."

Burley resigned as mayor in early October to take on a role as part of the Premier Wab Kinew's transition advisory team. He is now serving as a liaison between the premier's office, cabinet, and stakeholders in the region.

In recent weeks, Burley has been making the rounds to meet with municipal councils, school boards, and key community organizations.

"I'm ensuring that they know what the function of my office is and how they can reach out to me and elevate concerns and priorities in southern Manitoba," he said.

"There's a good deal of partnership that can occur and has to occur for this region to grow. It is an incredibly significant economic region for the province, and so it's a priority for the government of Manitoba."

Burley emphasized he sees the key to his role as being that he will "have the ability to get their priorities in front of cabinet and executive council and also get it into the top levels of bureaucracy as well.

"It's exciting to be able to work with so many people," he said. "So to be able to find those stories, those people and those organizations that need to have access to government and to be

able to help problem solve is a lot of fun."

Another matter that came up before Morden council last week was final approval for an amendment to the vehicle for hire bylaw.

The key reason for the amendment was that the city had reached the maximum number of taxi licenses that could be issued, explained Mayor Nancy Penner.

"I think the intent was to review the whole bylaw and include now the Ubers and different types of personal transportation vehicles," she said.

Council also approved a resolution to seek a speed reduction on PR 432 going north out of Morden.

It was identified as a priority given the growth and development occurring in the area including the new school, noted Penner.

"The city is basically asking Manitoba Highways to extend the reduced speed zone coming into the city further north," said Penner.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/
VOICE

Brandon Burley made a presentation to Morden City Council last week.

Residents ask council to preserve Parkhill forest

By Lorne Stelmach

A group of residents made their case to Morden council recently to save a forested section of land in the north-west corner of the city.

A presentation to council Dec. 27 by local representatives of the yet-to-be-named regional climate action group focused on the forested area at the west end of Parkhill Drive.

"We are aware that the current approved development plan includes a 90 foot wide clearing through the center of the forest. We are asking this council to commit to preserving this parcel as one continuous forested space without cutting a road anywhere through it," said Ken Froese, who was part of the delegation that also included Sandy Plett and Earl Dyck.

They trio also used the opportunity to touch on their group's overall goals for conversation and action concerning how the local communities are adapting and will need to adapt in the coming years to the changing climate and around efforts to reduce emissions to limit the extent of the changes to the climate.

Their subgroup that focuses on Morden, Winkler, and the RM of Stanley sought to urge council to commit to preserving existing forest and natural areas in the city, given how they will play an increasingly critical role in keeping the community healthy and viable in the future.

They cited that 86 per cent of Morden residents surveyed in 2022 for the Morden parks and urban forestry master plan stated they were in favour saving forests and other naturally wild areas.

They went on to cite a list of gifts provided by the forests:

- Trees take harmful gases out of the atmosphere. Based on the belief that one adult tree absorbs about 25 kg of carbon per year, they estimated the forest at the west end of Parkhill Drive sequesters and absorbs approximately 63,450 kg of carbon per year.

- Trees cool the environment. By the year 2050, the earth's temperature is expected to rise by 1.5 degrees.

- Healthy forests prevent erosion and increase rainwater absorption.

- Forests are spaces that foster good physical and mental health in the community.

- Urban forests are wildlife sanctuaries. The proposed road would slice a 90 ft. wide slash through the centre, forcing wildlife to the margins.

- Cost saving. Existing trees do much work and preserving and maintaining them saves the city the expense of planting and maintaining replacement trees.

"It's become clear through the groups research that prioritizing existing forest and treed spaces will put the city of Morden in good company with other progressive cities across Canada," suggested Plett.

The presentation went on to suggest



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Ken Froese, Sandy Plett and Earl Dyck attended the Dec. 27 Morden council meeting to ask the city to save a forested section at the west end of Parkhill Dr. from development.

the lots backing against the forest all the way around an existing forest would fetch a higher value than any of the other proposed properties on roads cut through the forest.

In addition, they suggested that, in order for pedestrians to use both sides of a road through the forest, it would require cross walks and again impede the flow of traffic, which will have already slowed to a 30 km school speed zone.

"We wish to support this council in approaching future development decisions following the details and spirit of the Morden parks and urban forestry master plan," concluded Froese.

Councillor Doug Frost said it is important to note the land is private property. The city is working with the owner with the goal of saving a portion of the trees.

That thought was echoed by Coun.

Sheldon Friesen, who noted the planning process aims to work with developers to mitigate concerns as best as possible, and there are many issues to address as that area further develops including traffic management.

"The city has to look long term too," added Mayor Nancy Penner. "If traffic becomes more, if the density increases ... it would make sense to have a through road for traffic flow.

"I'm really glad that they connected with council ... and I appreciate their concern about cutting down trees," she continued. "There has to be a little bit of a balanced approach to everything. Part of every development that's built into our development plan at the city is to incorporate green space ... and that will happen with every development."

ACAN shares survey findings with council

By Lori Penner

Members of the Altona Community Action Network (ACAN) recently shared the results of their public survey with Altona council.

ACAN is a group of citizens concerned about our community's sustainability and ability to deal with climate change. Over the years they have been involved in small and large projects alike, including establishing year-round curbside composting in Altona, managing the community garden, hosting Earth Day events, and more.

In 2023, in anticipation of the annual Earth Day celebrations, ACAN partnered with the Green Action Centre to host an event focused on Active Transportation (AT) in the area.

As part of that event, ACAN worked on two specific data gathering activities: a large-format map where people could mark their most used active transportation routes as well as note their most significant areas of concern, and an Altona Active Transportation Survey to give residents the chance to further share their thoughts on what is needed in the community.

"It was supposed to be very conversational. This was a way for people to put ideas forward," said ACAN

member Mike Hiebert. "About 40 people submitted their information so we can keep them updated to hear more. So I think it's something that people in Altona are catching on to."

The responses covered five themes: infrastructure, safety, network, culture, and leadership.

Some responses indicated that while the bike paths and walking trails in the community were very appreciated, there is a real need to repair potholes and rough patches on those paths.

"The important point that they're

"THERE'S MORE CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS THAT USE THE STREET THAN JUST PEOPLE IN CARS."

trying to make is that there's more citizens and residents that use the street than just people in cars," noted Hiebert, stressing the importance of "being able to have a different lens on good development of infrastructure so that you can ask yourself questions like what is it like to move through this space as a child if you're trying to get from school to home? Or from the park to your house? What kind of infrastructure do you interact with?"

"If you're a senior and you're taking your mobility scooter to get groceries, how does the infrastructure affect that? So that's not car-centric. It's a different way of looking at the space, and the importance of that was highlighted in a lot of the comments."

Continued on page 12

Renos progressing at The Manor

By Lori Penner

The renovations and accessibility upgrades in The Manor at The Gardens on Tenth continue to progress.

Ten suites are nearing completion, with some already occupied. This leaves just eight suites to renovate in 2024.

Gardens on Tenth managing director Lisa Smiley says the tenants who have already moved from an older suite are very pleased with the newer updated look.

"But more importantly, they talk about the safety and accessibility provided with the widened doorways with seamless entries, walk-in showers and raised toilets. These changes are tailored to meet the needs of seniors as they continue to age in place."

She notes that when The Manor was built in the early 1970s, these types of innovations to accommodate seniors were not common.

"Accessibility was not as much of a concern then; we did what we knew. Now, decades later, that has become a priority. Seniors are aging in place, living longer healthier lives, and accessibility becomes important. Preventing falls and hazards have become even more important."

Tenant Connie Toews waited patiently for her studio suite to be completed and is thrilled to be all moved in. She is most pleased with the maneuverability of her wheelchair in her new space.

The older suites had small hallways and pony walls, which often made movement from room to room awk-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Roy and Gladys Abrams (centre) from Victoria, B.C. stopped by The Gardens on Tenth recently to make a \$10,000 donation towards the renovation project to board chair John Falk (far left) and fundraising chair David Wiebe.

ward. Now she has an open concept with access in all areas.

Toews says she loves her new home.

"It's a lot more open, with the half wall gone. It's cozy and bright. Accessibility at the kitchen counter is good too."

Toews' sisters helped her decorate it, and she is delighted with the result.

Along with these upgrades, The Manor offers a variety of services. It is staffed Monday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We also have life enrichment staff in the building. There is also a meal program and housekeeping, maintenance, as well as activities at the apartments. We will be starting our Pathways program here soon," Smiley says, adding that this program helps with medication administration, showers, and getting dressed. Night watch provides safety, security and supervision.

"A lot of tenants here wear Lifelines which go directly to our night watch staff, so if I have a fall, and I need help, the night watch staff can be at your suite within minutes of getting that phone call. This gives families a lot of peace of mind."

Meanwhile, the fundraising for the project will continue.

"The fundraising goal for the project was \$500,000," Smiley shared. "To date we have raised \$340,000."

Smiley says they are very thankful for the support they continue to have locally and are especially pleased to have recently received significant donations from outside the area.

Recently, Roy and Gladys Abrams from Victoria presented them with a donation of \$10,000, and Gerald Loepky from Winnipeg stopped by with a donation of \$5,000.

"These donors have or have had family who lived in The Manor at one time. They heard about our project and came for a tour, and they liked what they saw. We thank them for their support and look forward to additional support locally from the community and area this fall and into 2024 to help us achieve our goal of \$500,000."

She adds, "And most of all, we are looking forward to completing the project and enhancing the services we can provide for seniors in our community and area."



> ACAN SURVEY, FROM PG. 11

In terms of safety, Hiebert says a lot of the comments were about schools and children. For example, how students are getting across Centre Ave. was a big area of concern.

Another thing noted in the survey was that the connectivity to workplaces and industrial areas is lacking.

"That's actually where the roads are most narrow, in the industrial areas, and it's not conducive to get to work in any other way besides a car," Hie-

bert said. "A lot of people are driving to places that are within a five-minute bike ride or 15-minute walk. It could have a big impact on our community if other modes were considered."

In conversations, it's easy to steer active transportation into the realm of recreation, he noted, but ACAN wants the community to think in much broader terms.

"The concern is that if there isn't a lens of active transportation put on

planning and development, it will simply default to business as usual. A large part of what we're advocating for, and the town is responding positively, is the idea that an active transportation strategy should be put in place. It would provide a good reference document that the town can apply to their projects.

"We are really just one voice among many," Hiebert noted. "I feel like we have alignment with the Altona Equal Access committee. I feel like there could be good alignment with

schools, [with] businesses and stakeholders, with newcomers who come to our community who aren't prepared to drive right away. It goes all over the place with any scopes.

"That's where the leadership piece is important to us, that the people in power can see it that way, and make sure that those motions are integrated into the work."

"There are needs besides cars, whether it's local or regional transportation. It's time for us to open our perspectives on ways to get around."

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

Brown and Peirson retiring from Roland Fire Department

By Ty Dilello

A pair of longtime Roland Fire Department personnel hung up their helmets at the end of last year.

Kevin Brown and Murray Peirson served the community as firemen for a combined 72 years.

Brown was a member of the Roland Fire Department for 32 years, serving the community in which he grew up.

"I'm getting too old for those 2 a.m. calls," he said. "After a few years on the job, the fire department becomes a way of life, and your heart has to be in the job at hand. If I hadn't enjoyed doing this, I would have quit years ago. Seeing the advancement in communication, equipment and technology has been great. Any time you save a house or property from fire or flood, or help car accident patients, you know why you joined in the first place."

In post-retirement, Brown is still a competitive trap shooter and will also stay busy coaching.

"Trap shooting is like golf," Brown said. "There's a tournament on every weekend of the summer. You just have to figure out how far you want to drive and try to compete at your favourite places."

Peirson stepped down after a whopping 40 years with the Roland Fire Department.

"I'm stepping down because I've served for 40 years, and I feel that's been long enough," he said. "I'm hoping to make room for new volunteers from our community."

Peirson noted it's been fulfilling to serve the RM of Roland as a fire chief, deputy chief, and firefighter over the years.

"It's rewarding to help others when it's needed and see all the changes over the years with communication, equipment and training," he said.

Some of the moments that stand out for Peirson include being involved with purchasing new equipment, such as a fire vehicle for the fire department and having input on other equipment purchased.

"It was also nice to be able to help people in need, whether it be in fires or vehicle accidents. Before 911 was available, one of my first calls ever, before we had pagers, was a call from a firefighter's wife that there was a truck on fire at Mr. Martens farm. I didn't know where that was, and I was told to drive toward Kane and look for smoke."

Peirson will still keep busy going forward with other community volunteering that he already does, in addition to still working full-time at his other job.

The Roland Fire Department is always recruiting new members to join



ROLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

At the end of last year, Kevin Brown and Murray Peirson officially retired from the Roland Fire Department after a combined 72 years on the job.

its ranks, which typically include 14 to 18 members. People interested in joining the Roland Fire Department, can get in touch with fire chief Donald Roy at don_kelly@live.ca or 204-750-2460.

"Murray and Kevin stepping down from our department will be a loss with a combined 72 years of knowledge," Roy said. "Our members in-

cluding myself have always gained valuable lessons and know-how from them both and they were always available to mentor our new members. With that being said, our department has never been stronger with all our members coming together to serve our community in times of need."



Sharing a holiday meal

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Plum Coulee School hosted a holiday meal Dec. 22 featuring turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, and cranberry sauce. "The event was planned as a opportunity for our students to experience the meal in a traditional banquet setting with our whole gym filled with tables decked out for the season," shares principal Mary Eberling-Penner, noting parent volunteers served the food while older students set the tables and cleaned up. "This meal builds a sense of community and shows how great events happen when many hands help." Some food and meal items are brought by students while other parts of the feast were sponsored or donated by local businesses, including JKW Construction, Kroeker Potatoes, Dairy Queen, and Winkler Co-op. "Since our school often has an high English as a Second Language population—25 per cent or more—this is a chance for those children new to Canada to see a Canadian tradition in action," Eberling-Penner noted. "This year we also have 10 children originally from the Ukraine who celebrate their first Christmas in Canada."



Local trio working on a new live music venue

By Lorne Stelmach

Plans are coming together for a new concert and event venue in Morden.

The back hall of St. Paul's United Church will be transformed into a space that a trio of Mordenites hope will become a new centre for all manner of events, but particularly with a focus on live music.

"My personal goal here is in the next 12 months to put on 20 shows," said Duane Hiebert, who has been developing plans for the venue along with

Victoria McKenzie and Megan Giesbrecht. "We will need to get the word out about it."

"And we want the community in general to use it too," added McKenzie, "but we definitely though want to focus on live music. That's a passion for me as well."

Hiebert has been part of the local music scene for about 25 years, and he has thought for some time now that another live venue option is needed in Morden.

"I kind of felt that there was a little

bit of a void with the local community of musicians that we have around here to present music in an all ages capacity in a proper venue that can really showcase a lot of the talent that we do have in the area," he said.

The space at St. Paul's came to mind as a potential venue.

"Going back into the late '90s, I played a lot of coffeehouses here," Hiebert said. "It's kind of where I learnt how to perform on a stage."

He stop in one day to find out about the church's availability for just a one-time show, but it became a case of being in the right place at the right time.

"One thing led to another, and I found out the space was up for lease, so we started really thinking about it," Hiebert said. "We saw the value in the space ... and the church was very co-operative and understanding of what we were trying to do, and they saw the community angle that we're trying to create ... they've been really great to work with."

"I didn't really see this coming ... but they were conducive to pretty much everything we were looking for," he added.

The space will almost entirely be for their use, as the church is only asking for access for one half day a month.

McKenzie noted the performance venue will be kept almost entirely separate from the church, other than accessing washrooms outside of the hall.

"There are physical boundaries within the building ... so the only things shared will be the bathrooms and the parking lot."

They all see it as a very appealing space, especially in terms of its size and capacity.

"Size was a big selling feature," said Hiebert. "As much as the Access Event Centre has a stage, you need to put 400 plus people in there to feel like there's anybody in there."

"We saw the potential capacity numbers for this place, and you can present something small and intimate, or

you can just do a standing room only show and put a fair number of bodies in here," he said. "There's a lot of options ... especially with the kitchen at the back of the venue being available to us. There's the opportunity to put on dinner theatres or catered events or banquets."

They also don't see it as detracting from the Kenmor Theatre, as that is also a great performance spot but is not always available. It also offers a different experience with its assigned seating.

"The mingling can be half of the fun," said McKenzie, who noted their venue is also planned to be licensed. "I think that the space can hold a lot of different kinds of events too."

The key event though that brings this new venue to mind is a live music show that was held at Dead Horse Cider, and the name used at that time—Finer Spirit Festival—is being adapted for this project.

McKenzie said they really want this to be a space that can bring people together and be a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.

Hiebert believes it has great potential. He said he sat down recently to start making a list of local musicians and came up with at least 50 and counting.

"We're excited," he said, sharing that they got possession of the space Jan. 1 and are hard at work renovating and preparing it for the first show. "We want to put a proper sound system in here. There isn't a place you can play in the Morden area where you aren't on the hook to supply your own sound system. We will have speakers set up, and we'll have lighting and everything on stage. The band just needs their gear."

They have preliminary plans for a soft opening sometime early in the new year that would also serve as a fundraising event.

You can learn more by checking out Finer Spirit on social media.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Duane Hiebert, Victoria McKenzie, and Megan Giesbrecht are working to transform the back hall of St. Paul's United Church into a new live music venue for the Morden-Winkler area.

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Evening of Elegance needs your donations

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden's Evening of Elegance program has put a call out to the community for help in making graduation as special as possible for all the mem-

bers of Morden's class of 2024.

They're asking for donations of gently used or even new formal wear and accessories, which will be provided to

Continued on page 17

DMM Energy Cardlock coming to Carman Industrial Park

By Ty Dilello

DMM Energy and J&S Enterprise Ltd. have partnered up to build a DMM Energy Cardlock station at the Carman Industrial Park.

The land in Carman's Industrial Park was first acquired by J&S Enterprise Ltd. in November of 2023. Construction of the land began that same month and the team has been able to make significant progress over the last several weeks to ensure that the access to the site is convenient to navigate for the local community.

The new Cardlock station is projected to have an open date of late spring to early summer, pending weather and other project conditions.

"Providing consumers with a reliable source of access to fuel is critical to the community of Carman," said Jannell Scott, Chief Sales Officer of DMM Energy.

"J&S Enterprise Ltd. purchased a commercial trailer which contains generation power that will be hooked up to the cardlock. This means that if there is ever a power outage, we can still ensure there is a constant supply of fuel to our customers and to our community," said Scott.

DMM Energy is one of the largest providers of bulk Esso-branded products across Western Canada. DMM Energy operates in several communities across Southern Manitoba, and



The new Cardlock station in Carman will have two pumps, with access to both gasoline and clear diesel products.

teamed up with J&S Enterprise to turn this Carman project into a reality.

J&S Enterprise, which is run by Jason and Suzanne Klassen, has been working with DMM Energy for the last three years on other projects and their bulk fuel delivery requirements for their other businesses.

"This specific business opportunity was discussed mutually and it was recognized that consumers need access to reliable services and high-quality products in the town of Carman," said Scott.

The new Cardlock station in Carman will have two pumps, with access to both gasoline and clear diesel products. This cardlock will be able to accept major credit cards, including Visa and Mastercard, as well as debit transactions. While you do not need



PHOTOS BY JASON KLASSEN

A new DMM Energy Cardlock station is currently in construction at Carman's Industrial Park. The station is being built as a joint venture between DMM Energy and J&S Enterprise Ltd.

to have an account to fuel up at this location, DMM Energy can provide fuel cards to your family or business to make your transaction seamless.

"Working with DMM Energy has been a great partnership to date," said

Jason Klassen of J&S Enterprise Ltd. "We look forward to providing fuel services to the Town of Carman and surrounding communities with this new DMM Energy Cardlock station."



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Maple Leaf School gym was busy all day Dec. 20 as the Grade 2 class of Jennifer Stein held its annual fundraising garage sale. The project is not only a learning experience for the students but also a chance for them to give something back to the community. The tally this year was one of the best yet, with the sale having brought in over \$1,900 for the Morden Christmas Cheer Board and the Pembina Valley Humane Society.

Maple Leaf kids raise funds for Cheer Board, PVHS



sports & recreation

Flyers in fourth place overall at season's midpoint

By Ashleigh Viveiros

With 29 games under their belt and 29 still to go in the 2023-2024 MJHL regular season, the Winkler Flyers are feeling pretty good about their chances of a strong finish.

The team broke for the holidays on a bit of a low point, falling to the Virden Oil Capitals 2-1 and the Steinbach Pistons 4-3.

It puts them in third place in the MGEU East Division with a record of 20-5-2-2 good for 44 points.

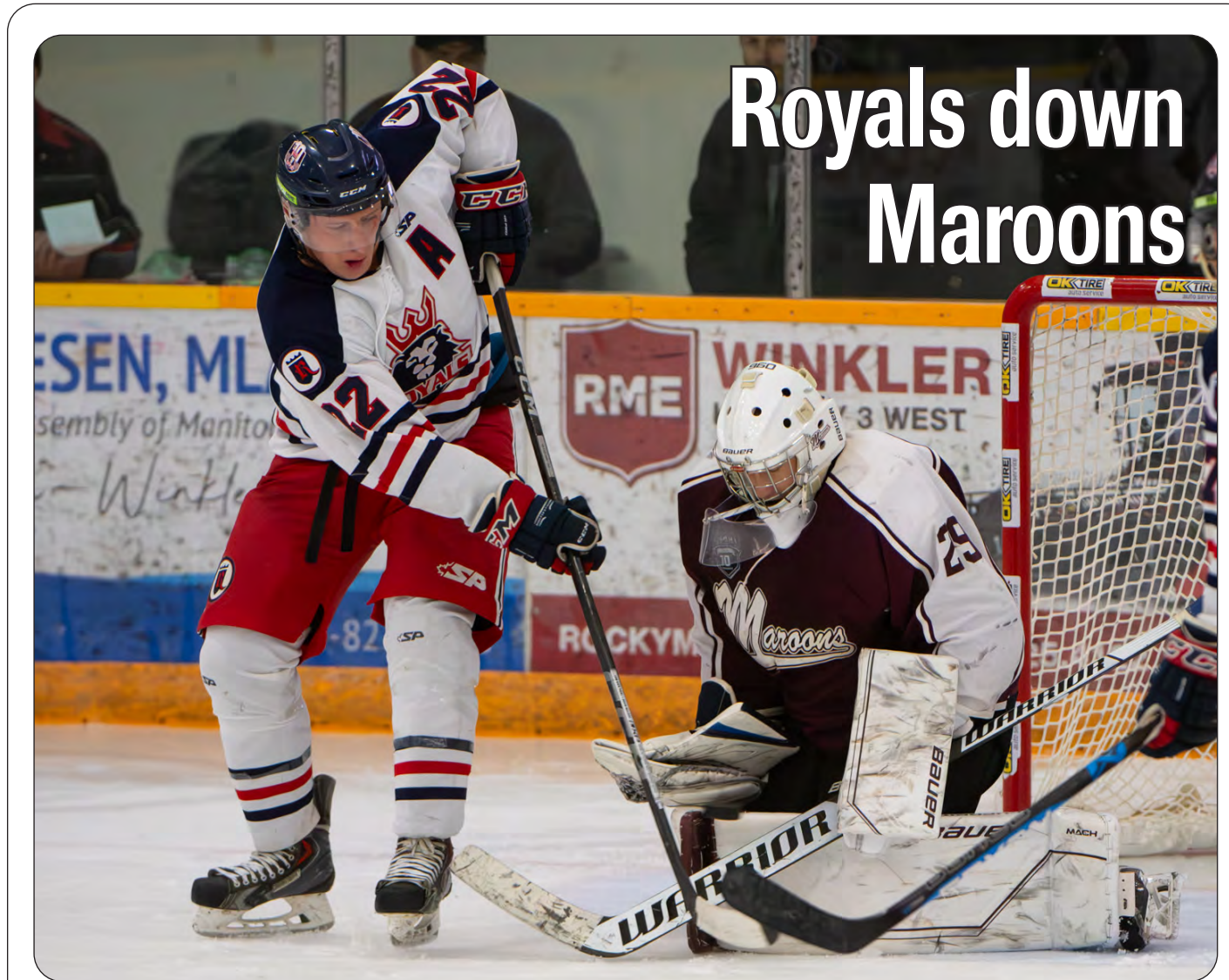
They trail the first-place Steinbach Pistons by seven points and the second-place Portage Terriers by five, but have two or more games in hand over both of them.

Head coach and general manager Justin Falk says he's pleased with how the Flyers have handled themselves in the first half of the season, but there's always room for improvement.

"We're obviously off to a fairly decent start this year," he said. "And now I think we're getting towards that time of year where we want to have some growth as a group going into the second half and want to see some progress in some areas."

Falk said he's looking to foster more cohesiveness between the team's veteran and rookie players.

"You have some players that have been here three years, some here two years, some here their first year, and now you get into the second half of the season where the games get harder and the ice gets harder to get to, and the sacrifice and selflessness of all



Royals down Maroons

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Chad Unrau of the Winkler Royals tries to tip a shot past Altona Maroons netminder Cole Kehler in the Dec. 23 match in Winkler, which the Royals won 5-3. The South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League standings at the close of 2023 had Ste. Anne, Warren, and Red River in the top three spots. Morden is in sixth place, Winkler is in seventh, and Carman and Altona are in ninth and 10th place, respectively. Games resume this Saturday with Carman hosting Ste. Anne, Morden hosting Notre Dame, and Altona hosting Red River. The Beavers also play in Ste. Anne on Sunday.

players to play for each other needs to get taken to another level.

"That's what's exciting about the potential here is the pieces are in the room," Falk said. "It's having them become even closer as the team and laying it on the line for each other in the second half."

The Flyers have certainly proven they're competitive this season—their record puts them in fourth place overall behind the Pistons, the West Division's Portage Terriers, and the Oil

Capitals.

"I think we're right in there," Falk said. "We're knocking on the door to get the organization to another level."

"We're going to have some tough decisions going into the second half here of how we manage our bodies and build our lineups accordingly each night to make sure we're giving ourselves the best chance to win."

"These players, they've proven why they should be here throughout the course of the first half," he continued.

"Now it's going to be establishing a bit of consistency in their work ethic to make sure that we're going to be amongst one of the top teams in the league."

The Flyers were back in action Tuesday night as they hit the road to play the Freeze in Winnipeg.

This weekend they play a home-and-away against the Niverville Nighthawks. The puck drops on the home game at 7 p.m. on Friday.

New PV Hawks head coach has high hopes

By Lorne Stelmach

The importance of ending the first half of the season on a high note can-

not be underestimated for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

With new coaches at the helm, the Hawks brought an end to a 13-game

winless streak on a weekend where they gained five of a possible six points.

Head coach Keith Graham liked

what he saw from the team that weekend when they came back from a 2-1

Continued on page 17

Male Pembina Valley Hawks looking for consistency

By Lorne Stelmach

As they prepare for the second half of their season, the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks can be buoyed by how they turned things around in the first half.

The 2023-24 campaign saw the Hawks pick up only one win in their first seven games and just three in their first 11 games.

Going into November and December, though, things turned around, with Pembina Valley picking up points in nine of 11 games—a streak that included two shootout losses and one overtime defeat.

Their better play was on display in such games as the Dec. 6 4-1 win over the fourth-place Winnipeg Bruins—a team they especially had trouble with last year, observed coach Brendan Edie, who especially saw a solid 60-minute effort there.

“That’s a big thing too, just making sure that we’re consistent for 60 minutes rather than pockets of time in a game,” said Edie. “We want to force other team’s hands rather than other teams forcing our hands.”

Approaching the holiday break, the Hawks had climbed up a few notches in the standings into the middle of the pack, and it was encouraging for them to see things turning around.

“We had a tough start to the year,” Edie said. “It was a tough schedule to start. We were getting some of the top tier teams. We’ve played Brandon three times now, Southwest four

times, and a lot of that was probably within our first dozen games or so.

“We faced tough opponents, a bit of adversity early on, so record-wise, we’re probably not where we wanted to be right now.”

He pointed to some bright spots through that tough spell.

“There’s been some positive building in terms of things that we’re seeing in our game. We’re hanging in all of our games; we’ve been in 11 one-goal games,” said Edie.

“The big thing for me is I would like

> HAWKS, FROM PG. 16

shootout loss to Yellowhead with 7-4 and 2-1 wins over Central Plains and the Winnipeg Avros.

“That weekend was huge for us,” Graham said just before the Christmas break. “When they came in on that Friday, you could tell there was just a little bit of an extra spark ... and we had a really good game against Yellowhead although we ended up losing in the shootout, but there was still that boost ... they were playing hard.

“Then to break the streak against Portage on Saturday was a big win for us. They were pretty excited,” he said. “Then going into Winnipeg on Sunday, you could tell right from the warmup that they were in business mode. The girls were very excited, and it was a great way to go into the Christmas holiday.”

As a result, the Hawks inched up into sixth place at 5-11-2 for 12 points, which was one point ahead of Interlake and seven behind Westman in the standings.

It was a challenging situation for Graham to come in mid-season to take the reins of the team.

“It was definitely a bit of a surprise for me getting the phone call, but I’ve been pretty happy with how things have been going so far,” he said.

“The way I came in was I just needed to know the girls

us to be able to close some of those out where things haven’t necessarily gone our way,” he added. “Especially with the parity that we have in our league right now and everybody kind of competes with everybody, it would be nice to close out some of those closer games.”

Edie noted he has a couple goals in mind for the second half of the season.

“We’ve really tried to key in on some of our special teams play,” he said. “We’ve put up lots of shots in games, but now it’s increasing the quality of

our chances, especially on the power play. We’ve been getting some good looks; now it’s just a matter of focusing on burying some of those chances.

“Defensively, we’ve done really, really well. We’ve changed a little bit of our structure and guys have responded to that and done a good job with that, so that’s a positive for us.”

The Hawks kick off 2024 with home games against the Winnipeg Bruins Wednesday and Friday followed by a road game against the Bruins Saturday.

were okay with everything. Communication was pretty important, so we had a team meeting,” Graham shared. “I just kind of let them know I’m here for support ... and we’ve got a bit of work to do, but we’re here for them to support them when they need it.”

His focus for the team coming in was to get back to the basics.

“We’re focusing on the work ethic and team culture, team dynamics ... just having fun with the game again and just trying to bring back the culture where the girls are excited to play hockey again and just kind of stressing all of the little things.”

He stressed that the Hawks were never far off from potentially being in a very different position at this point in the season.

“There were a pile of one-goal games,” he noted. “We brought those up with the team during our first meeting, that this hockey club was very close to beating absolutely everybody ... so there’s no reason with the talent that we have that they shouldn’t be able to beat them, so I think they’re kind of buying into that now.”

As they get back to business now in the new year, he will continue to stress much of the same.

“Focus on the same things, focus on the simple things of hockey and not try to overload anybody with anything right now.”

The Hawks return to action this Sunday when they host the Eastman Selects in Morden.

> EVENING OF ELEGANCE, FROM PG. 14

Morden Collegiate and Morden Adult Education Centre graduates who might need some help in being able to afford to get dressed up for the occasion.

“Every year there’s been small improvements and little things to add,” said Tyler Sloan, one of the teacher volunteers involved. “If it wasn’t successful and it wasn’t beneficial for the students involved then we wouldn’t keep doing it, but I think we’ve seen an increase in the amount of students accessing it.”

Morden Collegiate Institute works with Morden Caring and Sharing to collect donations of formal wear from people and businesses in the community.

All the items are put on display at the Evening of Elegance, which gives students the opportunity to pick out their outfits and accessories free of charge. This year’s evening is planned to take place Jan. 31 at the Morden Youth For Christ Warehouse.

“We’ll have numerous suits. We’ve got dresses of all sizes as well as accessories like shoes ... we’ve got some wonderful donations from the community and some past grads even,”

Sloan said.

If you are a graduate or parent and would like to attend the event to select an outfit and/or accessories, drop by the Warehouse that day from 4:30 to 8 p.m.

If you have a gown, suit, or other formal accessories you would like to donate, you can drop them off at Morden Collegiate.

Sloan noted graduation can be a major expense for something a person might only wear on that one day.

“Especially these days, when everyone is trying to stretch their finances as far as they can ... by offering something like this, we’re able to help out those families that can use that extra little help to help celebrate with their grad on this special day.”

If you have any questions, you can contact any of the event organizers: Regina Braun (204-822-4425 or rbraun1@westernsd.mb.ca), Lauryl Chamberlain (204-822-4425 or lchamberlain1@westernsd.mb.ca), Tyler Sloan (204-822-4425 or tsloan1@westernsd.mb.ca), or Tammy Hendrickx (204-822-6225 thendrickx@westernsd.mb.ca).

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JANUARY 6,
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CAREERS



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:

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- 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.

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Call: 204-467-5836



**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR ROAD OPENING CA-01-2023RO**

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:

Parkview Estates Ltd. (applicant) of mailing address Box 2452, Winkler, MB, R6W 4C2, (owner) has made an application to open a road due to subdivision 4409-23-8345, on the land legally described as the NW 25-6-5WPM, civic address 140 8th Street NW, roll # 0006600

HEARING LOCATION: Carman Council Chambers
12-2nd Avenue SW,
Carman Manitoba

DATE AND TIME: January 18th at 7:00 PM

GENERAL INTENT:
The applicant is applying to open a road on the property described above. A Public Hearing is required for this purpose. Notices were sent out within a 100m distance.

Please see attached Schedule "A" for reference.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Susan Stein, Chief Administrative Officer
12-2nd Ave SW, Box 160 Carman, MB R0G 0J0
Phone: (204) 745-2443 Email: cao@townofcarman.com

SCHEDULE "A"

Proposed Subdivision - Town of Carman



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NOTICES

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VOTERS LIST MAINTENANCE



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE
Additions to the Voters List and/or Personal Security Protection Requests

In accordance with Section 36 of The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act (MCSBEA), the Rural Municipality of Stanley Voters List is open for changes or revisions.

• Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the Local Authority of Rural Municipality of Stanley can have his or her name added to the Voters List or have any information about the voter on the Voters List corrected.

• Any person can request to have his or her name and address obscured from the Voters List.

A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. In a civic election, that person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the RM of Stanley, in person, by phone, fax or mail to:

Terry Penner, Chief Administrative Officer

1-23111 PTH 14

Stanley MB R6P 0B1

Phone: (204) 325-4101

Fax: (204) 325-4008

The next General Municipal Election takes place on October 28, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT

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:

General Intent: To amend the following sections of City of Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 as amended: 2.18, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, 9.1 and 9.4

Area: By-law 2310-23 will apply to the entire limits of the City of Winkler.

Contact: Planning & Engineering Department
City of Winkler
Phone: (204) 325-9524-2
Email: permits@cityofwinkler.ca

Date of Hearing: January 23, 2024

Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom upon request.

PUBLIC NOTICE



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 MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND BY-LAW 2023-10
Being an AMENDMENT to the MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND ZONING BY-LAW 2021-06, AS AMENDED

HEARING LOCATION: DATE & TIME: RHINELAND COUNCIL CHAMBERS
109-3rd Avenue NE, Altona, MB
January 24th, 2024 at 9:00 AM

GENERAL INTENT: To serve as a general house-keeping amendment. The amendment will update the accessory/secondary building & structure tables and use specific standards for multiple family dwellings

AREA: Municipality of Rhineland

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Tanya Waddell, General Manager
RPGA PLANNING DISTRICT
Box 270, Altona MB RoG oBo Phone: (204) 324-5357
manager@rpgamb.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 there from, upon request.

PUBLIC NOTICE



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 TOWN OF ALTONA ZONING BY-LAW 1818/2023 Being an AMENDMENT to the TOWN OF ALTONA ZONING BY-LAW 1792/2021, AS AMENDED

HEARING LOCATION: DATE & TIME: ALTONA CIVIC OFFICE
111 CENTRE AVENUE EAST, ALTONA, MB
January 23rd, 2024 at 6:00 PM

GENERAL INTENT: To serve as a general house-keeping amendment. The amendment will update the accessory/secondary building & structure tables, use specific standards for multiple family dwellings, sign regulations and driveway widths.

AREA: TOWN OF ALTONA

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Tanya Waddell, General Manager
RPGA PLANNING DISTRICT
Box 270, Altona MB RoG oBo
Phone: (204) 324-5357
manager@rpgamb.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 there from, upon request.



TENDER Garbage Collection Services

Council for the R.M. of Grey invite written tenders to provide garbage collection services in the L.U.D. of Haywood for a five year period from February 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028.

Tender specifications outlining duties and responsibilities for this service can be obtained at the R.M. of Grey Office, 27 Church Avenue East, Elm Creek, MB, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on the website - www.rmofgrey.ca under Local Notices.

Sealed tenders marked "Garbage Collection Tender" shall be received by the undersigned until 4:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024**. Lowest or any tender shall not necessarily be accepted.

Kim Arnal, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
R.M. of Grey
Box 99
27 Church Avenue East
Elm Creek, MB ROG ONO
1-204-436-2014
info@rmofgrey.ca

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PUBLIC NOTICE



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING SPECIAL SERVICE PLAN 15/23 SPECIAL SERVICES BY-LAW NO. 15-23

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 318(4) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Stanley has scheduled a public hearing in the Council Chambers of the RM of Stanley Municipal Office located at 1-23111 PTH 14 in the RM of Stanley on the 11th day of January, 2024 at 9:05 a.m. to present the following special service proposal:

Special Service Plan 15/23 to establish a Special Service to promote and improve health care for the Rural Municipality and the surrounding region. This improvement is a joint effort with the City of Winkler, and the City of Morden. The special service tax will be levied on all taxable, grant-in-lieu, and otherwise exempt properties within The Municipality. The Rural Municipality of Stanley will contribute a total of \$1,680,000.00 over a four-year period (\$420,000.00 annually). The Special Service is proposed to be levied for the years 2024 to 2027 inclusive.

2024 = \$420,000
2025 = \$420,000
2026 = \$420,000
2027 = \$420,000

The special service tax will be calculated on the portioned value of assessable property. Based on the 2023 assessment of \$813,977.940 a mill rate of 0.516 mills would be required. Calculated on a property with a market value of \$250,000 (and portioned value of \$112,500) a Health Service levy of \$58.05 would be levied.

A written objection may be filed with the Chief Administrative Officer, at 1-23111 PTH 14 in the RM of Stanley prior to the commencement of the hearing. All objections, written or verbal, must be filed prior to the adjournment of the hearing and must include the name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and the grounds of their objection. At the hearing, the Council will hear any potential taxpayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the by-law.

You are welcome to attend the public hearing to make representations on the matter to be considered, however, you are not required to attend. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a representation, you may file a written submission in person, through regular mail, or by email (vmartens@rmofstanley.ca) with the RM prior to the public hearing. If you wish to participate in the hearing electronically, please contact vmartens@rmofstanley.ca or call (204) 325-4101 a minimum of 2 business days prior to the hearing. We ask any member of the public wanting to attend a council meeting to also confirm with our office a minimum of 2 business days in advance of the meeting date so that we can ensure adequate seating is available. Please call the Administration office at (204) 325-4101.

Copies of the Special Service Plan No. 15/23 are available at the municipal office at 1-23111 PTH 14 during regular office hours of the R.M. of Stanley.

Dated at the RM of Stanley this 21st day of December, 2023.
Terry Penner
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Stanley



CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snake-like fish
9. Database management system

13. Russian-American violinist

14. Wendy's founder Thomas
15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
16. Negatives

17. Rescued

18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks to
21. Island nation native
22. Trade
23. Detergent brand
24. Famed NY Giant
25. Before
28. Split pulses
29. Extremely angry; highly incensed
31. Body part
33. American state
36. David __, US playwright
38. Move one's head slightly
39. Secret rendezvous
41. Improved
44. A place to exercise
45. 18-year astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. You can take it
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of an animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless and undisguised
60. Horizontal passage into a mine
61. Adult males
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. City in north-central Utah
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Oxygen
68. Make law

LAND TENDER

TENDER FOR SALE OF LAND

Sealed tenders clearly marked with the words "Land Tender – Friesen/Sandercok" will be received by Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP (Attention: Scott Hoepfner) until January 17, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. for the purchase of the following land, with the potential for possible development:

Lot 2 in SE ¼ 18-3-5 WPM, near the North-West corner of the City of Morden (close to the Discovery Trails School currently under construction) being approximately 28.5 acres, and being legally described as follows:

LOT 2 PLAN 72414 MLTO IN SE 1/4 18-3-5 WPM

Terms and conditions of sale:

1. Each tender must be sealed and in writing, accompanied by deposit paid by bank draft, certified cheque or solicitor's trust cheque in the amount of 10% of the offered price payable to Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP, IN TRUST. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be returned.
2. All tenders must be received by the deadline of January 17, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. and include the full name, address, phone number and email of the purchaser.
3. Only tenders for the entire portion of land will be considered and shouldn't be subject to any conditions precedent.
4. On acceptance of the tender, the deposit will be applied to the purchase price and the balance remaining will become due and payable on the closing date. The closing date shall be 30 days after the successful bid is determined. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid by the closing date, the deposit paid will be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
5. Interested purchasers must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the land. The land is sold on an "as is" basis. The vendor makes no representations or warranties with regard to the condition, value, land quality, environmental condition, suitable use, size, or zoning of the land.
6. The land has not been listed for sale with any agent and no sales commissions will be paid to any agent representing any tenderer.
7. The highest, or any tender, need not be accepted.
8. No submitted tender may be varied or withdrawn prior to the notification of acceptance or rejection.
9. The successful bidder will be required, following acceptance, to sign a purchase agreement based on the accepted tender terms and will sign the standard Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP agreement of purchase and sale for agricultural property within seven days of being advised that he or she is the successful bidder.
10. Property taxes will be paid to December 31, 2023. Property taxes for 2024 will be solely the responsibility of the purchaser. All other taxes including GST and Land Transfer Tax shall be the responsibility of the purchaser. Each of the vendor and purchaser shall be responsible for their own legal fees to complete the sale.

Please send sealed Tenders to purchase the land to:
Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP
3-175 Roblin Blvd. East, Winkler, MB R6W 0H2
Attention: Scott Hoepfner

For further information contact Scott Hoepfner
at 204-934-2355 or sjh@tdslaw.com

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. From pentane (Chemistry)
4. Gradually gets into
5. Commercial document (abbr.)

Continued on pg 21

T	C	V	N	E	R	A	R	E	D	E
E	X	D	I	S	M	O	R	E	R	S
R	O	B	S	S	B	A	B	T	I	A
D	E	V	F	R	B	A	H	E	P	H
M	A	I	A	R	C	A	S	A	R	C
A	C	M	Y	S	D	E	O	C	E	R
T	S	X	T	R	D	O	N	T	E	M
A	T	O	S	E	N	N	I	M	A	D
L	T	E	V	A	T	E	I	R	A	P
N	B	A	C	U	C	E	S	A	T	E
A	T	I	S	A	T	E	S	A	V	A
V	E	L	E	E	V	A	N	A	V	E
B	M	S	D	B	E	L	E	D	E	B

Crossword Answer

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

Sudoku Answer

BIRTHDAY



If you know this octogenarian (January 12), come celebrate with us on Saturday, January 13 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Reinfeld Community Center. Come & Go Tea.

Announcements

FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION with an EMPLOYMENT/CAREERS AD

Call: 204-467-5836

OBITUARY

**Diedrich Fehr
1942 - 2023**



Diedrich Fehr, age 81, passed away peacefully in the early hours of December 17, 2023 at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

He was born to Jacob and Katharina (Loewen) Fehr on February 11, 1942, one of 13 children. A devout Christian and man of God, Diedrich believed deeply in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and wanted nothing more than to have his family, friends and anyone he encountered know Christ to the depths of his understanding. A depth of understanding cultivated by studying the Word of God, seeking Truth, and living by Faith. Diedrich Fehr was a passionate visionary. Whatever he did, he did it with his best ability. From creating a temperature regulated environment to grow beautiful tomatoes in the garden; manufacturing tools to

accomplish exquisite and functional finish carpentry details; to mechanics and renovating an old Greyhound bus into a comfortable home on wheels for some time living on the road, some projects took longer than others, but he worked to accomplish each task with precision and quality workmanship.

Diedrich Fehr is survived by his wife, Sadie; four sisters: Mary Elias, Susan Klassen, Tina Suderman and Justina (Jake) Wieler; two sisters-in-law: Kate Fehr and Betty Fehr; his loving daughters: Katherine (Jake) Wolfe, Susie Toews, one daughter-in-law (Bernard Fehr deceased), his son, Richard (Susan) Fehr, grandchildren: Jackie (Matt) Kauenhowen, David (Vika) Wolfe, Cinthia (Nathan) Sawatzky, Daniel Wolfe, Darryl (Rebecca) Wolfe, Donald (Margaret) Wolfe, Kenneth (Nadia) Toews, Kelly (Jared) Labadie, Kyle (Mary Jane) Toews, Sheldon (Crystal) Fehr, Timothy Fehr, Kevin Fehr and Sandra (Andrew) Gobeil, numerous great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.

He is also survived by his stepchildren, Daniel Friesen, Philip (Jacquie) Friesen, James (Rhonda) Friesen, Walter (Amy) Friesen, Timothy (Tanya) Friesen and 16 step-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Katharine Fehr (2011), his son, Bernard Fehr (1995), his parents and eight brothers and sisters.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at the Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

Donations may be made in Diedrich's memory to Caring and Sharing.

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



OBITUARY

**Johnny H. Enns
1936 - 2023**



On Thursday, December 28, 2023, peacefully and surrounded by loved ones at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Johnny Enns passed away.

He was predeceased by his grandson, Connor, daughter, Sherri and granddaughter, Madison.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Audrey, daughter, Sharrol and her husband, Bruce (Blake and Michelle), son, Johnny (Cedric), son-in-law, Bob (Matt and Lauren, Natasha and Noukomo). His greatest joy was his family.

Cremation has taken place and there will be no service as per Johnny's wishes.

The family thanks the medical staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre for their care and compassion of Johnny.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Johnny's memory to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Go rest high upon that mountain.

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



Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

- 6. Overhang
- 7. Christmas and New Year's have them
- 8. Type of bulb
- 9. Lacking a plan
- 10. Tattle
- 11. Rockers like it "heavy"
- 12. One who's been canonized
- 14. Indicate time and place
- 17. Nobel Prize winner in physics
- 20. The voice of Olaf
- 21. Fragmented rock
- 23. They ___
- 25. Master of Philosophy
- 26. Backside
- 27. Landmark house in L.A.
- 29. An act of undue intimacy
- 30. From which a later word is derived
- 32. Equal to 10 meters
- 34. Neither
- 35. Computer language
- 37. Sacred book of Judaism
- 40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 42. A way to dedicate
- 43. Challenges
- 47. British Air Aces
- 49. Large, influential bank
- 50. Portended
- 52. Cavalry-sword

X CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20					21			
					22					23			24
25	26	27			28			29			30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36					37		38			39			40
	41				42				43		44		
49	50			51				52			53		
54			55				56				57	58	59
60							61				62		
63							64				65		
66							67				68		

- 53. Vaccine developer
- 55. Napoleonic Wars general
- 56. Italian Seaport
- 57. Hip joint

- 58. ___ Clapton, musician
- 59. Insect repellent
- 61. Decorative scarf
- 65. Delaware

Announcements

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OBITUARY



Joseph Gerald Des Lauriers

Peacefully at his home, on Saturday, December 23, 2023, Gerry passed away at the age of 85.

He was an active man who loved his family, gardening and baking. He was well known for giving away all the produce he grew in his large garden as well as his delicious baking to his family, neighbours and friends. He was a proud honorary life member of the Morden Volunteer Fire Department.

He leaves to mourn his wife Juliette, daughters Jeannette Labossiere and Denise (Jamie) Hartry. His grandchildren Wesley (Cindy) Labossiere, Brittany (Justin) Fehr, Blake (Jenny) Hartry; great-grandchildren Hayden Hockin, Brady and Dylan Labossiere, Miller and Van Hartry and Smith Fehr. His siblings, Rene Des Lauriers, Patricia Regnier, Doreen (Gilles) Prefontaine, Edna (Archie) McRae, Irene (Eugene) Kogan, sisters-in-law Therese

Vielfaure and Florence Bergeron as well as many nieces and nephews.

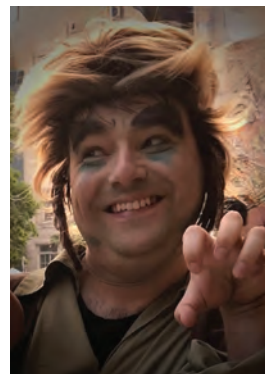
He was predeceased by his parents Emilie and Gaspard Des Lauriers, granddaughter Stacey, son-in-law Romeo, and sister Rita.

Funeral service was held on December 29, 2023 at 2:00 at Doyle's Funeral Home in Carman. Cremains will be interred at a later date at the Greenwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Boundary Trails Foundation Building Expansion. Box 2000, Station Main, Winkler, MB, R6W 1H8.

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

OBITUARY



Daniel Robert Gilmour

July 3, 1985 -

December 18, 2023

We are devastated to announce the sudden and unexpected death of Daniel Robert Gilmour at 38 years of age.

Daniel was born in Winkler, Manitoba to Penny and Gary Gilmour. He grew up there, attending Garden Valley Collegiate where he played badminton and performed in school

plays. Upon graduation, he moved to Winnipeg, attending the University of Manitoba and Red River College, where he discovered his two greatest passions: acting and Early Childhood Education.

While at university, Daniel took a part-time job at Royal School Daycare, and found his calling. He studied Early Childhood Education at Red River College, returning to Royal School Daycare and shortly thereafter moving to Campus Children's Centre. His work migrated at the same time from school age to preschool, winding up with supervision of three rooms of two-year olds. Always ready to do whatever was needed, and able to relate well with children of any age, Dan was a favourite for many of his charges. Daniel formed many good friendships with his co-workers, with parents of the children attending, and, of course, with countless kids throughout the years.

While attending University of Manitoba, Daniel joined the Black Hole Theatre Company, initiating his lifelong passion for performing. Through productions at the Fringe Festival, Master Playwright Festival, Merlyn Productions, Winnipeg Mennonite Theatre, BS Comedy Players, and many others, Daniel built strong friendships with many in the Winnipeg theatre community. His easy stage presence and impeccable comedic timing made him a gifted and natural storyteller. Daniel was at his happiest when performing, and was grateful for the community and opportunity offered through local theatre.

Daniel was always true to himself, bringing his kindness, wit, and sense of humour to every situation, whether it be 2-year-old snack time, taking on the role of an ogre in a stage production of Puss in Boots, or playing Super Smash Brothers with his niece. Daniel always took the time to regale his co-workers, friends, and family with stories.

Daniel is survived by his parents Gary and Penny, sister Lisa (Neil), beloved niece Madelyn, sister Claire (Travis), extended family, and his found family of Early Childhood Educators and the Winnipeg theatre community.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that you consider donating in Daniel's memory to either the Winnipeg Humane Society or RRC Polytech where contributions will be directed to support students in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program.

A funeral service is being held at Peace Lutheran Church, 350 Gilmore Ave. on January 6 at 11 a.m. Following this, the family invites everyone to a Celebration of Life at 2 p.m. at the Caboto Centre, 1055 Wilkes Ave.

OBITUARY



Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Dueck

(née Hamm)

1959 – 2023

Elizabeth Ann was born to John J and Aganetha Hamm on December 31, 1959 in Winkler. She was raised in a Christian home in the village of Friedensruh. It was during these early years that she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour and developed a life of faith that she held to throughout her life. She was baptised in 1977 at the Reinland Mennonite Church in Winkler. On September 2, 1979, Betty Ann was married to the love of her life, Abe Dueck. Together, they made their home in Winkler. They were blessed with two children: their son, Jonathan in 1994 and their daughter, Joanna in 1997.

Abe and Betty Ann journeyed together through life for 44 years, 3 months, and 21 days. She worked as a receptionist, office manager, bookkeeper, and administrative secretary. After the birth of her children, she changed careers to become a full-time mother. She enjoyed motherhood, embracing every opportunity to be involved in their schooling. She was also involved with children through 20 years of children's ministry, teaching Sunday School classes and serving on the church Education Board. She had a passion for children's ministry, saying that she "did it with [her] whole heart". Betty Ann's other interests were in music, reading, spending time with family and friends, travelling, camping, nature, and spending an annual summer week at a cottage. In July 2022, she was diagnosed with endometrial cancer and began chemotherapy. After surgery, she resumed chemotherapy, completing her treatments in March 2023. She celebrated good reports and cherished life as it returned to normal. In October it was determined that there was a recurrence. She started chemo again, but after two treatments she became too ill to remain at home. She was hospitalised on November 13. After doctors determined that she was not well enough to continue with chemotherapy, she was placed in palliative care on November 28. Betty Ann passed away on December 22, 2023 at 7:10 a.m. with her husband and children at her side.

She leaves to mourn her passing her beloved husband, Abe, son, Jonathan and daughter, Joanna. She is survived by two sisters, one brother, one sister-in-law and their families.

She was predeceased by her oldest brother, John, her mother, Aganetha, her father, John J and her nephew, Michael.

Betty Ann lived a life of surrender to God, exemplified by the gracious way she served others and the countless acts of selflessness.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 28, 2023 at the Winkler EMMC with interment prior at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

Donations may be made in Betty Ann's memory to Compassion Canada or to the BTHC Foundation designated to Palliative Care or CancerCare.

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



OBITUARY



Emma Juliana Baumgart

(nee Figur)

1928 – 2023

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear mother, Emma Baumgart, on Thursday, December 21, 2023 at Boundary Trails Health Centre at the age of 95 years.

She is lovingly remembered by her four daughters: Esther (Gordon) Sawka, Elaine (Arnold) Hundt, Sharna Baumgart, Charlotte (Glen) Didyk; two sons: Lloyd (Shyrol) Baumgart and Charles (Donni) Baumgart; four grandchildren: Kaleigh Bergen, Courtney Baumgart, Jonathan Baumgart, Rhylee Didyk and their families of five great-grandchildren as well as her sister, Erna Andersson.

Emma was predeceased by her loving husband, William Baumgart (2008), grandson, Kelly Sawka and brothers: Berthold, William, Edwin and sisters: Elona, Bertha, Theodora and Elfrieda.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 29, 2023 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Winkler with interment at Chapel Cemetery, Morden.

Special thanks to the doctors, surgeons, medical nursing staff and health care aides for all their loving care given to Mom. The Baumgart family would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Emma's memory are gratefully accepted and can be made to the Trinity Lutheran Church, 1111 Southview Dr., Winkler, MB R6W 1A4.

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



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OBITUARY



**Peter Hildebrand
1934 - 2023**

Peter Hildebrand, a devoted husband, father and friend, peacefully passed away on December 14, 2023 at the age of 89. Born on February 1, 1934, on the family farm near Schanzenfeld, MB Peter was the second eldest child of Jacob and Helena Hildebrand.

Peter is survived by his loving wife, Margaret; their children, Randy (Kathy), Joanne (Cliff), Garry (Joanne), Brian (Joyce), Denise (Dan), Jeff (Val), and Janice (Darrel); grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a host of extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Jacob and Helena, his brother Jake, sister Liz, sister Helen and son-in-law Bernie Fehr.

Funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at the Winkler EMMC with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

The family wishes to express gratitude to the staff at the Boundary Trails Health Centre for their caring attention during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to Winkler and District Food Cupboard where Dad was a volunteer.

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



OBITUARY



John Neustaeter

John Neustaeter, 73 of Altona formerly of Gretna, passed away on December 8 at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

He is survived by his wife Judi, children Robin and Jon and his partner Beckie, and grandchildren Tabitha, Paisley and Rylan, and his family Cornie and Kathy, Pete and Julie, Tina and Edward, George and Yvonne, Henry and Karla, and Linda and Harry, and their families, along with Judi's family Jennifer, Jack and Rita, Charlotte and Bruce, and their families.

He joins his parents Jake and Katherine Neustaeter and brother Jake, parents-in-law Abe and Olga Wiebe and two brothers-in-law.

A celebration of life was held for John on December 15 at the Neuberghal Commons Barn for family and friends.

John's family are grateful to the nurses and doctors at Boundary Trails Hospital, especially the nurses at CancerCare. Also, thank you for the hugs, prayers, visits, food and assistance in many ways. Thank you to Karen and Kim of the Neuberghal Heritage Foundation, and to Trevor and Wiebe Funeral Home Altona.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Altona
in care of arrangements

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Todd The Coin Guy
250-864-3521

PUBLIC NOTICE

**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:

**CITY OF MORDEN BY-LAW 17-2023 Being an AMENDMENT
to the CITY OF MORDEN ZONING BY-LAW 08-2017**

HEARING: Morden Civic Centre
LOCATION: 195 Stephen St., Morden, MB
DATE: January 22nd, 2024
TIME: 7:00 pm
From: "CR" Community Reserve
To: "I" Institutional

AREA:
part SE 07-3-5
1200 Wardrop Street,
Morden, MB

As shown outlined in red lines on the map attached here to as Schedule "A" and forming part of this by-law.

INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jose Yanez, Planning Development Officer
133 7th Street, Morden, MB. R6M 1V3
Phone: (204) 822-2567

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




Biz Cards
Call
467-5836

Counselling services
Call anytime.
Phone Dorothy Hill
204-712-0250

REGISTRATION

Western School Division
Kindergarten Registration for September 2024

In order for the schools to prepare for the 2024-2025 school year, it is important that parents register their children for Kindergarten from January 22 to January 26, 2024. Additional information is available at www.westernsd.mb.ca

Registrations may be completed and submitted electronically, or a registration package can be picked up at the school and returned between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from January 22 to January 26, 2024. Children born in 2019 or earlier are eligible to enrol. All parents shall include a copy of a document to identify their child's birth date, such as a birth certificate, with the registration.

Please enrol at the school within whose catchment area your residence is located. For Kindergarten program and registration information, please call the schools directly.

Catchment areas are:
Minnewasta School
1 Academy Drive, Mr. Geoff Sutton, Principal, 204-822-4580
• English program only. All rural. Within the city, all areas south of South Railway St. as well as the area south of Hwy 3 and west of Mountain St.

Maple Leaf Elementary School
225 12th Street, Ms. Cindy Dick, Principal, 204-822-4458
• English program only. Within the city, the area north of North Railway St. and east of Mountain St.

École Discovery Trails
1079 Parkhill Drive, Mr. Samuel Jerema, Principal, 204-822-4448
• All French Immersion. English program students residing north of Hwy 3 and west of Mountain St.

Kindergarten Information Session
Western School Division will be holding a Kindergarten Parent Information session on January 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Maple Leaf School. We look forward to seeing all the new Kindergarten parents on this evening.

More detailed information is available online at www.westernsd.mb.ca, at the schools, or at Western School Division Office, 204-822-4448.

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> MEAL IDEAS



BLT Wraps with Avocado Spread

- 4 large red leaf lettuce leaves
- 2 large tomatoes, cut into 1/4-inch slices

Spanish rice (optional)
banana peppers (optional)

In large skillet, cook bacon until crispy. Drain on plate lined with paper towels. Set aside.

In medium bowl, mash avocado, sour cream, lime juice, hot sauce, Worcestershire sauce and salt with fork until combined and smooth.

Spread thin layer of avocado mixture over tortillas. Layer with lettuce leaves, tomatoes and bacon. Fold sides up and roll.

Serve with Spanish rice and banana peppers, if desired.

Servings: 4

- 8 slices bacon
- 1 avocado, peeled and pitted
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 lime, juice only
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 flour tortillas



Roasted Cauliflower and Potato Spinach Salad

- 1 package (8 ounces) Fresh Express French Blue Cheese Salad Kit
- Heat oven to 425 F.

In large bowl, toss cauliflower florets with 2 tablespoons olive oil. Sprinkle with 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning and 1/4 teaspoon salt; mix well. Arrange in single layer on sheet pan.

Bake cauliflower 30-40 minutes, tossing once halfway through, until tender and lightly charred. Cool.

In bowl, toss potatoes with remaining olive oil. Sprinkle with remaining Italian seasoning and salt; mix well. Arrange in single layer on sheet pan.

Bake potatoes 20 minutes until tender and lightly browned. Cool.

Place greens from salad kit in large bowl; add roasted vegetables. Drizzle with dressing from salad kit; mix well. Top with croutons and blue cheese from salad kit.

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 40 minutes
Servings: 4

- 1 small head cauliflower, cut into florets
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1 pound fingerling potatoes, quartered



Strawberry Oatmeal Smoothie

- 14 frozen strawberries
- 1 cup soy milk
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

In blender, grind oats. Add banana, strawberries, soy milk, sugar and vanilla extract then blend until smooth. Pour into glass or to-go container and serve.

- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1 banana

Canada's Food Guide cheat sheet



Fitness and Nutrition expert and Pro Trainer Julie Germaine Coram with daughter Amelia.

By Julie Germaine Coram

Happy New Year! It's January, the most popular month of the entire year for gyms... and fad diets. I'm here to help you avoid falling victim to the latest nutrition trends by highlighting top tips from Canada's official food guide, which provides dietary recommendations for healthy individuals over the age of two.

Visit my blog (link below) to read the entire guide, but here are the most important elements to factor into your daily diet:

1. Fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables.

A healthy eating pattern must include a variety of nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables. This is an excellent way to obtain fibre, vitamins, and minerals, and there is no excuse when it comes to choosing one – after all, there are so many options with different flavours, textures and colours! A few of my favourites are raspberries, avocado, and cauliflower. Dark green vegetables are also important because they contain calcium and folate. I love to make kale chips (see my website for the recipe – yummy!), and broccoli in a vegetable medley.

When it comes to fruit, you can eat fresh, frozen, canned or dried, but avoid those with too much added sugar or sodium. You can refer to the food labels to help you with this, remember that 15 per cent or more is considered to be a lot.

2. Eat protein foods with every meal, aiming for about a quarter of your plate.

Recommended 'protein foods' now encompasses lean meat products, like beef and chicken, as well as

seafoods, lower fat dairy products, eggs, nuts and seeds, beans/peas/lentils, and even fortified soy beverages. This illustrates that even vegetarians can follow these guidelines and easily consume the required protein for optimal health.

3. Choose whole grain foods, rather than refined carbohydrates, to make up the remaining 1/4 of each meal.

When a food is processed, some parts of the grain are taken out, reducing its overall nutritional content. Whole grain pasta, quinoa, oatmeal, and wild rice are excellent for you, and (no surprise here) it is best to limit your intake of baked goods, sugary cereals, and frozen dishes as much as possible.

4. Reach for water first, every day, all throughout the day.

Remember that healthy eating doesn't just refer to the foods you chose to eat regularly. Being mindful of your habits when it comes to food, preparing your own meals, enjoying your food with others, and taking time to savour each meal can lead you and your family to create good relationships with food and live well.

Do you have questions for me related to your 2024 health goals? Please reach out, I love to support my readers and am here to help.

Julie Germaine Coram; Certified Nutrition Coach, Registered Personal Trainer, 2x International Pro Fitness Champion. Coach Julie has helped thousands of men and women improve their health since 2005. Visit juliegermaine.com or www.calendly.com/juliegermaine