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VOLUME 2 EDITION 2

THURSDAY,
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New officer for Altona PD

Altona Police Chief Dan Defer (right) welcomed Tristan Fournier-Jones to the team as the community's newest police constable last week. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

ALTONA POLICE SERVICE PHOTO

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getinformed

Altona welcomes new police constable

By Lori Penner

The Altona Police Service recently welcomed a new member to their team.

Tristan Fournier-Jones joined the service last week, bringing the department's contingent of constables up to five.

Chief Dan Defer says the position became available after a series of promotions within the department following last fall's retirement of former Chief Perry Batchelor.

"I took Perry's place. Corporal Shawn Tarnick then took my place and moved up to sergeant, and one

of our current constables will be promoted to corporal, so Tristan will be filling his spot."

Defer says they received a good number of applications for the position, but Fournier-Jones stood out.

"Our preference was for a trained officer because of timing. There was only a couple of applicants that qualified as trained officer. Recruit training takes about a year, and we wanted someone who could start working with us right away.

"Tristan was ready to go, passed our background check and also comes to us with a fair bit of experience in policing."



ALTONA POLICE SERVICE PHOTO

Tristan Fournier-Jones signs the official documents to become Altona's newest police constable.

Defer says they were also looking for somebody who was interested in working and living in a smaller community.

"We wanted someone who understands and appreciates life in a small town, what southern Manitoba is and isn't, and is looking for this kind of rural lifestyle. Tristan and his wife are originally from a very small rural community in the Steinbach area, so they're already familiar with what that is like. In fact, Altona might just be one of the larger communities he's lived in."

Fournier-Jones comes to the department with previous experience as a probation officer and as a serving police officer at a detachment in Western Manitoba. He says he was excited to join the Altona Police Service.

"I was made aware of the job posting, and I was eager to apply," he says. "My wife and I have moved to the community, and it's been good so far. It's a great place to raise a family, and there are lots of positive things

available in the community.

"It's nice to have that small town living, but then also be perfectly located so that if you need some other amenities, it's not too far away to drive. This is something that I've been used to before, so that makes it feel like home."

He is the first member of his family to choose a career in policing.

"We've always been in the farming industry or other things like education. I kind of took the unbeaten path. It's been an interest of mine for a long time.

"My work in justice was always working towards a goal. Policing was that goal for me. I had multiple jobs that were always related to the justice field and with my education, it kind of led me here."

He adds that he is looking forward to developing relationships within the department and the community at large.

"I am really looking forward to being a part of this community and getting to know everybody."

"I AM REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING A PART OF THIS COMMUNITY AND GETTING TO KNOW EVERYBODY."

NEW YEAR, NEW PROGRAMS

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The Altona & Area Recreation Office has released the schedule for 2023 Winter/Spring Recreation Programs.

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Winkler moves ahead with optimism: Siemens

By Ashleigh Viveiros

There were certainly no shortages of challenges in 2022 for Winkler, but Mayor Henry Siemens is proud of how the community weathered them all to end the year riding on a wave of optimism for the future.

Siemens sat down with the *Voice* last week to reflect on the year that was and chat about what's to come for the city in the months ahead.

He recalled the start of 2022 was anything but smooth, with pandemic restrictions (and the controversy surrounding them) still in full force amidst what had been a very long winter.

"It was the winter that never ended. It just seemed to keep coming and coming and coming," he said, recalling the April storm that dumped heavy snow on the region and helped set the stage for the major spring flooding that followed.

Just a few weeks later, the excessive water flow damaged a culvert in Winkler's south dike and threatened to flood into the nearby residential areas.

Those neighbourhoods narrowly avoided evacuation orders after emergency teams, city staff, and volunteers leapt into action to pump out the rising water and repair the damage.

That successful response is a point of pride for Siemens.

"I think one of the things that really came for me out of that was how good city staff have been at planning for these kinds of significant events," he said. "Every time we do a planning piece, we always look at one-in-100 year, one-in-50 year types of scenarios.

"When I look at the dike system and how we protected Winkler in that tremendous rain event, it was a really good response," Siemens continued. "It made me proud of the fact that we have people here who were prepared to put that information in front of council, and that council, previous

councils of course, had invested into that [planning] and helped make the situation in Winkler less concerning than it was in some other places. Some of it is certainly a factor of location, but definitely there was also a factor of preparedness, of being ready for it. I think that was something that stood out."

Pulling together to face adversity and get things done has long been a hallmark of Winkler, Siemens said, and the fall election showed that the community is perhaps not as divided as it was thought to be during the height of the pandemic.

"It was gratifying to see the community show up to vote, to show up to vote and say, 'We want to move on. We want to build relationships, we want to rebuild community, we want to move forward,'" said Siemens, who won 87 per cent of the vote against fellow mayoral candidate Karl Krebs, a vocal critic of public health restrictions and a proponent of Winkler becoming a "sanctuary city" where

such restrictions would not be enforced.

COVID-19 remains a serious strain on the health care system, Siemens said, but "the idea of it being needing to be a divisive topic is kind of fading to the background. People are recognizing that we can think differently ... we can disagree on topics, but we can still work together, we can still stand beside each other and get stuff done. That was one of the really big things that came out of that."

There were plenty of other positives to the year, the mayor reflected, including finally getting to see the Meridian Exhibition Centre—which opened mid-pandemic—operating at full capacity.

"We had hockey games and skating rentals and 1,200-person banquets all happening on the same day," he said. "There's so much life there all the time."

Another highlight was seeing the

Central Station Community Centre settle into its new, larger home on Main St.

"I'm extremely proud of Central Station," Siemens shared. "They work with most of the other providers in our area to be able to be an effective social safety net, and they do amazing work."

WHAT'S TO COME

Looking to the year ahead, Winkler has a lot of work to do if it going to continue growing as it has in recent years.

Chief among them is getting the long-awaited wastewater treatment project off the ground.

Winkler and the RM of Stanley had a plan—and major federal and provincial funding—all ready to go, but skyrocketing construction costs forced them to pull the plug and re-assess what the municipalities can afford to do in the current economic climate.

Siemens is confident he'll have good news soon on that front.

"I think we have something that we're going to be able to move forward with shortly," he said, noting city staff have been working hard on a revised project that will still meet the community's long-term needs. "We are narrowing in on an approach and we are having regular conversations with the province on that to make sure it will meet regulatory requirements."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens says there are great things ahead for Winkler in 2023 and beyond, and he and council are eager to get to work on making them happen.

The mayor stressed the new plan is not temporary solution.

"We're building to a population level, so that piece isn't going to change," he said. "It will be a different project than we had hoped, but we're not going to scale it down to try to put a band-aid on the problem. We'll find a way to get that growth factor needed or to be able to build out to that place without shortchanging it.

"One of the worst things we can possibly do is to take this \$50 million+ dollar project and say we're going to have a only 10-year solution. That

Continued on page 6

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Winkler Arts and Culture welcomes new exec. director

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Arts and Culture's new executive director feels like she's been preparing for this job for years.

Alesha Hildebrand is eager to bring all her administra-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Alesha Hildebrand is Winkler Arts and Culture's new executive director. She's bringing a lot of passion and ideas to the role.

tive know-how, people skills, and connections in the community to bear as the new head of the arts centre.

"My family's been into music and arts most of our lives," says Hildebrand, who stepped into the role last month. "I knew an opportunity like this doesn't come along all the time, so I figured I should jump at it."

Hildebrand's background includes working at Gateway Resources as its community learning manager and, more recently, as the office manager and volunteer and integration coordinator at Regional Connections Immigrant Services.

She feels those years spent working with a varied group of community members will serve her in good stead moving forward.

"Bringing those experience in being in the community and seeing the importance an organization like Winkler Arts and Culture has on the community and the individuals who live here is important," she says. "Understanding acceptance

in the community from the lens of newcomers and people with disabilities is important.

"I feel like I've worked really hard over the years to prepare myself for a position like this," Hildebrand continues, noting her involvement with events like CultureFest have certainly equipped her with the skills to host large-scale community events that embrace the diversity of the area. "We have so much local talent that needs a place to be showcased."

She comes to the job "with a fresh vision and a fresh look at things" and is putting out an open call to the community to let her know what they want to see at *their* arts and culture centre.

"Right now it's all about assessing what the community wants," Hildebrand stresses. "I'm hoping that the community will respond and say we want to see this or maybe this has been missing and we should enhance our efforts here."

"If you have ideas for this space, come talk to me. If you have a talent and you feel it's never been shared, never been included in a place like this, I want to hear about it. It can be anything from videography to mixed media, or maybe it's a cultural skill that you have from your home country you'd like to share. The door's open. Just come and stop in."

In the weeks and months ahead, Hildebrand intends to see the gallery offer more after-school programming for kids as well as classes and

workshops for adults.

They're also going to be open more evenings (Thursday and Friday nights starting next week) for what Hildebrand hopes will be a growing array of social gatherings: book clubs, board game nights, bingo, music coffeehouses, and more.

"Being able to bring some more cultural aspects to Winkler Arts and Culture, that's a big piece that I want to build," she says, sharing her dreams of organizing events that really shine a spotlight on the growing diversity of the Winkler area. "There's a whole lot of celebrations that happen around the world all through the year—Diwali, Kwanza, Ukrainian Christmas, Ramadan ... being able to share that with the community, beyond CultureFest once a year, is something I hope to do."

"I want to bring in more of the community engagement, the social atmosphere that was always so popular before COVID. To be able to breath

some life into that again will be important," Hildebrand says. "You should be able to come in here, whether you're six or 60, and be able to say, 'There's something for me here.'"

WAC board chair Ray Derksen says they are thrilled to welcome Hildebrand to the position.

"Alesha has brought great attitude, ambition, good work ethic, and passion," he says, noting "her connections are already paying off."

"IF YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR THIS SPACE, COME TALK TO ME ... THE DOOR'S OPEN."

COMING UP AT THE GALLERY

Next up on the walls of the main gallery is WAC's annual Rental Exhibit Jan. 16-27, featuring work from local artists that are available for businesses to rent for the year.

The program has been around for some time now, but Hildebrand hopes more "business leaders will see the value of local art and photography and be willing to put that up in their offices" instead of a generic piece of mass-produced art.

"Why not take that money—and often a lot less—and use it to rent local art and put it in your facility and now your business just looks that much better, supporting local?" she says, noting prices start at just \$30 per piece for the year

Stop by the gallery to see what work is available or contact Hildebrand at admin@winklerarts.com for more details.

Also this month, the gallery has its next Back 40 Coffeehouse Jan. 20, the first session of an eight-week introduction to drawing class starting Jan. 21, and the next Brew N' Books Book Club meeting Jan. 26.

You can stay up to date on what's going on at Winkler Arts and Culture on its social media pages or website (winklerarts.com).

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"For the year ahead, there's going to be a lot of direction setting"

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is in a good place as one of the fastest growing communities in the province, but that of course brings myriad challenges to keep pace.

Mayor Brandon Burley touched on some of those challenges as well as successes and priorities as Morden aims to keep moving ahead.

"For the year ahead, there's going to be a lot of direction setting. There's some appetite as well to look at some policies and some things that probably need to be updated," Burley noted in a recent year-end interview.

"Delivering a strategic plan that sets the direction and vision for where we are going is going to be a big step forward," he said. "And I think, at the end of the day, what we're going to find is that it's a lot of that nuts and bolts foundation work that needs to be done to accommodate growth."

There was cause for celebration early in 2022 when census figures ranked Morden among the fastest growing communities in the province over the previous five years. The results placed Morden's growth at 14.5 per cent with an increase from 8,668 residents in 2016 to 9,929 last year, making the community the eighth largest in the province.

"We became the fastest growing city in Manitoba, second fastest growing community outside of the Winni-

peg metropolitan area," said Burley. "There's a lot of factors that contribute to that success, not only with the efforts of council and employees but also community partners, businesses and different organizations.

"It also brings a lot of challenges," continued Burley, who put finding a solution to dealing with wastewater as the most urgent priority for council.

"It's no small secret that in the last year and a half we've been back at the drawing board with wastewater ... that has been a significant part of the work that we have tried to undertake as a city," he said. "We started by looking at which methods are available to us, how can we solve this problem, and we kept all the trains on the track until they ran out of track.

"In January, we are looking at all three options that are available to us and making a decision based on not only initial capital cost but also long term operating cost, environmental impact, and engineering assessment as well.

"This is the key problem that we have to solve for long term growth," stressed Burley. "We currently have

capacity for about 300 more residential hookups, and we're looking at about a hundred a year, so we know we have about two and a half years of capacity to go.

"We intend to meet that target ahead of time. We can't go into a position like we were a couple years ago where it just wasn't managed well enough, and development was shut down."

Burley went on to note there are a variety of considerations that come into play in facing the challenges and pressures that comes with enabling continued growth right now.

"The cost of growth is pricey, and you try to manage the cost of growth by not saddling current ratepayers with the cost of that growth.

"People who are using services should be paying for those services," he continued.

"What we've tried to do as a council, as much as possible, is ensure we are not front loading current taxpayers with tomorrow's costs. I think that's fair.

"And the scale of everything that we do changes as well with growth. It's kind of an awkward 'tween' stage where the city is big enough for certain challenges but not entirely prepared for them. So trying to address and get ahead of those problems and mature, I guess, as an organization is the challenge we are going to face in the next four years."

Another factor to consider now is the impact of the cost of inflation.

"We've been able to, over the last four years, bring in budgets that were below the rate of inflation simply because of changes in management directions and things like that," Burley said. "But I don't know that we're in a position now where we have enough excess or fat in the organization that that's going to be a long term solution.

"If our goal now is to help defray household costs in taxation during a high rate of inflation or market recession like we have now, then we have to look at our capital ambitions. But the problem we face now is that if we don't do it today, we're going to end up having to do two things tomorrow."

Burley highlighted a few things which he sees as having been key accomplishments both last year and over the previous four-year council term.

"Our organizational stability is the

"DELIVERING A STRATEGIC PLAN THAT SETS THE DIRECTION AND VISION FOR WHERE WE ARE GOING IS GOING TO BE A BIG STEP FORWARD."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Mayor Brandon Burley says Morden will develop a strategic plan to help the community continue to grow.

thing I think needs the most highlighting," he said. "We're now extremely stable in terms of our administration. We have all our key staff positions filled; financials are completely up-to-date ... and we've started to undertake the planning and forward-looking policy studies that will inform our growth."

That greater level of planning is evident in things like the parks and urban forestry master plan, for example, and Burley sees more coming out of the upcoming strategic planning session for council.

"We also have to work aggressively at asset management planning and doing it in a cohesive way rather than on a piecemeal basis," he added. "If we can better predict where our expenses will be, we will reduce unpredictability not only for the city but for ratepayers as well."

Burley also reflected on the unexpected challenges associated first with an extreme drought and then significant flooding.

"It was a strange combination of things," he said. "The drought offered a strange opportunity to really look at the long term water strategies for the City of Morden."

The city has stabilized the situation for the immediate future through its water agreements with the Pembina Valley Water Co-op, but it also needs to look longer term, including a study examining the feasibility of a water diversion project on the Pembina River.

Our big winners



We got the chance to deliver the prizes to our Christmas Writing Contest winners just before the holidays. Morden Gr. 4 student Anjulia St-Jean (left) won the K-4 division for her story "The Hot Chocolate Catastrophe." Winning the Gr. 5-8 category was Winkler Gr. 7 student Emery Friesen for "Arctic Hot Chocolate." The girls won gift certificates to the local movie theatre. Enjoy!

The Voice



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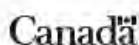
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BTHC 50/50 brings in over \$100,000

Carla Peters was the lucky recipient of nearly \$58,000 as the winner of the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation's 50/50 fundraising raffle. Presenting the cheque was executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett, who was ecstatic to see the campaign smash its record by bringing in nearly \$116,000, with half going to support the hospital. The jackpot has grown steadily every year since its first in 2019 when the pot reached over \$38,000. Last year, the total pot was over \$58,000

SUBMITTED PHOTO



"I think optimism is the biggest thing we have"

From Pg. 3

doesn't fix the problem."

City staff are also developing two other major capital projects: increased drinking water capacity and renovations to the aging Winkler Centennial Arena.

"We're lucky in the fact that we're a partner in the Pembina Valley Water Co-op, so that helps in that there's a greater strategy for water for the entire region," Siemens said, noting Winkler is looking to build for the future with this in-the-works water expansion project.

When it comes to the modernizing the arena, Winkler has secured \$8 million from the federal government and is hoping to hear back soon from the Province of Manitoba about how much it might be willing to chip in.

"We're optimistic that we're going to get it," Siemens said, noting they've requested \$5 million from Manitoba's new Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund. "Last we've heard from the province is that they're still evaluating, but one of the things that gives me quite a bit of hope is that they've reached out a number of times with specific questions of our staff, which lead us to believe that our application is being seriously considered."

Beyond these big-ticket projects, there are, of course, other issues that need to be addressed in Winkler in the years ahead, including the growing need for more affordable housing and finding ways to attract more people to the area to fill the many vacant jobs.

"There's still loads of unfilled jobs in this area. So we continue to work on that," Siemens said, noting they're working with the Winkler Stanley Economic Development Corporation and the Province of Manitoba on that front. "We've got to find ways to bring more people here."

City council is just a few weeks away from holding its annual planning session, where many of these impending projects and challenges will be discussed ahead of drafting the new

budget.

"We have a significant number of things to deal with there. A lot of it are the progress of these major projects," Siemens said, stressing the need to move ahead on infrastructure spending while also ensuring council is saving for the future.

And that future is a bright one, he stressed.

"I think optimism is the biggest thing we have. We have an amazing community that finds solutions to problems," he said, lauding City of Winkler staff for the dedication and care they put into planning for the community's growth and ensuring Winkler is "in a really good position as a city to be able to step into the opportunities that are coming."

> BURLEY, FROM PG. 5

"We have the capacity now for growth, but we want to look beyond the next 10 years and into 20 to 40 years from now and try to begin to address the challenges that are going to be faced there."

For Burley, it all ties into building greater climate resiliency for the City of Morden.

"Diversification is going to be key to stability for us because there is not a lot of water in the watershed to go around, so we have to look at other sources," he said. "And the challenges we are going to face as a result of climate and environment are only going to get worse as time goes on now."

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



Lights of the Week winners

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Five Morden properties were honoured over the past month for showing Christmas spirit with City of Morden Lights of the Week honours. The winners included (clockwise from above) Dale and Teresa Maksymic at 145 Conner Hill Drive, Levi Wiens and Elite Crushing on Willcocks Road, Richard and Michelle Faucher at 43 Valleyfield Drive, Debbie and Dennis Korne at 353 12th Street, and Matt and Shallon Oleschak 18 Athens Bay. Each winner received a wreath award sponsored by Morden Nurseries and Garden Centre.



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Morden's 'Still Standing' episode airs on CBC next week

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden has a starring role in next week's episode of the hit CBC series *Still Standing*.

Hosted by actor and comedian Jonny Harris, the *Still Standing* episode revolving around Morden will air on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 8 p.m. on CBC TV. It will also be available to watch anytime on the free CBC Gem streaming service.

It is the result of the show having spent five days in Morden this past fall. After immersing himself in the lives of local people and unearthing tales in the community, Harris delivered an original stand-up comedy routine at the Kenmor Theatre as a toast to the city.

"Morden really turned out ... it's looking terrific ... it had a lot of different stuff happening ... there was a lot to cover there," Harris recalled during a recent interview. "I think Morden is going to be a good one. I was really pleased with how the episode turned out. I think it's going to be great."

Still Standing follows Harris as he sets off across the country, veering off the main highway to discover the hidden comedy in Canada's far-flung small towns.

From coast to coast, the series showcases Canada's vast beauty and highlights the country's unique and diverse characters, and season eight sees Harris embark on the ultimate cross-country road trip that will include stops from Ucluelet, B.C. to

Wabush, NL and everywhere in between.

The Morden episode shows Canadians why the community is one of the fastest growing communities in Manitoba, featuring an immigration program that is the envy of small towns across the country, a booming industrial economy and a world-renowned collection of aquatic fossils to entice tourists.

The episode will also explore the extreme drought Morden experienced in 2021. The intensity of the drought and the prospect that it might happen again is highlighted as perhaps the only thing that could stunt Morden's growth.

"We're looking for survival stories. We're looking for towns that have overcome some struggle," said Harris, acknowledging though that Morden didn't exactly fit the show's usual mold.

"Morden was a little bit different for us because Morden is a growing community," he said. "There's an excellent immigration program in place, and people are moving there."

"The interesting thing with Morden of course was the drought a couple of years ago which was quite devastating ... much of southern Manitoba was experiencing this drought, but I think it was particularly bad in Morden and Winkler area.

"People were just really afraid they were going to run out of water altogether," said Harris, noting he was struck by how much the lake shrunk



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY BILL BIDIAQUE/CBC

Still Standing host Jonny Harris got the chance to see all the sights of Morden during his visit here last summer. The episode featuring the community airs on CBC next week Wednesday.

and evaporated as well as "the efforts people were making ... everybody's got a bucket under their faucet at home to save water so you can use it again.

"I heard that ... it was the first time since the '80s that you could see the island [in the middle of the lake]," he added. "It's like the opposite of a mirage; you think you're seeing land in the middle of the water."

Harris of course also visited the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre and enjoyed hearing the stories about the early founders who took it upon themselves to save these fossils, storing them in their basements and garages.

"I think that's going to be a big deal," he said. "The paleontological

world is discovering Morden as Morden discovers its own discoveries ... I think that's going to be a huge draw."

Morden is the latest in a number of Manitoba communities Harris has visited, with one show early on featuring Pilot Mound and highlighting its famous fundraising 'pinup' calendar with local community leaders posing in their environments.

"That calendar bit ... sometimes the comedy gods just drop one in your lap ... you could have done a whole set about that calendar alone," he recalled. "But also just that huge effort the community made to build that centre and move that rink."

It all serves as yet more examples of why *Still Standing* is a dream gig for Harris, who also stars in the long running CBC series *Murdoch Mysteries*.

"It's pretty great. It's an amazing way to see the country. It's quite the opportunity. It's a lot of work at times as well, but I hope to keep at it for another little while.

"My biggest worry when I started doing the show was that it would become a bit repetitive after the first few episodes, let alone first few seasons," Harris continued. "And really that hasn't been a problem at all. Every town, once you dig into it ... once you get knee deep and you find out the situation and what's going on and a slice of the history, every town really is unique and different."

It all makes for a busy schedule with not only *Still Standing* but *Murdoch Mysteries* now having been renewed yet again for 24 episodes, which is more than usual, noted Harris.

"It's sort of make hay while the sun shines," he said, noting he gets a break over the holidays and usually again around March.

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Altona mayor anticipates year of challenges and growth

By Lori Penner

Four months into his new role as mayor, Harv Schroeder is looking forward to tackling some of Altona's goals for the new year.

After three decades of working for the community's public works department, and four previous years on council, Schroeder is no stranger to facing challenges.

"The heavy snow we had last year, and the heavy flooding that followed showed the community how quickly and efficiently our public works team can respond," he said. "I'm proud of how the community supported them by following protocols that saved our sewer system from becoming overwhelmed. Everyone stepped up, and that was great to see."

Reflecting on some of last year's projects, Schroeder says the expansion of the Industrial Park was a highlight.

"There were a couple of lots for sale already on 14th Ave. and a few of them have been picked up."

The relocation of the Altona Library to the Altona Mall was another project he was pleased to see come to fruition.

"Again, we saw the community

shine, as so many either donated their funds or their time to help make that happen. It's a huge success story that we can all be proud of."

2022 also saw the Altona Fire Department add a foam truck to their emergency response arsenal.

"It's a great tool for our emergency services," Schroeder observed. "It only takes two people to run the truck and uses much less water at a scene. We're grateful to our fire chief Greg Zimmerman for initiating that."

The completion of the downtown drainage project was another huge accomplishment for the community.

"We made good use of the \$2.3 million from the province for that two-year project," Schroeder said. "This will be our first full summer with that system working and our hopes are that it will do what they said it will do. We managed to stay within budget, but some additional funding will be needed for the landscaping."

Community amenities have also been thriving, including Altona's Community Garden, which added a pavilion last summer.

"This is a real bonus for our town, especially for newcomers who can grow their own produce alongside other residents of our community. The plots

are expanding, there's wheelchair accessibility, and it's another great thing our ACAN group has been motivated to create."

Recreational additions last year include a picnic shelter at Ash Park and an upgrade to the basketball court there.

"You can tell that the community is taking good care of it," Schroeder noted. "It's a bonus when people step up like that. We hope to add washroom facilities there this summer."

A washroom and canteen area were also added to Access Field.

"This was initiated by volunteers, and they raised most of the money on their own. Another example of the incredible volunteerism in our town. This addition to the facility will also make it even more appealing to out-of-town teams and visitors."

While some COVID mandates were still in place for the first part of 2022, Schroeder says it was good to see people getting together again. Events such as the Canada Day celebrations, the Manitoba Sunflower Festival, sports tournaments, and the Night of Lights event were attended and enjoyed by many.

"It's great to see events resuming and to be out and about and meet



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder is keen to get to work on the many projects Altona has on its plate for 2023.

people again."

Since the municipal election last October, Schroeder says his calendar has quickly been filling up.

"January has already been busy for council. The last few months have been about organization and reorienting. Everybody's been placed on

Continued on page 15

Rhineland faces 2023 with ingenuity and versatility

By Lori Penner

Municipality of Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe says 2022 was a mixed bag of challenges and achievements for the region.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe says 2022 was a mixed bag of challenges and achievements for the region.

Heavy snow and rainfall early in the year challenged much of the infrastructure in the municipality, requiring clean-up and repair on many roads and crossings. The Border Road, in particular, took quite a beating.

"East of Gretna, there were about six sites that were threatened by the water," Wiebe says. "We worked with the flood mitigation people and that alone took over \$4 million to manage. So, we've been documenting all of that and we're putting in a claim with Disaster Financial Assistance."

In spite of the year's early challenges, the municipality was still able to move ahead on a few ongoing projects, including \$4.8 million in improvements to its Priority Grain Roads network.

"We just got going this year, and we started with the entrances to the industrial parks, the one north of Altona and the road at Rhineland West down Hwy. 14 on the boundary between Stanley and Rhineland," says Wiebe. "That half mile stretch, we were hoping to get the concrete on top of that, but it got too late, so that's

the first thing we'll do next spring."

Phase two of the project will see drain tile installed along some of the priority roads. Wiebe says they're already noticing a positive response, as development is already being discussed for some of the lots.

Last year, many old mechanical water meters in homes and businesses throughout Rhineland were replaced with new digital units that can be read remotely, saving administration time, and improving the accuracy of readings.

"It's been pretty good compliance," notes Wiebe. "We do have a few that have opted out for now."

In Plum Coulee, the landfill hit capacity and was decommissioned in 2022, with local waste now being routed to the Altona/Rhineland Landfill.

"You just can't build a small landfill site by today's standards," says Wiebe. "We knew this was coming down the road, so it was anticipated in the long-term planning."

Rhineland has also begun work in converting an old card box plant in

Plum Coulee into a new fire hall and public works shop for the town this coming year. As tenders came in far above anticipated costs, Wiebe says they had to revise the renovation plan to fit within the \$800,000 budget.

"This facility is big enough to house the fire hall, as well as two maintenance shops. We had tendered out the project, but it was just too expensive to add the mezzanine floor, meeting rooms, kitchen, and auxiliary room to the old building. So we decided it was more cost-effective to build an addition outside the building that could be engineered separately, that wouldn't have to comply with as many code restrictions, which added to the cost."

Economic development was also a success for the municipality in 2022. Building permits matched 2021 figures, and the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Project was extended.

"That's been really good, and we're getting some provincial recognition for that as a success story," Wiebe says.

Continued on page 15

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

Cdn. Fossil Discovery Centre lays out its plan for the future

Museum presents business plan for new location to local leaders

By Lorne Stelmach

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre (CFDC) is not only making its case for a new standalone building but believes it has a solid plan in place that will make it a reality.

The biggest challenge ahead will likely be finding some additional funding sources outside of the federal and provincial governments to help them move forward with what is estimated to be a \$39 million+ project to be located immediately south of the Access Event Centre in Morden.

After making a presentation of their business plan to local leaders recently, executive director Adolfo Cuetara maintained they believe they have a plan that is feasible for the near future.

"The last three years was kind of building a good foundation for it ... you need to create a solid foundation for it and work for the sustainability," he said. "It's going to be difficult obviously, but I think it's looking good so far. I think the province has huge support for this project. They are interested."

The plan at this point sees the new facility being supported with 35 per cent contributions from both the federal and provincial governments and the remaining 30 per cent from private donors and other sources.

"We want to get the first injection of money for the campaign from the province. It's easier to find other funders once you've gotten the first injection of money," noted Cuetara.

"The challenge is going to be the private part of the campaign. I am confident that the province and fed-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The new CFDC will be a \$39 million facility located immediately south of the Access Event Centre in Morden.

eral government will be supporting it," he continued. "We are moving in that direction ... we really want to start working in the direction of the new facility.

"I am thinking it's going to be a good year. I am hoping to have the first approval of funds in the first quarter of this year."

They see the project developing in three stages, beginning with the architectural and design work followed by construction of the building and then further planning and construction of the contents.

"Now we are in position to start a fundraising campaign. We have divided the overall project in three different phases, and we already have started to apply for funds for the first one," Cuetara said in his presentation. "We have applied already for provincial funds ... some interesting announcements will come out in early 2023, and the feedback for this project has been very good so far."

Cuetara laid out their case for a new standalone building that centred around how the CFDC is unique at both the national and international levels as well as how it is impacting the local economy.

He noted 75 per cent of their annual visitors are from outside the community. Currently, the museum draws nearly 7,500 visitors annually—a number that continues to grow every year.

And he noted how the CFDC has continued to build momentum even despite the impact of being shutdown through most of the pandemic.

It is increasingly bringing in federal and provincial grants. In fact, that funding has increased from over \$150,000 in 2020 to \$276,000 in 2021 and over \$504,000 in 2022.

"It is interesting that the CFDC achieved spectacular growth during its more challenging years, while most of the museums in Manitoba and Canada were struggling," Cuetara noted. "It is interesting to note that the centre did quite well during the pandemic, and even improved its economic situation ... that was not the case in most of the museums in Manitoba."

The CFDC also currently has the biggest endowment fund allocation under the Morden Area Foundation with \$1,916,377, Cuetara added.

He went on to address the question of location for the new building and why they turned away from an earlier plan to locate it near Lake Minnewashta. There would have been a number

of challenges there, he explained, including first needing to acquire private land and a new access road with nearly no existing services, and that was even aside from the issues related to being in a natural sensitive area.

"There was a lot of wishful thinking with the previous location ... it was not realistic ... we have to be very careful that it is feasible ... this location [on the event centre grounds] is meeting all of the requirements," he stressed.

There are, meanwhile, many reasons in favour of the location directly south of the Access Event Centre, including not only addressing the lack of space and visibility in the current facility in the building's basement but having a space ready for construction with easy access and available services and parking.

Cuetara sees the new building as being only big enough to accommodate functional spaces for exhibitions and experiences but still able to keep operational costs in a sustainable range.

"We already have all of the services and access ... it has to be inside the City of Morden," he said. "This is probably the only place possible ... so this is the right place. I think the Access Event Centre and the new facility are going to work really well together."

> STILL STANDING, FROM PG. 8

"By the time we finish shooting season 16 of *Murdoch*, I think I'll have done 14 of the 24, possibly 15."

He is content to soldier on with it all at least for the immediate future.

"If you ask me in a few months time, I might be pulling my hair out, complaining and ready to throw the towel in, but right now I could see it going for another couple years yet.

"People say when are you going to run out of small towns, but for every small town we do, there's a dozen nearby," Harris concluded. "You realize how spaced out the country is geographically, and once you're out of the big cities, it's just small town unrepeated ... I think when the show comes to an end, it won't be for running out of towns."



Newcomers celebrate Ukrainian Christmas

By Lorne Stelmach

Being able to come together Saturday for a traditional Ukrainian Christmas gathering was important to Olga Palatchenko.

Having been in Morden now for only three months after immigrating from the Ukraine capital of Kyiv, Palatchenko recognizes it was especially vital not only for the celebration but for the sense of community that comes with it.

"It's amazing for us. It's really important, and it's really helpful for us," she said following the event at the Parish of All Saints of the Ukrainian People at St. John's Catholic Church in Morden.

"It makes it feel like home. It's community. It's a good experience for us ... and we can support each other, and it's great to be together."

Palatchenko said it was an example of how welcoming and supportive the community has been overall.

"It's perfect ... it's perfect people ... I hope it will all be good here in time,"

she said.

Traditionally, Christmas in Ukraine starts Jan. 6—Christmas Eve in the Julian calendar—and it lasts until the Feast of Epiphany Jan. 19.

At the same time, more and more Ukrainians celebrate Christmas according to the Gregorian calendar on Dec. 25. Since 2017, both dates have been official state holidays in Ukraine.

A centre of the Christmas celebration in Ukraine of course is the Holy Supper. Christmas Eve is marked by traditional family gatherings in the evening, with 12 dishes served to symbolize the 12 apostles.

Traditionally, children prepare and perform 'vertep' performances, a drama which presents the nativity scene and other mystery plays. The gathering in Morden Saturday presented a variation where King Herod was likened to Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

A special guest at the event was Andriy Rabyi, who is an auxiliary bishop for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg. He noted how the



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Parish of All Saints of the Ukrainian People at St. John's Catholic Church in Morden hosted a Ukrainian Christmas celebration last weekend, marking the Orthodox holiday with skits and fellowship.

church can play a central role for people who have come to Manitoba from all parts of Ukraine.

"It's very difficult ... here, they certainly can find people who can easily relate, and they can help find a common language, so to speak."

"It's very important. Churches typically are those kind of outlets where

people can freely gather together to pray together, also to socialize, to find support of one another, exchange information. It's important emotional support for them because it is very difficult to be away from home," Rabyi said.

"They all came here with worries about their parents, relatives, friends, many of whom are actually fighting in the war or they are in the front zone. They need to find support over here to be able to deal with this emotional pressure and also be able to establish themselves here in the country because many of them are still thinking about their future and how they see it. "In our church, they can find the spiritual support and support in different ways in the community," said Rabyi.

"It's important when they come to Canada that they can find their own community, and it's not only about being Ukrainian," agreed local parish council president Kate Tykhonova



PVHS Strikes for Strays fundraiser returns Jan. 21

By Lorne Stelmach

A fundraiser in support of the Pembina Valley Humane Society is making its return this year.

The Pembina Valley Dental Strikes for Strays is back at VB's Entertainment Centre in Winkler Saturday, Jan. 21 from 6-8 p.m.

The bowling event was first held in 2020, and it was a success in raising just over \$4,500 to help with the ongoing

needs of the animals in care at the regional shelter.

"We had to cancel it the last two years because of COVID restrictions," said Caitlin Parr, PVHS board fundraising chair.

"The response was really great for the first time around; it sold out for us, so this is an important event for us," she said. "It should be a really fun evening ... and it's a good family event."

The cost is \$150 per five-person team, and there are prizes for such things as highest score, wildest delivery, most flair, and best-dressed team.

Mini-games will be happening all evening as well for more chances to win. Bowlers are also advised to come with an appetite because \$2 from every chippers appetizer will be donated back to the humane society.

Parr noted events like this are vital as fundraisers, but they are equally

important in terms of raising awareness and getting the community involved and engaged with the humane society.

"Without fundraisers like this, we can't offer the care that we always hope to offer the animals or take in as many animals as we would like to," said Parr.

You can find more information and register a team online at www.pvhsocty.ca.

sports & recreation

Flyers fall to Pistons, melt Freeze

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers kicked off 2023 last week with a win and a loss.

They opened the new year with a 4-2 defeat at the hands of the Pistons in Steinbach Jan. 3.

The Pistons were up 2-0 before Winkler's Kyle Crewe got the Flyers up on the board with an unassisted goal with four seconds to go on the clock in the first period.

Steinbach made it 3-1 early in the middle frame, while Trent Sambrook did what he could to close the gap with a late powerplay goal for Winkler, assisted by Zach Nicolas and Brody Beauchemin.

The final period was a scoreless affair for both teams right up until the final 19 seconds, when the Pistons cemented their win with one last goal on the empty Winkler net, the Flyers having pulled their goalie for the extra man.

Malachi Klassen and Aidan Comeau split netminding duties, Klassen making eight saves off the 11 shots he faced early on and Comeau stopping all 17 shots that came his way. The Flyers outshot the Pistons 42-29 overall.

Winkler bounced back the very next night by blanking the Winnipeg



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler's Kyle Crewe keeps Winnipeg's Tristan Bear at bay while maintaining control of the puck in last Wednesday's home game against the Freeze, which the Flyers won 3-0.

Freeze 3-0 in front of a hometown crowd.

The Flyers added a goal in each period, with Jayce Legaarden doing the honours midway through the first, Gavin Waltz scoring in the second, and Nicolas rounding things out ear-

ly in the third.

Klassen was in net for the full 60 minutes, making 22 saves as Winkler outshot Winnipeg 48-22

The Flyers are in third place right now in the MJHL MGEU East Division with a record of 21-8-5-1 for 48

points, which ties them in points with the Terriers in second place and has them six behind the Pistons in first.

This weekend the Flyers host Niverville Friday night and then head into Winnipeg to play the Blues Sunday.

Female Hawks on a three-game losing skid

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks are looking to shake off a three game losing streak.

They dropped a pair of games on the weekend against two teams ahead of them in the standings as they fell 5-1 to Westman in Hartney and then 4-2

to Yellowhead in Shoal Lake.

The Wildcats held period leads of 1-0 and 3-1 Friday as Westman outshot Pembina Valley 29-25. Marissa Fehr scored the lone Hawks' goal on a second period powerplay while goalie Kaylee Franz made 24 saves.

Pembina Valley then fell behind 3-0 after 20 minutes Saturday against the

Chiefs before trying to make a comeback with two third period goals.

Fehr and Caitlin Anderson scored for the Hawks, who were edged 34-33 in shots on goal with Franz taking the loss in net.

Pembina Valley remains in sixth place at 5-13-1 for 11 points, which is even with Interlake although the

Lightning have one less win. The Hawks trail Eastman by eight points.

Pembina Valley heads into the stretch run of the regular season this weekend with the Avros in Winnipeg Saturday followed by Eastman in Niverville Sunday.

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

Hawks win two out of three

By Lorne Stelmach

Winning two out of three games in a key weekend set with the Winnipeg Thrashers allowed the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks to maintain their hold on third place.

Pembina Valley came into it with just a one point lead on the Thrashers in the standings but now have a three-point bulge after wins of 4-0 and 6-2 Friday and Sunday bookended a 4-1 loss Saturday.

Raiden LeGall had a 44 save shut-out Friday as the Hawks jumped out to a 3-0 first period lead. Sebastien Hicks scored twice with the other goals coming from Ty Love and Kam Thomas, and the Hawks were outshot 44-31.

It was a different story Saturday as the Thrashers took period leads of 2-0 and 3-1 and sealed the deal with an empty net goal on their way to the victory. Hicks scored the lone Hawks goal in the second period, while Bryson Yaschyshyn made 25 saves while the shots on goal were 43-29 in favour of Pembina Valley.

The Hawks then broke open a game that was knotted at two after one period Sunday with three unanswered



Thunder dominate
 The Morden Thunder's Rhett Mestdagh finds himself without his stick while goaltender Tyson Meleck and GVC's Philip Franz race for the loose puck in Friday night's Zone 4 High School Hockey game, which Morden won 4-0. The Thunder are currently in first place in the league with a 12-3 record. Rounding out the top of the standings with them are the PCI Trojans in second place (10-2), the Morris Mavericks in third (10-3), and the WC Miller Aces in fourth (9-6). The bottom part of the standings include the Pembina Tigers (9-3), the Zodiacs (5-10), the Carman Cougars (5-10), the Mountain Mustangs (3-12), and the NPC Nighthawks (0-14).

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

second period goals.

Hicks scored two more goals with singles from Love, Thomas, Sam Delaquis, and Carter Campbell. Shots on goal were 43-29 in favour of the

Hawks, who got 27 saves from LeGall.

Pembina Valley began their week with a home game in Morden against Southwest Wednesday. They then

head north for a doubleheader with last-place Norman Saturday and Sunday in Thompson.

Local teams win some, lose some in SEMHL action

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The local South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League teams had a mixed go of things this past week.

The Morden Bombers downed the Winkler Royals 6-4 last Tuesday night in a game rescheduled from December.

Morden was up 5-0 by the end of

the second period thanks to a pair of goals from Steve Mullin and singles from Mike Rey, Cole Penner, and Derek Holenski.

Winkler got on the board with a Jordan Peters goal a few minutes before the second intermission.

That was followed by goals from Remi Laurencelle, Chad Unrau, and

Caleb Suderman in the final period, which also saw Rey score his second of the night for Morden, but it just wasn't enough to catch up.

The Bombers outshot the Royals 52-36 Reed Peters made 32 saves for Morden. Jayme Janzen stopped 46 shots on net for Winkler.

The Bombers went on to fall, then, to Ste Anne 12-5 Friday night. Adam Hughesman, Cole Penner (with two), Derek Holenski, Jaden Townsend, and Ken Selby scored for Morden. Kohl Robertson and Reed Peters split the time in net, Robertsen making 22 saves and giving up five goals while Peters made 15 saves and gave up seven goals as the Bombers were outshot 49-44.

Winkler, meanwhile, improved their week with an 11-0 win over the Altona Maroons Sunday night.

The Royals' lengthy scorecard included a hat-trick from Phil Letkeman, two each from Mike Doell and Aaron Lewadniuk, and singles from Cody Friesen, Caleb Suderman, Marlin Froese, and Bret Harder. Travis Klassen earned the shutout in net, making 40 saves. Across the rink, Cole Kehler and Brady Klassen manned Altona's goal. Kehler made 42 saves off the 52 shots he faced in 55 minutes. Klassen played five minutes and stopped five of the six that came his way. The rout was preceded by the Maroons having beaten Carman 3-1 a few nights earlier. The Thursday night game saw Tyler Penner, Cameron McNabb, and Kirby Sawatzky score for the home team. Kehler made 47 saves in net as Carman outshot Altona 48-38. The Beavers fared no better against Portage a few nights later, losing that match 6-1. Finally, the Red River Wild battled hard against the Merces in Warren Saturday night but came home with a 5-4

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PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

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getinformed

Concerts in the Hall has a packed lineup to get you through the winter

By Ashleigh Viveiros

As we enter the long stretch that is mid-winter, the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall invites you to come in out of the cold.

The second half of Concerts in the Hall started up post-holidays last week with a performance from Warren Friesen and L'il Plugger. This week, Jayme Giesbrecht and the Soul Revue Band take the stage.

The Wednesday night concert series continues almost weekly into March, with Julie Myers slated to perform Jan. 25, the Monochromatics Feb. 1, JP LePage Feb. 8, Brothers Keep Feb. 15, Dark by Three Feb. 22, Lakes & Pines March 1.

After a few weeks' break, it continues with shows from Bowen March 22, Sun Sets West and The M'Ladies March 29, Ed Wayne April 5, Joe Wilson April 12, and The Committee May 31.

After a breather in June, the series will transition into the usual Concerts in the Park in Bethel Heritage Park starting in July.

While Concerts in the Park has been around for awhile now, the Concerts in the Hall series was a new one last fall. The response has been great thus far, says Winkler events coordinator

Nicole Enns.

"The first half has been well-attended, though we always have room for more," she says, noting there were a couple shows that actually sold out. "People are enjoying being able to get out once a week for a music show that's affordable and varied."

The performers coming up run the gamut from classic rock and country to punk, blues, and more—a little something for everyone.

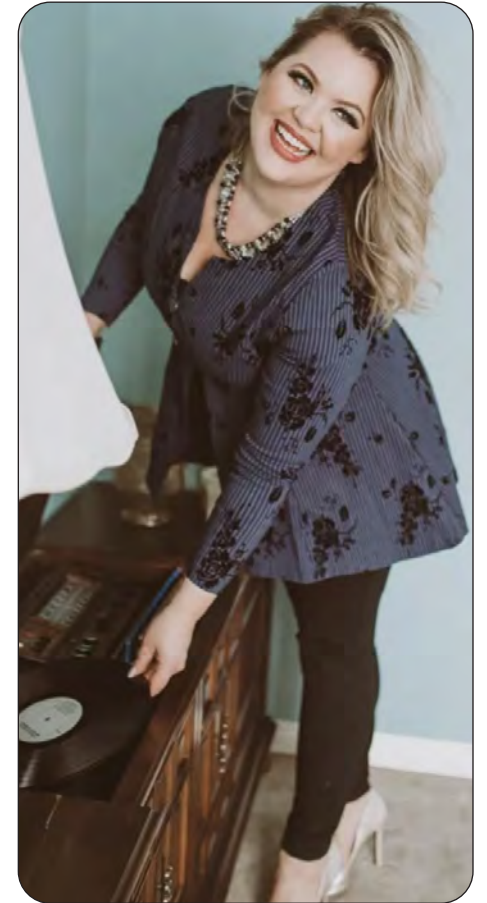
"We're trying to draw people out of their homes into the concert hall and warm them up with some great tunes," Enns says, adding that they're all local performers. "It's really exciting for the performers to have a great place to perform and exciting for us to maybe see some new faces on stage and in the audience."

The concerts start at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door or in advance online at www.winklerconcerthall.ca



WINKLERCONCERTHALL.CA

Jayme Giesbrecht (right) and the Soul Revue Band and Julie Myers (above) round out January's Concerts in the Hall lineup Jan. 11 and Jan. 25. The Wednesday series continues until the end of May.



Full details are available on the concert hall website.

RCMP investigating Miami bank robbery

By Voice staff

Carman RCMP are investigating after a man robbed the Access Credit Union branch in Miami last week.

Police were called to the Norton Ave. branch on Jan. 3 at approximately 3:45 p.m. after a man entered the building, demanded money, and left with an undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured.

The suspect is described as 6' tall, wearing white sunglasses, a black hat, grey hoodie, black gloves, and a medical face mask.

If you have information about this incident contact Carman RCMP at 204-745-6760, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477, or provide a secure tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com.

Twisters get a shootout point vs. Raiders

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters opened 2023 with a defeat but at least gained a point in their shootout loss to the Raiders.

The skills contest had to go to eight rounds before the winner was decided in Winnipeg Sunday, with the Raiders coming out on top 2-1.

It was a miracle ending for the

> SEMHL, FROM PG. 13

OT loss to add to their record.

A pair of goals from TJ Matuszewski and singles from Dale Lehmann and Jared Magne has the Wild up 4-0 before Warren got its first goal of the night midway through the second period. The Mercs went on to chip away at the Red River lead through the rest of the game, eventually tying and forcing overtime. There, it was Warren who scored the game-winner

Raiders, who evened things up in regulation with just three seconds remaining while on a powerplay.

Luke Van De Velde scored in the first period for the Twisters, who got 37 saves from Logan Enns with the shots on goal 38-31 in favour of the last-place Raiders, who, with this victory, picked up just their fifth win of the season.

Pembina Valley remains in sev-

45 seconds in.

The Mercs won the shot battle 47-24. Travis Bosch made 42 saves in net for the Wild.

With that, Portage (22 points), Ste Anne (20 points), and Ile Des Chenes (15 points) are at the top of the SEMHL standings, followed by Morden in fourth place (6-4-0-1), Winkler in fifth (6-5-1) and Red River in sixth (5-4-2-1), all with 13 points.

enth place at 9-9-3-2 for 23 points, which leaves them two ahead of St. Boniface and one and three behind Charleswood and Transcona, respectively.

Pembina Valley has two home games this weekend, playing Transcona Friday and then Stone-wall Sunday.

In the bottom four is Notre Dame (12 points), Warren (11 points), Carman (six points), and Altona (2-9-1 and five points).

This week Winkler hosts Portage on Wednesday, Morden hosts Red River Thursday, Red River hosts Ste Anne Saturday, Altona plays in Warren Sunday, and Winkler plays in Portage on Sunday.

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Reporter/Photographer Wanted

Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news? Carman-Dufferin Standard is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer to join its multi award-winning weekly community newspaper.

We are looking for someone who is both motivated and passionate about being the best outlet of interesting and breaking news stories and event coverage in the Carman-Dufferin area and surrounding area communities.

Qualifications:

- A post-secondary degree/diploma in journalism or equivalent experience in a related field
- Strong photography and writing skills with an interest in social media
- Self-starter with the ability to exercise solid news judgement
- Ability to establish professional relationships to consistently source and write a wide range of stories and cover events in a fair, balanced and accurate manner
- Able to work both independently and as a team on a flexible work schedule including both evenings and weekends to meet our weekly editorial deadline
- Experience covering council and school board meetings
- Knowledge of CP Style and about the Interlake and its surrounding communities would be an asset

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to:

Lana Meier
Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca

The Carman-Dufferin
STANDARD

HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stone-wood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewoodelkranch@mymts.net

NOTICES

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? Having a January or February event? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

NOTICES

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IN ALTONA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

PUBLIC NOTICE

LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION - PUBLIC NOTICE

RENDEZVOUS BREWING LTD.,
operating as **RENDEZVOUS BREWERY & TAPROOM**
at **368 STEPHEN STREET, MORDEN, MANITOBA**
has applied for **DINING ROOM LIQUOR SERVICE LICENCE**
PATIO AREA UNDER DINING ROOM LIQUOR SERVICE LICENCE

to serve liquor from: **MONDAY TO SUNDAY 9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 A.M.**
1:00 P.M. TO 2:00 A.M. REMEMBRANCE DAY

Citizen and community input is an important part of the application process. Please contact the Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba at 204-927-5300, if you have any questions about this application. Please contact your municipality if you have questions about zoning bylaws and requirements. If you want to make a formal objection to this application, please send us your objections in writing by 4:30 p.m.

14 DAYS FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT

You can email, mail or fax your objection. Please include your contact information.
Email: objection@LGCAMB.ca
Mail: LGCA Objections
1055 Milt Stegall Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3G 0Z6
Fax: (204) 927-5385

- We respond to all formal objections and will work to resolve objections before issuing a licence.
- A copy of the objection, including the name of the person who submits the objection, will be provided to the licence applicant.
- Each person who submits an objection will be advised in writing of the outcome to the licence application.

SENIOR RENTALS

OAK WEST ESTATES HAS 1 SUITE AVAILABLE.

1240 sq. ft., 1 bdrm with a den. Heated garage parking is available. Rent includes all utilities, yard care, snow removal and more.
Email Cindy at cindyek@mts.net or call 204-362-7151 for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Looking back over our 2022 season and 54 years of keeping our local heritage alive!
Pembina Threshermen's Museum (PTM)
Annual General Meeting
Monday, January 23rd, 2023
7:00 pm
VHM Dining Hall
Guest Speaker: Glen Kehler of GenAg
Located: just west of the hospital lights between Winkler & Morden (look for the 'tractor in the sky').
~ Sharing Our Local Heritage ... Since 1968! ~

PUBLIC NOTICE



Prairie Rose School Division
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS

If your child was born in 2018, they are eligible to attend Kindergarten beginning September, 2023. Parents/guardians are asked to contact one of the following schools.

École Carman Elementary School
Cecile Affleck, Principal (204) 745-2623
Vanessa Giesbrecht, Secretary
vgiesbrecht@g.prdsmb.ca

Elm Creek School
Jesse Thomaschewski, Principal (204) 436-2354
Darlene Banman, Secretary
dbanman@g.prdsmb.ca

Miami School
Brandy Chevalier, Principal (204) 435-2441
Leann Friesen, Secretary
lfriesen@g.prdsmb.ca

Roland School
Melissa Benner, Principal (204) 343-2023
Marcie Rempel, Secretary
mrempel@g.prdsmb.ca

St. François Xavier School
Marc Tellier, Principal (204) 864-2868
Debra Friesen, Secretary
dfriesen@g.prdsmb.ca

École St. Eustache
Lindsay Noël, Principal (204) 353-2869
Melanie Zimmermann, Secretary
mzimmermann@g.prdsmb.ca

St. Laurent School
Bobby Ellis, Interim Principal (204) 646-2209
Lori Combot, Secretary
loricombot@g.prdsmb.ca

Your child's birth certificate or Manitoba Health Card **MUST** be presented at the time of registration.
Registrations will be accepted between January 16-20, 2023
Please contact the school by phone or email to make arrangements.

Classifieds

Book Your Classified Ad Today -
Call 325-6888 or Email
ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

The Winkler Morden
Voice

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our family and friends for your compassion, kindness and overwhelming support on the passing of our mom, amma and wife (Oddney Sager). All the cards, delicious food, beautiful flowers and visits to the farm was very comforting during this difficult time.

A big thank you to the Morden Legion and staff, ladies that assisted with the service luncheon and clean up, Dianne Lambert, Rose Blatz, Wayne Klassen, Jake Blatz, Brad Wainikka and Dan Heinrichs for making it a memorable Celebration of Life. Mom would have loved it.

We would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the two RCMP officers, the four emergency response team members and those working the BTHC ER on November 5th evening. The compassion and care you showed our family was greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the generous support in lieu of flowers to various charitable organizations including the Pembina Valley Child Care Centre in memory of Oddney, she would have been honored. She recognized the importance of accessibility to safe and affordable child care in our community.

We miss her so dearly and sad she left us so soon however having the support from community, family and friends have made it a bit easier.

Hugs to you.

-Howard Sager and family

CARD OF THANKS

On behalf of Morden Christmas Cheer, we thank the community! Thank you for your donations, volunteered time and fundraising events to provide help during the Christmas season for those in need. The Christmas spirit shone bright from the amazing community support we received.

If anyone is interested in contacting us, volunteering or learning about upcoming events, you can visit our website www.mordenchristmascheer.com or our Instagram and Facebook page.

SENIOR RENTALS

Garden Park Estates has one suite available.

1 bdrm with a den, 1085 sq. ft. 1 1/2 bath. Open spacious floor plan, in suite laundry hook ups, indoor heated garage parking available, and more.

Email Cindy at cindyek@mts.net
or call 204-362-7151
for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Winkler purchases approximately 35% of its water from the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (PVWC). The Public Utility Board has approved a rate increase for PVWC in the amount of \$0.38/1000 gallons, effective January 1, 2023. This rate increase reflects a "pass through" rate increase of .13/1000 gallons for Winkler consumers.

Public notice is hereby given that the water rate increase will be 0.13/1000 gallons effective for the March 15, 2023 quarterly billing in the City of Winkler. That being from the present water rate of \$9.98/1000 gallons to \$10.11/1000 gallons. The sewer rate will remain as it presently is, being \$6.42/1000 gallons.

Jody Penner
City Manager



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the ESTATE of CATHARINE ANNE FARLEY, late of the Town of Carman, in Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at 14 Main Street South, Box 1670, Carman, Manitoba, R0G 0J0 within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication.

DATED at the Town of Carman, in Manitoba, this 30th day of December, 2022.

McCULLOCH MOONEY JOHNSTON SELBY LLP
Attention: HARLEY SHEPHERD
Solicitors for the Executors

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SUDOKU

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

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!

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Respiratory disorder
 - 7. Bulgarian mountain peak
 - 10. Group of important people
 - 12. South American nation
 - 13. Amazes
 - 14. ___-Castell, makers of pens
 - 15. Perlman and Seehorn are two
 - 16. Early medieval alphabet
 - 17. Legislator (slang)
 - 18. Tasty crustacean
 - 19. Course of action
 - 21. Airborne (abbr.)
 - 22. Permanent church appointment
 - 27. Larry and Curly's pal
 - 28. Famed American journalist
 - 33. 12th letter of Greek alphabet
 - 34. In a way, vanished
 - 36. Afflict in mind or body
 - 37. Egyptian Sun god
 - 38. Source of the Blue Nile
 - 39. Egyptian unit of weight
 - 40. Be the source of pain
 - 41. Esteemed award ___ d'Or
 - 44. Partner to pains
 - 45. Deep blue
 - 48. No longer living
 - 49. Country in the UK
 - 50. Not even
 - 51. Arizona city
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Wager
 - 2. Classical portico
 - 3. As a result

			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						35
						36					37	
			38									39
	40								41	42	43	
44							45	46	47			
48							49					
50							51					

- 4. Bird
- 5. A type of "Squad"
- 6. Autonomic nervous system
- 7. Dish with food on a stick
- 8. City northwest of Provo
- 9. C. European river
- 10. One out of jail
- 11. Henry Clay estate
- 12. Heathen
- 14. Refrained
- 17. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 18. "The Stranger" author
- 20. Not old
- 23. Periods of starvation
- 24. Language of tribe in India
- 25. Savings account
- 26. Pitching stat
- 29. Megabyte
- 30. Ribonucleic acid
- 31. A place to put your feet
- 32. The fun part of a week
- 35. We all have our own
- 36. Partner to "oohed"
- 38. African nation
- 40. Breezed through
- 41. Sets out
- 42. Other
- 43. Not fattening
- 44. "Much ___ about nothing"
- 45. Central Time
- 46. Former EU monetary unit
- 47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom

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The Winkler Morden
Voice

COMING EVENTS

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ENCHILADA SUPPER FUNDRAISER
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Tax Receipts available for donations of \$30 or more
For E-transfer
gvmamb@gmail.com

JAN/20/2023
5:00-7:00

WINKLER SOMMERFELDER CHURCH
189 2ND ST. WINKLER

AUCTION



SURPLUS, EQUIPMENT AUCTION FOR THE CITY OF MORDEN.

Timed on-line, closing, Monday Jan 23 at 6 pm.
Pickup and payment day is Tuesday Jan 24 at 234 Cochlan Drive, south of the tracks, Morden, MB.
6 PICKUP TRUCKS, 2006 Dodge 1 ton box and hoist, van, 2 snow blowers and blades, mowers and case. 1494 tractor w/ 74L Loader, Ford 8 N turf tires etc, info.

Call Tim Reimer 204-325-3601

Register at www.billklassen.com/nextlot

Bill Klassen Auctions Ltd.
Ph: (204) 325-4433
Cell: (204) 325-6230
Fax: (204) 325-4484

AUCTION



561 Norton Miami, MB, 2 lots with approx.1000 sq. ft. home, basement renovations in progress. Selling at timed on-line auction, closing Wednesday, Feb 1, 2023.

Go to www.billklassen.com/nextlot to bid and terms and conditions. For info call Jackie Plett or Mark Groening at 204-823-3722, Bill Klassen Auctioneers 204-325-4433, cell 204-325-6230

Register at www.billklassen.com/nextlot

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REGISTRATION



Western School Division

Kindergarten Registration for September 2023

In order for the schools to prepare for the 2023-2024 school year, it is important that parents register their children for Kindergarten from **January 20 to January 27, 2023**.

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 20 to January 27, 2023. Children born in 2018 or earlier are eligible to enrol. All parents shall include a copy of their child's birth certificate when registering. Please include either a photocopy or a picture of the birth certificate with the completed registration package.

Please enrol in 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

- Area south of North Railway; area west of Mountain St.; and all rural students.

Maple Leaf School, 225-12th Street, Mr. Samuel Jerema, Principal, 204-822-4458

- Area north of South Railway St.; area east of Mountain St.; and all early years (K-4) French Immersion students.

Kindergarten Information Session

Western School Division will be holding a Kindergarten Parent Information session on January 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Minnewasta 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.

Book Your Classified Ad Today -
Call 467-5836 or Email
ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

DEVOTION

Devotion

If you do not know Jesus before you die, Heaven will not be your home.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2022-015 and By-law No. 2292-23, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2292-23, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

Legally described as Lots 1-3, Plan No. (Dep 1413/2018) MLTO. In the SE ¼ 32-2-4 WPM

as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

FROM: "DR" DEVELOPMENT RESERVE

TO: "RR" RURAL RESIDENTIAL

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2292-23 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

Date of Hearing: January 24, 2023

Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.

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

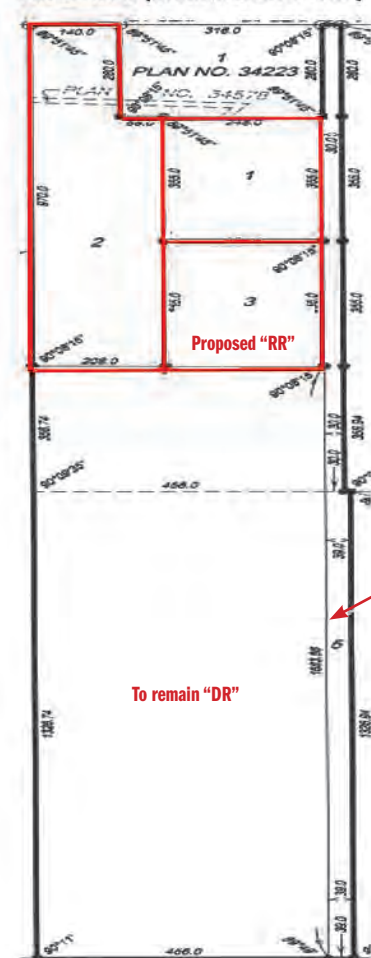
DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 15th day of December 2022.

Designated Officer

City of Winkler

Schedule "A"

Private Road (Southview Drive West)



Road 11 North/Sandy Ridge Road

185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4
204-325-9524 | permits@cityofwinkler.ca

WWW.WINKLER.CA

OBITUARY



Heinrich Renz
1954 - 2022

On Tuesday, December 27, 2022 in the RM of Morris, MB, Heinrich Renz, 68 passed away.

Heinrich Renz was born as the 5th child on August 1, 1954 in the Kazakh city Berchogur in the Aktyubinsk region. His parents, Emmanuel and Susanna Renz, were believers in God and they passed on their faith to their seven children. The family lived in Burchogur until 1956. After the abolition of the commandant's office, the family moved to Aktyubinsk. Here Heinrich attended school and graduated in 1972. Heinrich was always curious and had very versatile interests. He loved traveling and always broadened his horizons. On November 8, 1972, he was called to military service for two years. At the beginning of December 1974

his military service ended, and he returned to Aktyubinsk. Here it did not hold him for long and he wanted to get to know new countries of the Soviet Union. Therefore, in 1975 he moved to the Caucasus with his two oldest sisters. They lived in the town Gulkevichi in the Krasnodar Territory until 1976, when he moved to Wenspils in Latvia. Here he met new cultures and people. These friendships have accompanied him throughout his life. In February 1977 he returned to Aktyubinsk. With his bright mind and golden hands, he always did a good job. As a result, it was not difficult for him to get a job as an assembler. He was employed here until January 1978 and was always highly appreciated by colleagues and superiors. During this time the whole Renz family decided to move to Germany. The easiest way to do this was to resettle via Kyrgyzstan. Therefore, the whole family moved to Kyrgyzstan. No one was surprised that Heinrich found a good job here as well, where he was employed until the resettlement in 1989. In the meantime, he met Irma Reimer at her birthday party in August 1981. Both knew that they had found the love of their lives. Shortly thereafter, on October 23, 1981, they sealed it with their wedding and started a family. Until their departure from Kyrgyzstan in March 1989, they had three children, Marianna, Lilli and Heinrich. In Germany, the family first arrived in Friedland and was then taken to Lichtenberg in the community of Morsbach. Here the family was able to settle down and continue to grow. With the two children, Angela and Richard, the family happiness was complete. Heinrich also found good work in Germany, where his good performance enabled him to advance to foreman in the field of custom container construction. His knowledge and opinion were always in demand and of great value to the whole company. In 2010, Heinrich and Irma also decided to move to Canada with their two youngest children. In spring 2011, he bought a house where he settled with his family. He enjoyed spending time in his workshop. Here he repaired machines and vehicles. Together with Irma they got some animals and ran the farm together. Even though Heinrich missed his family in Germany, he was satisfied with his life in Canada. He cherished his time with children and grandchildren and his family also appreciated the precious time with husband, father and grandpa. He is dearly missed by all.

He is survived by his loving wife, Irma Renz; his five children: Marianna (Juri Eckert), Lilli (Viktor Janzen), Heinrich, Angela (David Schellenberg), Richard and his nine grandchildren: Emily, Melina, Jayden, Jason, Anthony, Damian, Benjamin, Josephine, Alia.

Funeral service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2023 at the Faith Evangelical Bible Church with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

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



OBITUARY



Leslie (Les) Charles Douglas
December 25, 1960 - January 3, 2023

Les passed away peacefully at home with family by his side on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Les grew up in Miami and Gimli, Manitoba. As a teen he spent a lot of time in Miami working on Uncle Reggie's farm. He eventually moved to Miami, where he and his wife, Kylee, opened up the Chatterbox Cafe and Lounge. Many memories were created during the 16 years at the Chatterbox. He loved the antics of all who came through the door.

Les loved a good game of golf. His only competitor was himself; he always was trying to beat or improve HIS score. His dart playing was much the same, however, he did enjoy beating an opponent.

Les spent some time coaching his daughters' baseball teams. He treated each of those girls as if they were Blue Jays stars and thought they all had the potential to be great! Les loved all sports and would give most things a try. Les adored his family and would do anything to make them happy. He had a kind heart.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 33 years, Kylee; their daughters, Ashton Douglas (Joel) and Kira Douglas (Tyler); his brother, Ryan Douglas (Michelle); his sister, Joyce Forscutt (John); his aunt Myrna Mann and his uncle Ron Follett. Les also leaves mother-in-law and father-in-law, Phyllis and Wayne Knight; sister-in-law, Erin Buick (Bob); brother-in-law, Trent Knight (Barb); many nieces, nephews, cousins and their families and many friends.

Les was predeceased by his mother, Leah Douglas (Follett); father, James (Jim) Douglas; brother, Raymond (Butch) Douglas; sister, Julie Peterson; mother-in-law, Sandra Knight and brother-in-law, Trevor Knight.

A heartfelt thank you to the CancerCare team of Winnipeg. A very special thank you to Boundary Trails Health Centre Cancer/Chemo team and Dr. C. Woelk. Thank you to our Palliative Care team and the homecare nurses that made caring for Les at home possible. I appreciate all of you and everything you have done.

Les did not want a funeral, so we will honour his wishes, however, wherever you are, raise a glass, smile and remember him.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Les's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to Cancer Care or Palliative Care.

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



Classifieds
Announcements

The *Winkler Morden* Voice

OBITUARY

Margaret (Hildebrandt) Rempel



On November 19, 2022 Margaret (Hildebrandt) Rempel passed peacefully away at the Rockyview Hospital in Calgary, Alberta, one day after her 93rd birthday. She was born November 18, 1929 in the village of Blumenort, near Gretna, Manitoba.

Margaret is survived by her children and their spouses: John (Deborah), Dennis (Maureen), David (Beverly), Gerald and Glenda. She also will be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren: Jamie (Chayla), Shawna (Guy), Rebecca (Jared), Richelle (Chris), Ellen (Ryan), Vicki (Dannon), Deanna (Eric), Jennifer, Dustin, Desi, Delan, Brit and Zane (Robyn) as well as her great-grandchildren: Harlan, Mason, Brooke, Kaiden, Alizabeth, Nora, Grace, Luna and Quill. Margaret is also survived by her sisters Susan and Eva, sisters-in-law Dorene, and Muriel, and brother-in-law Art, and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband John G. Rempel in 1987.

Margaret loved the Lord and spent time reading about Him. Besides always cooking very tasty meals, she enjoyed her garden and being a homemaker. She loved sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting and the challenge of puzzles. Margaret volunteered at the Brandon Mennonite Central Committee Thrift Store for 40 years and she was also invited to sit on the Board for a year. To the ministries that she believed in, she was very generous. Her church in Virden was very special to her. Margaret loved her home in Virden that was built for her. It was on the west side of Virden where the sunsets were spectacular. Her home was a great place for family and friends to visit or drop in and there was always pie and borscht. She also took opportunities to travel. Visiting Israel with her sister Susan to see her brother and his wife and touring the country was a special memory for her. She was invited by a friend to spend a week in Hawaii. As well, she took a bus tour of the Amish country and Washington DC. In addition, there was also a trip to southern Florida to take in a MCC convention. Margaret also cherished her visits to Winkler to see her sisters Susan and Eva and reminisce about their time growing up on the farm in Blumenort along with their 12 siblings. Trips to Calgary to see her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, usually occurred every summer.

The memorial service for Margaret will be in Rosetown Mennonite Church on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 2 p.m. A family Celebration of Life was held in Calgary and the interment in Blumenort preceded the Rosetown Mennonite Church memorial service.

OBITUARY

Kenneth Lloyd Schaak
June 19, 1936 - January 5, 2023



Ken Schaak, age 86 of Winkler, MB passed away Thursday morning, January 5, 2023.

Ken is survived by his wife of 63 years, Tina; one daughter, Gwen Peters (Peter); three grandchildren, Kristin (Matt), Marcie, Ryan and three great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents, one teen brother, one sister and two half siblings.

Memorial service was held Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at the Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church with interment prior to the service at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

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get informed

“Adequate potable water is definitely part of our future growth”

From Pg. 9

their committees and have met. We’re slowly bringing things to council.

“Our next meeting will include discussions on the expansion of the Industrial Park, and the southwest drainage project that started down Hwy. 201 going east into town. The culverts and ditches are being changed to allow more flow and a better slope. This summer we’re plan-

ning on working further north to clean that drain. This is a shared cost with the Municipality of Rhineland.”

Schroeder says they’re also anticipating some positive news from the province regarding funding for Altona’s new childcare centre and further funding for the continued resurfacing of Main St.

Going forward, Schroeder says Altona Town Council will continue to advocate for and work with the Pem-

bina Valley Water Co-op for the expansion of the water plant in Letellier.

“Adequate potable water is definitely part of our future growth and development.”

Juggling financial challenges will also be a big part of his job in weeks ahead.

“The next two months will involve budget planning and crunching numbers. Last year was hard with the cost

of living and fuel costs going up. That all affects our bottom line, too. Everything runs on fuel, from our EMS to public works, so all those costs have gone up, and somehow, we have to pay for it. That’s the next challenge for admin and council and we’ll see what we end up with. We’re also ratepayers in the community, so we understand the impact our decisions have on the residents of this community.”

“We need to take crucial steps now instead of later”

From Pg. 9

As well, water and watershed management remained a municipal priority in 2022, which will continue in 2023.

“We joined the Pembina Valley Watershed District, which will provide more access to some really good programs for local ag producers,” the reeve says. “In addition, the province has just released the new water strategy with some good goals. We’re going to push forward with some solid strategy for our water management goals.”

While this is a good start, Wiebe says management of municipal and provincial drains needs to be a big part of that strategy.

“The argument has been that the maintenance and the reconstruction of provincial drains is overdue. It’s needed. Last year’s wet spring really tested all that. Something needs to be done. We need to take those crucial steps now instead of later.”

Meanwhile, the Municipality along with the Pembina Valley Water Co-op continues to seek out a long-term, dependable future supply of potable water.

“We’re getting good support from the 14 municipalities because future development depends on a predictable water supply. And we are close to being tapped out. But ingenuity and versatility are part of our history, and I know we can find solutions.”

Last year saw some new faces

around the council table and in the municipal office.

As a result of the October civic election, Brad Wiebe and Hank Froese have joined council. There is a new member of the L.U.D committee in Rosenfeld, and Travis Derksen was reappointed to the L.U.D. of Gretna committee filling a vacancy left after the election. An open spot remains on the L.U.D. of Plum Coulee committee, and Wiebe says the intention is to fill it this year.

Additionally, John Blatz has been hired as the municipality’s new chief financial officer, Curtis Wall has come on board as a building inspector, and Scott Goddard has been hired as safety officer, a position shared with the Municipality, the Town of Altona, and the Border Land School Division.

“With the number of employees that we now have, we are obligated to become much more formal about our safety program, which was quite expensive for us,” Wiebe explains. “But when the three entities work together, it makes sense.”

Launching into 2023, council recently wrapped up a community consultation exercise in advance of its 4-year strategic planning session.

“We’re getting together on Jan. 12 and 13 to take the information we have and go through an exercise for about four or five big goals and discuss some ideas of how to work toward that.”



Altona Maroons Hockey 2022 400 Club Winners ALL WINNERS - \$200 UNLESS INDICATED

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Henry Suderman | 28. Jared Barnabe | 57. Bob Stoesz |
| 2. Liz Derksen | 29. David & Rita Wiebe | 58. Trish Loewen |
| 3. Mike Kehler | 30. Angus Klassen | 59. Brad Friesen |
| 4. Haydon Friesen | 31. David Brennen | 60. Archie Heinrichs |
| 5. Access Credit Union | 32. Ken Voth | 61. Curwin Friesen & Lyndon Friesen |
| 6. Ang Loeppky | 33. Mike Letkeman | 62. Mark Bennett |
| 7. Melvin Klassen | 34. Jim Apperley | 63. Doug Rempel |
| 8. Rob McDonald | 35. Jablonski Electric | 64. Jim Apperley |
| 9. Bruce & Norma Hiebert | 36. \$1,000.00 Lloyd Wiebe | 65. David Brennen |
| 10. Jack Driedger | 37. Brad Derksen | 66. Jerry Pappel |
| 11. Dave Sawatzky | 38. Harv Ginter | 67. River & Waylon Friesen |
| 12. Clayton Dreger | 39. Cindy Smith | 68. Joel Pankewich |
| 13. Bill Sawatzky | 40. Sharon Martel | 69. Chad Rodewald |
| 14. Carl D. Giesbrecht | 41. Sara Sawatzky | 70. David Brennan |
| 15. Harv Ginter | 42. Henry Suderman | 71. Jablonski Electric |
| 16. Chris Wieler, Wes Friesen, Daryl Friesen | 43. Access Credit Union | 72. Tyrel Bueckert |
| 17. Frank Friesen | 44. Rendal Giesbrecht | 73. Henry Suderman |
| 18. Ralph Hamm | 45. Natalie Neustaeter | 74. Pete Abrams |
| 19. Lyle Shirgley | 46. Bernie Friesen | 75. River & Waylon Friesen |
| 20. Curtis Martel | 47. Tim Klassen | 76. Rick Penner |
| 21. Colin Hildebrand | 48. John Thiessen | 77. Alex Schinkel |
| 22. Ryan Schwartz | 49. Jon Froese | 78. Bob Stoesz |
| 23. Art Wiebe | 50. Mike Letkeman | 79. John Enns |
| 24. Menno Friesen & Bill Siemens | 51. Pete Sawatzky | 80. Garry Klassen |
| 25. Orlando Friesen | 52. Mark Villeneuve | 81. Ken Kehler |
| 26. Wendy Friesen | 53. Patty Dick | 82. Mark Heinrichs |
| 27. Chad Friesen | 54. Chad Rodewald | |
| | 55. John G Falk | |
| | 56. Chad Friesen | |



\$3,000 Grand Prize winner Mark Heinrichs receiving cheque from Altona Maroons Treasurer Henry Sawatzky

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