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**Soup's on**

Staff from Morris Bigway Foods cooked and served the soup this year at St. Jean Farm Days. Back row: Logan Lapratte, Mary Marion, Melissa Berg, and Sam Milne. Front: Sandra Brun and Colette Belisle. For the full story, see pg. 12.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

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# MCDC purchases Boundary Trails Place

By Lorne Stelmach

The change of ownership of a property that houses an important collection of health care and other services in Morden is being heralded as a vital step for the community.

The former ownership group of Boundary Trails Place, which is centred in and around the former Morden hospital building, recently completed the sale of the property to the Morden Community Development Corporation (MCDC).

Both parties saw it as a good fit given the importance of what all is there, including not only Menzies Medical Centre but other essential services like the adult education centre.

"When the opportunity arose this fall, we unanimously as a group felt this was something we needed to take on ... to protect the future of some really vital health and education services in our community," said Chris Willsey, board chairperson of the MCDC.

"It's a critical part of this community. It's a cornerstone for important community services and for health care," noted Dr. David Goerz, representing the former ownership group.

He recalled the formation of the medical centre in 1963 and the medical staff who made it happen for the good of the community, and then how in the early 2000s, when the new regional hospital was opening, people like Dr. Bob Menzies and John Wiens recognized the importance of having the opportunity to take over the old hospital building.

"We continued to move forward, but it was always with the plan of what was best for the community," said Goerz.

He noted there had been a few opportunities in recent years to pass on the property to various outside interests, but they were glad when MCDC stepped forward.

"We came to the consensus that this would be a good transition ... this was a good thing for the community."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

In conjunction with the sale of Boundary Trails Place, the former ownership group donated \$300,000 to the Minnewasta Golf and Country Club for its new clubhouse before it was damaged by fire earlier this month. Above: Group reps David Goerz (left) and John Wiens (right) with Rod Wolfe, representing the Minnewasta board.

MCDC recognizes the critical importance of maintaining this property's role in supporting health care services and ensuring its stability for the benefit of the community, said Willsey.

"Doctor recruitment and retention are top priorities for our community, and the preservation of affordable, high-quality space for health care providers is essential," he said. "By acquiring Boundary Trails Place, we are taking proactive steps to ensure that our medical clinic and health care services remain accessible and well-supported for years to come."

"It was such a vision of that former ownership group to assemble that ... it's unparalleled. Where else do you find something like that," Willsey

added. "We felt the importance of how that needs to continue into the future. Healthy communities need healthy services, and we're all about helping the community of Morden grow and prosper."

In conjunction with the sale and transition, the former ownership group made a \$300,000 donation to the Minnewasta Golf and Country Club—a gift that was announced at the clubhouse opening gala New Year's Eve just days before the fire that heavily damaged the property.

"It was important to us to pay it forward," Goerz said. "We thought it was a very good way for us to help carry on the legacy."

## Looking for something to do this winter & spring?

The Altona Recreation Guidebook is now available to pick up at Town of Altona offices, and a few other locations around town!

View the guide and all programs online at [altona.ca/p/recreation-programs](http://altona.ca/p/recreation-programs).

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## Morden Festival of the Arts registration deadline nears

By Lorne Stelmach

The final deadline is nearing to register for the Morden Festival of the Arts.

The deadline for registrations for all festival categories is Jan. 24.

The Morden Festival of the Arts is a volunteer-run registered charity that provides a venue for student and adult performance, instruction, and adjudication in the areas of band, strings, sacred, piano, vocal/choral and French and English speech arts.

The aim is to foster and promote continued interest, growth, and development of talent within the arts. In order

to encourage youth to share their love of the arts, the festival strives to keep entry fees as low as possible.

Piano, strings, sacred and vocal registrations are generally done through a student's private music teacher, but forms and submission details are available online at [mordenfestivalofthearts.com](http://mordenfestivalofthearts.com) for all festival categories.

This year's festival—the event's 50th—takes place with sessions running through March and April.

Head to the website for more details or contact Erika Dyck at 204-823-0208 or [mordenfestivalofthearts@gmail.com](mailto:mordenfestivalofthearts@gmail.com).

# South Central Regional Library marking its 60th anniversary

## 50/50 fundraising raffle tickets on sale now

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The South Central Regional Library kicked off its 60th anniversary celebrations last week with the launch of a 50/50 it hopes will help it tackle a few special projects across its five branches.

The jackpot draw will take place the morning of Feb. 25, with the winner splitting the pot with the library. An early bird draw for a \$250 prize will take place Jan. 20.

“Each branch has their own pet project, so these funds will be the start for those projects,” explains Cathy Ching, SCRL’s director of library services.

The Altona branch is planning to add a much-needed extension for its front desk area, Manitou is looking to update its patron seating area with comfortable couches and chairs, Miami is working with the Miami Railway Station Museum to create a joint green space with walking paths and gardens, Morden wants to renovate its meeting room to make the space more usable for programming and community rentals, and the Winkler branch is going to add a coffee corner for patrons to enjoy.

Tickets start at \$5 each and are available online at [www.scr160.com/events.html](http://www.scr160.com/events.html).

The library has no set goal for the 50/50, but every single dollar will help, Ching says, noting they’ll also be using some of the funds to support a big prize raffle they’re planning to run throughout the rest of the year. Tickets for that will go on sale at a gala quiz night being planned for March.

“It will be a formal, semi-formal quiz night,” Ching explains, noting they expect to have space for about 40 teams, though those details are still being hammered out. “It will be at the Access Event Centre in Morden and that’s where we’re going to launch the second raffle.”

Prizes in the works include packag-

es revolving around travel (possibly with a Via Rail voucher), lawn and garden, home improvement, glitz and glamour, and more.

That draw will take place come fall, which is when the library officially turns 60.

### SIXTY YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

SCRL got its start as the Winkler and Morden Regional Library in 1965. Both communities officially celebrated the grand opening of their respective branches in October of that year.

Within just four days of its opening, Morden’s library had 214 members signed up. The small collection size meant patrons were limited to just two books at a time to start.

The branch has called a few locations in downtown Morden home through the years, including the clocktower building that now houses the art gallery. It moved into its current building down the street in 1996, expanding into adjacent space in 2002.

The Winkler library, meanwhile, got its start in an old Manitoba Telephone System building on Mountain Ave. In 1981 it moved into the Winkler Civic Centre, where it remained until the spacious Winkler Centennial Library opened across the street in 2006.

The branch’s books were carried over by a human chain of over 1,000 volunteers. They managed to move 40,000 books in just two days.

These two libraries thrived and grew through the ‘60s and ‘70s, eventually becoming know as the South Central Regional Library when the RM of Stanley joined the funding network in 1976.

In 1988, the Altona library joined the Winkler and Morden branches. The library had previously existed as books in storage in a local resident’s

Continued on page 9



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

South Central Regional Library director of services Cathy Ching in front of the Winkler branch’s extensive audio book collection. Growing its collection far beyond traditional books over the years has been how the library has remained relevant to modern patrons, Ching shares.

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# getinformed

## Central Station gearing up to mark Poverty Awareness Month

Light Up the Streets takes place Feb. 22

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Central Station Community Centre intends to “bring poverty to light” next month as it marks Poverty Awareness Month in Winkler.

They have three big events on the schedule designed to foster discussion about the needs in our community and raise awareness about the work being done by Central Station and its partners, says social impact director Krista Rempel.

“Poverty often is not as visible here as it might be in more urban areas,” she says. “We want to bring it into the light, because we think everything starts, every solution starts, with awareness. The more people that we can get involved in solution-making and action, the better.”

“We believe that our community is very self-sustaining and very creative and very empathetic. And so we know that there’s lots to be done if we can get the community involved and aware of what the actual issues are, what are some of the underlying causes and effects of the poverty that we’re seeing.”

The community centre will kick things off with the launch of its social impact report on Thursday, Feb. 6 at 3 p.m.

Central Station staff have been compiling data on exactly how local initiatives are addressing poverty and the significant return on investment for the community. The report will provide a powerful narrative on how collective efforts are driving change, Rempel says.

“How many transportation events have happened? How many muffins have we baked in a year? Everything that we’ve done, we want to put a

number on it,” she explains. “Some of those items we’re also putting a value on so that we can see what the cost to the community would be.

“And then the other big focus that we have is collaborations. We want to show how many people or how many agencies are working together in the community to create solutions for people,” Rempel says. “Some of the numbers are quite surprising, and I think people are going to be quite interested to see that a lot of the work in poverty is being done by people already, so we’re really just interested in pumping it up a notch.

Next up, on Thursday, Feb. 20, local leaders will participate in a Poverty Simulation designed to immerse them in the challenges of living on a low income.

It’s often an eye-opening experience for participants, Rempel says.

“I think what always surprises people is how complex it is,” she says of the factors that might contribute to an individual living in poverty, and the uphill battle they often face to overcome those challenges. “There’s so many stigmas and typical scenarios that people think have led to someone being in poverty, and that’s just often not the case.

“What really is enlightening for people is learning that it’s a complex jigsaw puzzle. If you don’t have one right piece, then it leads to the next piece not fitting. And then you’re scrambling and you’re just living in a constant mode of survival rather than actually being able to devote time to bettering yourself.”

The simulation is quite effective at illustrating the day-to-day life of someone struggling to make end’s meet.

“People often come out of it very



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Central Station invites the community to take part in this year’s Light Up the Streets walk in support of local programming to support families in need.

frazzled at the end of it because while they’re very capable and they’re very intelligent ... none of those things help at the end of the day because poverty is holding them down,” Rempel says.

The simulation is open to anyone who wants to experience it. Contact Rempel via email to [krista@winklercentralstation.ca](mailto:krista@winklercentralstation.ca) if you’d like to sign-up.

Finally, the month wraps up with the Light Up the Streets walk on Saturday, Feb. 22.

It’s a new name for the third annual walk, but the purpose behind it remains the same.

“This year we really wanted to capture our theme, which is bringing poverty to light,” Rempel explains.

The walk will set out from Central Station at 5 p.m. and take participants on a three kilometre route through the city and back to the community centre, where they’ll be treated to a hot supper.

Everyone is welcome to take part, either individually or as a team, and collect pledges in support of Central Station’s programming. Volunteers are also needed to help ensure things

**“THE MORE PEOPLE THAT WE CAN GET INVOLVED IN SOLUTION-MAKING AND ACTION, THE BETTER.”**

go off without a hitch.

“You can walk, you can donate, volunteer—however you want to be involved, we’ll find a way for you to be involved,” Rempel says.

“I think it’s a really visible way to show the community what we’re doing. And we’re hoping the whole community will join us,” she says, noting that even if you can’t walk yourself you’re welcome to come show your support by cheering on participants as they make their way through town.

To register, head online to [winklercentralstation.ca](http://winklercentralstation.ca).

Central Station is hoping to raise at least \$70,000 in pledges from this year’s walk. Last year’s event raised over \$80,000.

*The* **Voice**

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# Morden council welcomes new youth member

By Lorne Stelmach

Serving as youth council member for the City of Morden is another exciting step in the journey for Aqeelah Daibu.

Her family just moved here from Nigeria a year and a half ago, and it is not surprising to the Grade 11 student that she would get involved in the community.

"I think it all starts when I was young because I remember, growing up, my parents used to take me and my siblings to orphanage homes ... places where we could help people who were facing challenges. I think that is where it came from," said Daibu.

During her term as youth council member, she will participate in each council meeting and have an opportunity to report anything from school and student activities to whatever priorities and ideas she has to offer to council.

"One of the things that made me go for the youth council position is because I understand the importance of speaking up and representing the youth and other voices," Daibu said. "I felt joining the council would be a good opportunity for me to do that."

She also wants to bring the perspective of being a newcomer to the community to the council table.

"One of the things I hope to contribute as the youth council member is to show how diverse the youth are in Morden," said Daibu, who noted there are so many youth here from so many different places around the world now.

"I want to use the youth council member as an opportunity to show and represent that diversity," she said, noting one idea she has is to have a cultural day at Morden Collegiate where "the students of the school could dress up in whatever cultural attire ... that would be to showcase where they come from in the world."

Mayor Nancy Penner observed council has been fortunate to have a remarkable selection of youth council members in recent years.

"We have had very dedicated, engaged and interested candidates to be the youth rep on council," she said. "This year is no different. She attended our meeting in December, and I think she was very pleased to be part of the team."

Penner appreciates that Daibu represents the diversity of the communi-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morden city council youth member Aqeelah Daibu with Mayor Nancy Penner.

ty today.

"She comes so highly qualified in terms of her involvement not only in school but in the broader community, so we're very pleased to have her on council," the mayor said, noting Daibu is not only involved on student council but also with the Youth in Philanthropy group. "She is such a well rounded student and involved in volunteering ... it just shows her

commitment to being involved in the community."

Penner is absolutely sold on the value of having a youth council member. "It keeps council in the loop with what's happening with youth in our community. She provides feedback with what's happening in the school," she said. "It's a valuable opportunity for council."

# Santa Paws collection drive a big hit for PVHS

By Lorne Stelmach

A holiday season initiative to help collect supplies for the Pembina Valley Humane Society was successful again for a fourth straight year.

Donations poured in for the 2024 Santa Paws campaign, and shelter manager Jennifer Young stressed that kind of response makes a real difference for the shelter as it enters a new year.

"It is amazing. The generosity of the community blows me away every year," she said. "It's surprising, and it's so nice to see. People are so generous, and some come in numerous times. There are some people who come in, bring a few things, and will say, 'What else do you need?'"

There's a wide range of every day kinds of supplies that are needed at the regional animal shelter in Morden, and the support can take some of the cost burden off by providing some of these supplies for at least part of the year. They can then instead use their funds to pay for animals to be spayed and neutered and other treatment and care costs.

"It helps so much obviously to take the financial burden off of us in having to purchase these things we need," said Young. "I won't need to purchase any food for awhile. I won't need to purchase any gloves and bags and things like that because people were so generous with what they did donate. It was quite amazing."

Young noted another factor that comes into play as well is their effort to give shelter animals a break by having them in foster homes over the holidays.

"We had so many animals go out to foster homes for the holidays that some food was coming in and going right out with the fosters ... so we weren't able to keep a good count, but that's okay," she said. "We had enough success with the amount of donations that we couldn't fit it all under the tree or around it, and then it was going right out for a good cause."

Overall, she said it shows how so many people care deeply about animals.

"What we are noticing is that it is increasing every year in terms of the number of donations

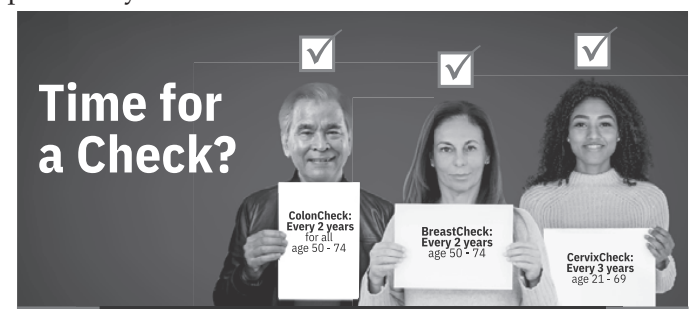
**"THE GENEROSITY OF THE COMMUNITY BLOWS ME AWAY EVERY YEAR."**

and the number of people ... whether it's cash or supplies, we're getting a lot of new donors for different things."

"We're also getting a lot of new fosters to take in animals during the holidays. We ended up with only two dogs and our shelter cats over the two weeks of holidays because so many people were offering to take in some animals," she said. "That obviously helps the animals ... it also helps the volunteers to be able to get a break during the holidays."

They are always open to receiving not only cans of wet cat and dog food but also specifically kitten food as well as clumping cat litter and even laundry and cleaning supplies. Monetary donations are also welcome.

For more information on how you can get involved and support the humane society, you can go online to [pvhsociety.ca](http://pvhsociety.ca).



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# The eleventh province

**I**magine if you will, a time in the not-so-distant future when you are no longer a Canadian but an American living in the state of Canada, a so-called 51st state.

What a terrifying prospect to even consider. It would be like going to sleep one night and waking up in the Twilight Zone.

A few years ago, one would scoff at the very suggestion of such a future, but now with Donald Trump having a great old time gleefully trolling Canadians with regular

social media posts on the subject we are forced to at least imagine such a ridiculous, if far-fetched, future.

Of course, we cannot give Trump the entirety of the credit for this idea. The foundation of this thought rests solidly in the American colonial imperialist idea of Manifest Destiny. Any Canadian educational institution worth its salt has taught us all about this concept, but here's a refresher just in case.

Manifest Destiny is a political, ideological form of missionary evangelism that arose around 1844 where the American state and people believe it was critical to spread the light of the American way of life throughout North America. The concept hinges on the belief that there is no better form of life than the American way, an idea which is called American Ex-

ceptionalism.

Proponents of the concept strongly encouraged the annexation of what is now Texas along with territories in Canada and Mexico.

Of course, those of us with eyes to see and ears to hear know these concepts are nonsense and that among all the nations on earth Canada stands near the top in terms of quality of life, protection for the oppressed, and social infrastructure.

I am not entirely without credibility when I talk about these things, having lived in the United States (Florida) for years when I worked in the IT sector.

We enjoyed certain things about the U.S. We appreciated the low cost to build our home. Taxes were lower. Food and gas prices were also relatively low.

Continued on page 7

• GUEST COMMENTARY

## Liberals are putting their interests ahead of Canadians

**T**he Liberal government is rotting from the inside out, consumed by a decade of corruption.

In a last-ditch move to avoid a non-confidence vote, Justin Trudeau has shut down Parliament, a feeble attempt to delay the inevitable. The Prime Minister is detached from reality, while his party scrambles to find

a replacement. They know the end is near, but still can't put the country ahead of their own survival.

Let's be clear: whoever takes over the Liberal leadership will do nothing to alter the disastrous course Trudeau has set. For nearly ten years, the Liberals stood by as Trudeau raised taxes, inflated housing prices, allowed the national debt to explode, and watched crime run rampant. Now, with re-election hopes fading, they've decided it's time to cut him loose.

They want us to wait while the same people who created this mess choose a new leader from their fractured ranks. The Liberals will never change. Their interests are too deeply entrenched to be swayed by the suffering of Canadians. The future of our

country is just a pawn in their game of self-preservation.

Canada is on the brink. We face a trade war with the United States that could cripple our economy. We have a drug epidemic that has claimed over 47,000 lives. Prices are soaring, crime is rampant, and the Canadian dollar is sinking. This is the product of Liberal rule. This is their legacy. And now they expect us to believe they can fix what they've broken?

Enough. Enough of their lies and hollow promises. The Liberals have exhausted every ounce of credibility. They have failed this country, and their time is over.

Canada deserves better. We deserve

Continued on page 7



**By Peter Cantelon**



**By MP Branden Leslie**

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**MAILING ADDRESS:**

Winkler Morden Voice  
Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

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# PVLIP's annual celebration is Feb. 5

## Linh Huynh to provide keynote address

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership is highlighting the successes of the past year and sharing its plans for the future at the fifth annual Connecting Cultures and Communities Celebration next month.

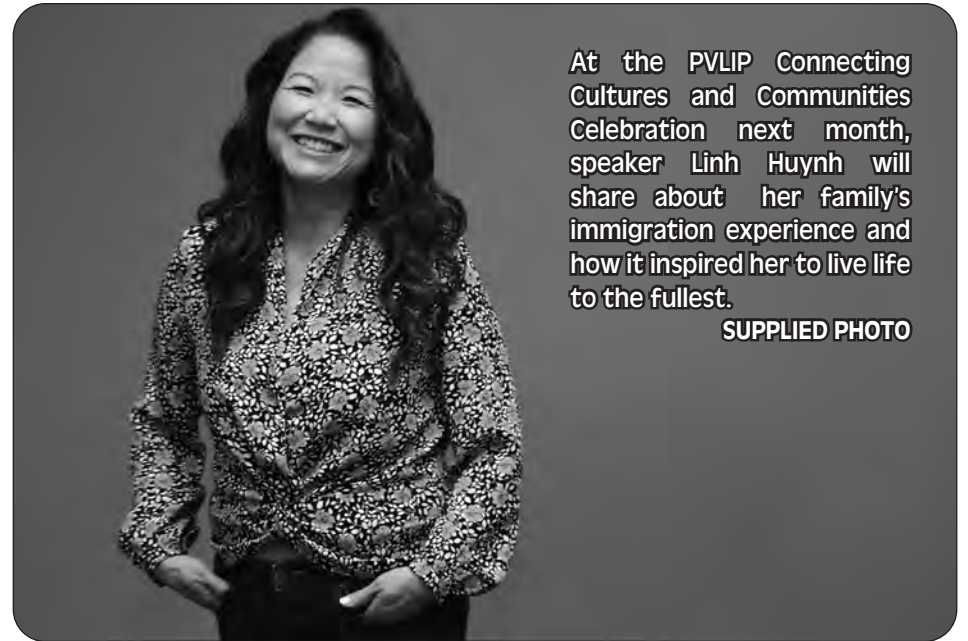
The gathering takes place in Mordean at St. Paul's United Church (335 Thornhill St.) on Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 6:30-9 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

It's a chance to network with long-time and new community members alike while learning more about how PVLIP is working with its partners to make for more welcoming and inclusive communities across southern Manitoba.

"It's really the culmination of our last five years," shares coordinator Elaine Burton Saindon. The agency recently wrapped up work on its first multi-year action plan and has drafted a new one to cover 2025-2030.

The celebration will include highlights from the past few years and then outline what PVLIP hopes to achieve with its four new action priorities. Details on those priorities will be released that night, but Burton Saindon explains they continue with PVLIP's mission to help municipalities and businesses improve the integration of immigrants to the Pembina Valley and strengthen the region's ability to better address the needs of newcomers.

"We don't deal with immigration



At the PVLIP Connecting Cultures and Communities Celebration next month, speaker Linh Huynh will share about her family's immigration experience and how it inspired her to live life to the fullest.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

specifically, but we do work with the impacts of immigration more directly," she explains. "We understand the needs and gaps in a community or organization and then we work collaboratively with multiple partners as to what's the best solution for this problem?"

That work has led to the creation of things like PVLIP's comprehensive toolkit for communities, businesses, and individuals to use to foster a greater sense of belonging.

"That's one of the things that answered a lot of questions for a lot of people and in a lot of places," Burton Saindon observes. "We all have the

right to feel connected and to feel that we belong in our community."

While raising awareness of the work of PVLIP remains a big part of the annual celebration, Burton Saindon is excited that, for the first time, the 2025 event will also feature a keynote speaker that's sure to inspire.

Linh Huynh is a professional speaker, author, educator, and "extreme non-athlete" who has nonetheless competed in numerous marathons and ultra-marathons around the world, including the Antarctic Ice Marathon and the North Pole Mara-

Continued on page 8

### > CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

What I didn't appreciate were the reminders of how different the culture was. Like when I went for a meeting with Compaq in Texas and encountered a sign at the front door that said, "Handguns are not permitted inside of the building." A stark reminder that I was no longer in Canada.

It was also frightening to think about the cost of healthcare for those not fortunate enough to have insurance provided through work like I did. A simple visit to the emergency room at my nearby hospital was \$500 minimum, even if you only walked out with a bandage.

According to International Citizens Insurance, costs are high. Need breast cancer treatment? Prepare to pay anywhere between \$20,000 to \$100,000. Want an MRI? You pay anywhere from \$400 to \$3,000. Wander into the local walk-in clinic? That'll be \$130-\$200. Want to have

a child? The cost of a birth without complications is between \$7,000-\$17,000. Need a heart bypass? You'll spend between \$30,000 to more than \$200,000. The list goes ever onward.

Frankly I think the U.S. would be better off as the eleventh province of Canada. Think of what we could do with some of that \$820 billion spent annually on defence alone?

It seems unlikely given the direction of American culture these days, but we could at least try to make #11thprovince go viral as a hashtag on social media. Who knows, maybe we can spread the Canadian gospel of universal healthcare and a strong social conscience throughout our neighbour to the south.

Of course, one of the biggest values for Americans would be getting to travel abroad with the Canadian flag, passport, and identity, but I'm not sure they could handle the shock of being almost universally loved.

### > LESLIE, FROM PG. 6

a government that puts the people first, not its own interests. A Conservative government will rebuild this country from the ground up. We will reclaim our borders, restore fiscal sanity, crack down on crime, and confront the drug networks poisoning our streets. We will lower taxes, get more homes built, and reward hard work.

Canada's promise was never about a government serving its own interests. It was about a place where anyone willing to work hard could build a life of opportunity. It was about

safety, stability, and strength. The Liberals have betrayed that promise. Now it's time for us to take it back.

This is our moment. It's time to put Canada first. Our country, our families, our future must come first. A Conservative government will restore what's been lost. We will rebuild Canada, stronger and more united than ever before.

The time for waiting is over. The time for an election is now.

*Branden Leslie is the MP for Portage-Lisgar*

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# Your Path Forward: Sharing the dementia journey through art

By Lori Penner

This January, during National Alzheimer's Awareness Month, the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba aims to help Manitobans better understand dementia and the resources available through their campaign, "Your Path Forward."

Hearing the words "You have dementia" can be overwhelming, but you don't have to navigate your next steps alone.

"We want people to know that we're here to help you take those next steps and help you make informed decisions. We provide education, direct one-on-one support, and group support to give you the resources you need to feel hopeful that you can live a quality life even with a diagnosis of dementia," says South Central regional coordinator Rebecca Atkinson.

More than 20,300 Manitobans live with dementia today, a number expected to reach 39,100 by 2050. The Alzheimer Society wants you to know that no matter where you are on your dementia journey, they are there to offer guidance and connect you with the right resources.

"We want people with dementia to be involved in their journey," stresses Atkinson. "Awareness needs to increase. We need to talk about it, find others who are also going through it, and plan your next step. What will give you joy, meaning, and quality in your life?"

Minds in Motion programs are also starting up again, along with ongoing

support groups for care partners in Carman, Altona, and Morden. A listing of all available support groups, both online and in-person for people living with dementia and care partners can be found online at [alzheimer.mb.ca](http://alzheimer.mb.ca).

"The whole point is to help people make informed decisions. So here is the education and the knowledge, now put that in the context of your life: your values and your resources, and make the best life that you can," Atkinson says.

## 'I LOVE MY BRAIN' EXHIBITION

In honour of Alzheimer's Awareness Month, the Golden Prairie Arts Council in Carman is hosting a special exhibit called I Love My Brain.

"For the last few months, we've been striving to get people living with dementia, as well as other brain health categories such as schizophrenia, depression, anxiety, autism, and brain injury, to contribute art," Atkinson explains. "The intention is to open the door for people to share their journey."

"Art has been known to help people move forward through challenging times. I see this as an opportunity to learn and to grow from others' experiences. It will spark conversation, enhance cognition, and encourage people to see a broader horizon."

A call for local artists was made months ago, and a number of fascinating exhibits from people of all walks of life and experiences came forward.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Submissions from a variety of area artists, including Rebecca Atkinson (left) and Nigel Bart (right) are on display at the Carman gallery in an exhibition dubbed I Love My Brain, honouring Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

Golden Prairie Arts Council executive director Nigel Bart says they have received submissions from about 15 artists.

"Much of the artwork is from people who have lived experience with brain injury or Alzheimer's," he says. "The whole idea is to bring awareness, and it's exciting being a part of it."

Each of the pieces is creative and insightful, Bart adds.

"They are incredibly thought-provoking and heart-wrenching at the same time, reflecting a diversity of issues. We have one artist with autism,

one with schizophrenia, and some with Alzheimer's. It's an interesting mixture of people who are speaking out through their art."

The exhibition runs from until Jan. 31 at the Carman gallery, located at 38 Centre Ave. West. For more details, call 204-745-6568.

"Now is the time for conversation. Throughout the month, take in the exhibits, go outside of your comfort zone. Keep growing. Keep learning. It will enhance your cognition and broaden your horizon," Atkinson encourages.

## > PVLIP, FROM PG. 7

thon. She was also the first Canadian woman to complete the 4 Deserts, a series of 250 km self-supported races across some of the harshest terrain in the world.

Huynh's journey began in Vietnam as the seventh of eight children. When she was four, her family escaped the war-torn country in a mass exodus known as the Boat People, making their way first to a refugee camp and finally to rural Canada to start a new life.

"I felt she was a great fit for our community," says Burton Saindon. "Her personal story is common in our area ... there's a relatability to her message that aligns perfectly with what PVLIP is all about."

Linh's presentation centres around living a life of intention and fearlessness, and she's eager to share it with PVLIP supporters.

"We settled in a small Canadian town ... and I really feel my years there and my family background shaped who I grew to become as an adult and the challenges that I've decided to take on," she says, noting a gathering of people passionate about the work of an organization like PVLIP "is my ultimate audience, because there's stories of growing up as a refugee, the classic

immigration story, that I don't normally get to share.

"It's the core of who I am," Huynh says, adding it's exciting to be "sharing these stories that I know will be really touching, will be really inspiring and will really drive the message home that I know exactly what you're going through, because we went through it too."

Huynh's driving philosophy has been to explore everything that life has to offer, and she hopes to inspire others to do the same.

"I live and breathe this message so deeply: to 'wonder' off the beaten path," she says. "It just truly encapsulates everything that I feel—where is that sense of wonder and curiosity that will help extract you from a really hard place and just move you and your dreams forward?"

You can learn more about Huynh's adventures and philosophy online at [sparkingwonder.ca](http://sparkingwonder.ca).

Seating at the event is limited. Book your free ticket online at [PVLIP2025.eventbrite.ca](http://PVLIP2025.eventbrite.ca).

In lieu of admission, PVLIP is accepting donations of food items for the Many Hands Resource Centre in Morden.

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> SCRL 60TH, FROM PG. 3

basement starting in the early 1970s, relying totally on volunteers to ensure the community had access to them.

The new SCRL branch started out in the Altona Mall before moving to other spaces in the community through the years. In 2022, they moved back into a much larger area of the mall with their collection of over 30,000 items.

The Miami and Manitou branches are the latest additions to the SCRL network, Miami joining in 2009 and Manitou in 2018, though both had been serving their communities for some time before that.

The Manitou Library first opened in 1990 and has in the years since significantly expanded its collection, hours of operation, and programming.

So too has the Miami Library, which started as a volunteer-run operation in 2001 loaning out books leftover from the former school library it sourced its collection from. Today it shares space with the RM of Thompson civic offices.

These five branches represent seven municipalities across southern Manitoba and together create a stronger library network than any one could on their own.

"Everybody has a different collection, different strengths," Ching says, noting in example that, "the Manitou branch administrator loves classics and literature, so they have some very obscure stuff in their collection there."

But wherever a given library material might call home, every patron across the region has access to it. SCRL's courier is kept busy bringing items from branch to branch for the thousands of inter-library loans requested by patrons annually.

The majority of people living in communities in the SCRL's service area are library patrons, Ching shares.

"We serve 44,000 people, and 68 per cent of those people have library cards," she says, pointing out larger



**SCRL ARCHIVAL PHOTOS**

The Winkler library started off in the old MTS building (left) in 1965 before moving to the civic centre (above) in the 1980s and to its current spacious facility across the street in 2006.

library networks in Brandon or the Parkland region have uptake of closer to 20 per cent.

**A CHANGING LIBRARY**

Ching has been with SCRL since 2004, serving as the Morden branch librarian for a decade before moving into the administrative side of things.

Over the past 20 years, the library has not only grown and changed, but the culture of its various branches very much has as well.

"What I've noticed is it was really going towards technology a lot," she says of the rise of e-readers, "but then that kind of plateaued."

The digital revolution didn't kill the demand for the library's in-house collection at all—2024 saw over 295,000 items borrowed by SCRL patrons, with over 118,000 people walking through the doors of the five branches—and the library has in fact embraced technology, using it to find new ways to engage patrons and get them the materials they want in the mediums they prefer.

In addition to the books and magazines that have long been on offer at local branches, they've also added materials such as board games and puzzles, grown existing collections of DVDs and audiobooks, and provided access to digital streaming services

for not just books but also newspapers, magazines, comic books, and even movies.

Programming has also exploded in recent years, and it goes well beyond book clubs (though they have those as well). Long gone are the days where libraries are meant to be simply quiet places for reading or studying—now they aim to be true community hubs, Ching says, welcoming everyone for a myriad of clubs, workshops, and other gatherings.

"It's not just about passive programming and storytime anymore. It's about bringing people in," she says. "We have Nerf battles, cookbook clubs, crochet-a-thons ..."

The various branches host crafting nights, Lego clubs, workshops on a litany of skills, and community celebrations such as the upcoming Family Literary parties that will close out this month.

SCRL's staff have been leading the charge on all this varied programming, trying new things to see what works best in each community, Ching says.

"They're doing what they love ... it's exciting to watch."

Looking to the future, Ching expects they'll continue to grow both their materials collection and programming to meet the ever-changing needs of area residents. Increased partnerships

with other groups are also very much on the library's radar.

"We're finding the more we partner with others in the community, some of our newcomer groups, for example ..." the more new ideas are generated, Ching says, pointing out the discussion at a recent cookbook club session turned to the international traditions newcomers enjoyed over the holidays. "It made me think we need to have a 'flavours of our community'—how do you celebrate Easter or Chanukah or whatever. Stuff we know of but we're not familiar with."

They're also looking at things like a tool-lending library and related how-to workshops, and creating a dedicated youth room at the Winkler branch.

**"IT FEELS JOYFUL"**

Recent years have come with more than their fair share of challenges—pandemic closures, calls for certain books to be restricted or taken off the shelves—but the SCRL has weathered those storms and come out the stronger for them.

"It feels joyful, is what I've found," Ching says. "We've come through that bit of a rough patch, but it really showed us where we belonged in the community, and the community understands that we are here for them."



The Morden Library quickly outgrew its first location (left) and has called several buildings downtown home in the years since. Right: The Altona Library joined the SCRL network in 1988 and had space in the Altona Mall. After a few other moves, it is now back in the mall, in a much larger space.



# get informed

## A season full of excitement at the Altona Curling Club

By Lori Penner

The Altona Curling Club is bustling with activity this season.

President Lonnie Stoesz says the club has a packed schedule from January through March, offering a wide range of events for both curling enthusiasts and newcomers.

Fun Fridays have returned by popular demand, providing non-competitive curling nights perfect for beginners and seasoned players alike.

Led by Sandy Hutchinson, these evenings are designed for quick games and a relaxed atmosphere.

"This is a great place to meet new people and try curling in a fun, relaxed environment," said Stoesz. "It's a way to enjoy some camaraderie and

build some new friends within the club. For parents who need a night away from the kids, some have even treated it as a date night."

Fun Fridays are open to anyone aged 18 and over, with upcoming dates on Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Feb. 21, and March 7.

The club's mens and ladies are coming up Jan. 17-18.

Introduced in a combined format last year, this two-day event was a great success. With a maximum of 16 teams per event, registration is filling up quickly.

"We're anticipating a lot of local teams to be there. It's a great way to spend a weekend," Stoesz said. To join, email [curlingclubaltona@gmail.com](mailto:curlingclubaltona@gmail.com) or visit the Altona Curling Club Facebook page.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Sandy Friesen and Lisa Gagne practiced their curling skills at the Altona Curling Club's Fun Friday event last week. The next one is Jan. 24.

Meanwhile, the club's junior program continues to thrive, with impressive participation levels. The upcoming Junior Spiel for U13, U15 and U18 curlers will take place Feb. 1-2.

"It's part of Curl Manitoba. They have a youth spiel series which runs across the province. It's basically meant to encourage more youth curling, so it's not like a super serious bonspiel. The goal is for younger curlers to just get out and have some fun

and meet other curlers from around the regions," Stoesz said. "It can be a mixed team of boys and girls. We currently have 16 teams already registered and space for more."

The deadline to register is Jan. 24. It's \$100 per team, and people can register online at [curlmanitoba.org](http://curlmanitoba.org).

On Feb. 22, the club will host its an-

Continued on page 11



### Congratulations Patty Dick 2024 Maroons 400 Club GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Henry Sawatzky, Altona Maroons Director  
presents Patty Dick with \$3000 Grand Prize

Amount	Winner	Ticket #	Lottery License	Amount	Winner	Ticket #	Lottery License
\$200	Lloyd Wiebe	290	765	\$200	Mark Friesen	125	768
\$200	Kerri Keane	372	765	\$200	Lloyd Wiebe	291	768
\$200	Rick Penner	139	765	\$200	Hannah Loeppky	115	768
\$200	Sandy Hildebrand	131	765	\$200	Bill & Debbie Hildebrand	320	768
\$200	Tracy Klassen	240	765	\$200	Cole & Mace - Adam Mace	175	768
\$200	Derrick Wiebe & Andrew Braun	351	765	\$200	Leonard & Karen Friesen	154	768
\$200	Charlie Hildebrand	357	765	\$200	Brad Derksen	312	768
\$200	Keith Stoesz	37	765	\$200	Colby Hildebrandt	395	768
\$200	Renold & Sara Sawatsky	84	765	\$200	Roger's Plumbing (Roger Neufeld)	75	768
\$200	Kerwin Rempel	161	765	\$200	Ken Sawatzky	227	768
\$200	Robert Martens	250	765	\$200	Lorraine Hamm & Jake Bergen	95	769
\$200	Lloyd Wiebe	290	765	\$200	Border Real Estate (Frank Doerksen)	160	769
\$200	Phyllis Friesen	151	765	\$200	Ryan McPhail	359	769
\$200	Byron Loeppky	97	765	\$200	Clayton Dregger	192	769
\$200	Terry Wiebe	252	765	\$200	Lloyd Wiebe	290	769
\$200	Greg Heinrichs	211	766	\$200	Gerry Voth	136	769
\$200	Ben Dueck	105	766	\$200	Mike Toews	286	769
\$200	Joyce Friesen	106	766	\$200	Bob Toews	216	769
\$200	Red River NH3 Solutions	59	766	\$200	Rod Fehr	221	769
\$200	Mike Toews	286	766	\$200	Robyn Henry	220	769
\$200	Abe Suderman	328	766	\$200	Jesse Voth	176	769
\$200	Mia Dick, Brett Dick, Kyle Sawatzky, Matt Schwartz	122	766	\$200	Sandy & Lyndon Friesen	306	769
\$200	John Enns	225	766	\$200	Roger's Plumbing (Roger Neufeld)	75	769
\$200	Sandy & Lyndon Friesen	306	766	\$200	Nutrien Ag Solutions	66	769
\$200	Noah Letkeman	168	766	\$200	Wayne Bergen & Perry Batchelor	324	769
\$200	Roger's Plumbing (Roger Neufeld)	74	766	\$200	Doug Rempel	166	770
\$200	Ken Kehler	44	766	\$200	Vic Loewen	48	770
\$200	Ryan Kehler	373	766	\$200	Ryan Hildebrand & Nathan Loewen	321	770
\$200	Barry Buhr	108	766	\$200	Keith Stoesz	37	770
\$200	Drew Claussen	278	766	\$200	Bill & Debbie Hildebrand	320	770
\$1,000	Terry Wiebe	253	767	\$200	Ralph Hamm	30	770
\$200	John Enns	225	767	\$200	Mike Kehler	316	770
\$200	Jablonski Electric	53	767	\$200	Jason Hildebrand	171	770
\$200	Conner Enns	283	767	\$200	GW Loeppky	18	770
\$200	Sandy Hildebrand	131	767	\$200	Doug Rempel	164	770
\$200	James Friesen	299	767	\$200	Kevin Kehler	42	770
\$200	Tom Kroeker	133	768	\$200	Brent Fehr	55	770
\$200	Rod Dueck	397	768	\$200	Ernie Buhler	89	770
\$200	Rick Pappel	153	768	\$200	Jablonski Electric	54	770
\$200	Wally Thiessen	104	768	\$200	Vic Loewen	47	770
\$200	Keith Stoesz	37	768	\$3,000	Patty Dick	274	771

## Altona man arrested in Brandon area fentanyl bust

By Voice staff

An Altona man is facing charges in connection to a drug bust that occurred near Brandon a year ago.

On Jan. 25, 2024, Brandon Police Service and RCMP members seized over nine kilograms of fentanyl from a traffic stop on the Trans Canada Highway.

The BPS Organized Crime Section (OCS) continued the investigation, which led to the identification of two additional persons believed to be responsible for the arrangement, coordination, and transportation of the fentanyl that was trafficked into Manitoba from Alberta.

On Dec. 17, a 27-year-old woman from Brooks, AB was arrested in Calgary for the offence of conspiracy to traffic a Scheduled I substance (fentanyl) contrary to Section 465(1)(c) of the Criminal Code & Section 5(1) of

the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. She was released and will appear in court next month.

A 28-year-old Altona man was taken into custody Jan. 3 at Stony Mountain Institution for the same offence/charges. He was remanded into custody to also appear in court in February.

Police believe the pair were responsible for the acquisition and transportation of approximately 15 kilograms of fentanyl between the dates of Dec. 23, 2023, and Jan. 25, 2024, nine of which were seized by police on Jan. 25, 2024.

Brandon Police send thanks out to its partners in Correctional Services of Canada, Public Prosecution Service of Canada, RCMP in Falcon Lake and Brooks, AB, and the police services of Winnipeg, Winkler, Calgary, and Altona for their assistance in this investigation.

# A cheque for Christmas Cheer

By Siobhan Maas

Morris Area Recreation presented a cheque to the Morris Area Christmas Cheer Board last week for the \$2,444.40 raised at Breakfast with Santa last month.

"We at Morris Area Recreation want to express our heartfelt thanks to our amazing community," said organiz-

ers of the event. "We're grateful to everyone who donated, joined, and supported this event.

"A special thanks to our sponsors, donors, and volunteers who made this success possible."

Over 400 people attended the holiday breakfast. The cheerboard packed up over 100 hampers for local families in need just before Christmas.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Byron Edel, Cheryl Klippenstein, Sherri Siemens and Jack Wiebe of the Morris Cheer Board with Meagan Dilts of Morris Area Recreation (second from right) as the rec. department presented the agency with a donation of over \$2,444.



# Pembina Valley Bangladeshi community celebrates



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The local Bangladeshi community had a special celebration in Morden Saturday. Pitha Utshob is a deeply rooted tradition in Bangladeshi culture, especially during the winter season, and it's a time when families come together to enjoy traditional rice cakes and desserts made with love. "By hosting this event here, we not only preserve our heritage but also introduce it to our friends and neighbors in Morden," said organizer Jahangir Talukdar. "It's about sharing our culture and building connections within this amazing community." Plans are in the works to create a Bangladeshi community association to organize events, promote the culture, and provide support to new families arriving in the area.

## > CURLING CLUB, FROM PG. 10

nual Curling Day in Canada event, sponsored by Access Credit Union. This free, fun spiel is open to everyone and often features multi-generational teams taking to the ice. Door prizes and a celebratory atmosphere make it a highlight of the season.

"It's a celebration of curling," Stoesz said. "You don't need to be experienced. We have equipment at the club for those who don't have their own. All you need is a clean pair of shoes.

"We've seen teams where it's grandparents, their kids, and their grandkids all participating on one team. So it's just a fun atmosphere for all ages, and a way to get people into the

club and to celebrate this great sport."

Stoesz added that it's a fairly easy schedule of games.

"It's going to be two or three four-end games, so people don't have to worry about playing a full bonspiel. They're pretty quick games. Maybe you're interested in curling but never tried it before. This is a very easy, low stress way to try it out."

The club's season will conclude with an Open Bonspiel on March 14-15. This event invites participants to create teams of any gender combination for a final celebration of curling to close out the winter.

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MB

# Annual ag show draws hundreds to St. Jean

By Lori Penner

For nearly four decades, the community of St. Jean Baptiste has been the place for "Canada's Biggest Little Farm Show." Now in its 38th year, St. Jean Farm Days is still going strong.

The annual event drew hundreds of local producers and exhibitors to the Centennial Hall on Jan. 8-9, to connect with other farmers, ag specialists, and dealers from across the region.

Once again, visitors enjoyed the same great food that Farm Days is known for, including a continental breakfast and homemade cuisine featuring the region's signature pea soup and open-faced sandwiches.

This year, however, marked a significant change as the Knights of Columbus, who have prepared and served the food at Farm Days for 37 years, stepped down.

Gilbert Sabourin, who heads up the organizing committee along with

Brunel Sabourin, Jennifer Sabourin, and Wayne Klassen, explained the transition.

"Our parents were a part of the original Farm Days, and we've stepped up over the last few years. The average age of the Knights was getting up there. A lot of them moved away from town, so they disbanded the group last summer. This was their main fundraiser all those years. Anything they made went right back into the community, so it's kind of the end of an era."

St. Jean-Baptiste has proudly held the title of "Soup Pea Capital of Canada" for decades. Although that market has since shifted to Saskatchewan, the region is still famous for its traditional soup.

"Morris Bigway had a meeting with my dad, recipes for the traditional pea soup and the ham sandwiches were shared, and they did a fabulous job. They duplicated everything. Why fix



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Ag specialists Tammy Jones, Kim Brown-Livingston, and Jeanette Gauthier hosted a lively forum about how to deal with resistant weeds at St. Jean Farm Days last week.

something if it's not broken?" Sabourin noted.

He says the frosty weather on both days of the event played a role in boosting attendance.

"Most of the time, it's correlated to the temperature. The colder it is, the more people attend. If it's minus 35, not too many people want to start their grain augers and their grain trucks, so they come here," Sabourin said. However, he also acknowledged that the demand for grain was high. "But now the elevators want grain.

They have train cars they want to send down to the States in case there are tariffs coming. Lots of people are hauling grain right now."

Visitors at Farm Days also had the opportunity to network with other producers and 51 exhibitors about what's going to be important to their farm operations this upcoming season. One of the big sellers of the show, Sabourin added, is that attendees know they'll get to talk to familiar faces.

"We work hard to get experts who can present on current topics that are relevant to local producers. The people who can help them are all right here. With some of the larger shows, such as the three-day event in Brandon, it might be harder to connect with your person on the day you're there. Here, they'll be there."

The event also featured a full speaker program with topics relevant to the agricultural business.

"You always want to hear about things that are current to the day. Something that's

Continued on page 15

**"WE WORK HARD TO GET EXPERTS WHO CAN PRESENT ON CURRENT TOPICS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO LOCAL PRODUCERS."**



PHOTOS BY

LORI PENNER/VOICE  
St. Jean Farm Days gave producers and ag specialists a chance to share information about everything from equipment and chemicals to seed and crop insurance.



After a full round of presentations, the Farmers Bar rounded off the afternoon on day one.

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# sports & recreation



Hawks Captain Jeff Michiels loses the handle on the puck in front of Royals netminder Matt Thiessen. Notre Dame won it 8-4.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

## Royals, Wild post losses, Bombers victorious

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Royals found themselves on the losing end of an 8-4 rout over the weekend.

The SEMHL team welcomed the Notre Dame Hawks to town Sunday night.

Despite Colton Harder opening scoring midway through the first period, the Royals quickly found themselves down 3-1 before the buzzer and then 5-1 in the middle frame before Aaron Lewadniuk and Braden Hildebrand added Winkler's second and third

goals. Notre Dame then managed a sixth one with a little over a minute to go on the clock.

The third period saw the home team's Adam Henry score shorthanded 10 minutes in, but two more goals from the Hawks—including an empty-netter—bookended the period to give them the win 8-4.

Matthew Thiessen made 36 saves in net for Winkler. The Royals won the shots-on-net battle 48-43.

The Red River Wild suffered a similar fate at the hands of the Warren Mercs the night before.

Red River lit up the board in each period thanks to goals from Jonah Wasylak, Geordie Keane, and Tj Matuszewski, but Warren's six in response gave them the win.

The Wild's Jayden Catellier made 41 saves off 47 shots. His teammates sent 36 the other way.

The Morden Bombers, meanwhile, had a much better weekend, defeating Portage 7-4 Saturday and then Warren 6-2 on Sunday.

Mike Rey and Collin Shirley led the night in scoring against the Islanders with a hat trick and a double, respec-

tively, while additional goals from Michael Hlady and Derek Wiebe and a 35-save performance from netminder Reed Peters rounded out the win.

The next night, the Bombers were up 4-0 before the Mercs managed even one goal. Tyler Peers and Hlady scored in the first and Shirley and Keane Boucher scored within seconds of each other early in the second. Shirley then got his second of the night at 19:52 to send Morden into the final period up 5-1.

There, Derek Wiebe made it 6-1. Warren managed just one more goal, giving Morden the win 6-2.

Peters made 44 saves in net as the Mercs outshot the Bombers 46-31.

Ste. Anne (20 points), Springfield (17 points), and Notre Dame (16 points) are currently at the top of the SEMHL standings followed by Red River in fourth place (7-4-1, 15 points), Winkler in fifth (7-4-0-1, 15 points), and Morden in sixth (7-4, 14 points).

Coming up, Morden hosts Ste. Anne Thursday and then plays in Portage Saturday, Red River is in Carman Friday and then hosts Ile des Chenes Sunday, Winkler hosts Springfield Sunday

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PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley's Gavin Rondeau lifts the stick of Eastman's Lucas Laramée to keep him from making a pass in Sunday's 5-2 Hawks win.

# Hawks earn five points

By Lorne Stelmach

Picking up five of a possible six points made it a successful week for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

The Hawks earned a 3-1 win over Central Plains last Tuesday that snapped a seven-game winless streak. It was followed by a 2-1 shootout loss to the Winnipeg Wild Saturday and then a 5-2 win Sunday over Eastman.

The Hawks got on the board with two goals in the second period against Central Plains and added one more in the third before giving up a late goal to the Capitals.

Paxton White, Carson Hiebert, and Tegan Fehr scored for the Hawks, and goalie Ryler Gates got the win with 34 saves as Pembina Valley had a 38-35 edge in shots on goal.

Karsen Dyck kept the Hawks in the game against the second-place Wild with 42 saves before Winnipeg prevailed in a shootout.

The Wild opened scoring in the first

period, but then Carson Unger's fifth of the season tied it up for Pembina Valley in the second period.

Shots on goal were 44-28 in favour of Winnipeg, who connected for the lone shootout goal on their second of three shots.

After a scoreless first period, the Hawks took a 2-1 lead on Eastman in the second frame and then put it away with three more goals in the third.

Cole Secord had a pair for Pembina Valley, with the other goals coming from Ragnar Gillis, Haiden Friesen, and Gavin Rondeau. Gates made 45 saves as Eastman held a 47-32 edge in shots on goal.

Pembina Valley improved to just a game below .500 at 13-14-3-2 for 31 points, which is good for ninth place—five points ahead of Kenora and four behind Interlake.

This week the Hawks visit Southwest Wednesday before hosting the Winnipeg Thrashers Friday and the Norman Northstars Sunday.

# Winkler Flyers beat Steelers, Terriers in OT, SO

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers added two more to the win column last weekend.

Friday night saw them down the Steelers in Selkirk 4-3 in overtime.

The home team was up 2-0 when Niklas Gudmundson finally got Winkler on the board midway through the second period.

Jacob Michelson tied it up 2-2 in the final frame's second minute, only to have Selkirk pull ahead with their third of the night 57 seconds later.

Kam Thomas got the tying goal at 10:24, ultimately forcing overtime. There, Nicholas Mckee scored the game-winner nearly three minutes in.

Winkler outshot Selkirk 58-42. Leif Ekblad made 39 saves in net for the Flyers.

A shootout was needed for a decision two nights later in Portage.

Winkler was up 2-1 thanks to goals from Thomas and Jared Grenier, but a late goal from the home team sent things into overtime.

When that failed to solve anything, the resulting shootout saw McKee and the Terriers' Dawson Madden both score in the first round, Gudmundson and Portage's Koy Funk miss in the second, and then Thomas get the game-winner when Tristan Gravenor missed for Portage in the third round. Ernst was between the posts for

Winkler in the 3-2 win, making 32 saves off 34 shots.

The Flyers are currently in second place in the MGEU East Division standings with a record of 26-6-2.

They're just two points behind the first-place Steinbach Pistons and one ahead of the third-place Terriers, but have two and three games in hand over those teams, respectively.

# Female Hawks move into fifth place

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks moved into fifth place with a pair of victories this past weekend.

Pembina Valley earned a key 5-0 shutout win Friday over the Westman Wildcats, who are now three points behind the Hawks in the standings. Pembina Valley followed the win up with a 3-2 overtime win Sunday afternoon over the Central Plains Capitals.

Kasia Rakowski got the 37-save shutout to lead Pembina Valley to the victory over Westman.

Winkler headed north to play Waywayseecappo Tuesday night (results were not available at press time) and then returns home to host the Dauphin Kings and the Virden Oil Capitals this Friday and Saturday.

In other Flyers news, the team announced a couple of trades last week ahead of the CJHL trade deadline.

They acquired 20-year-old forward

Andrew Morton from the CCHL's Rockland Nationals, traded defenseman Sully Ross to the Portage Terriers in exchange for defenseman Jacob Michelson, and traded forward Ethan MacTavish to the Swan Valley Stampeders in exchange for a player development fee.

The Hawks led 2-0 and 4-0 at the intermissions, and they were paced by Jessica Anderson, who picked up a hat trick to put her to 17 goals on the season.

Casey O'Brien and Piper Sawatzky also scored for Pembina Valley, which was outshot 37-30 by Westman.

The Hawks then bombarded Central Plains with 57 shots on goal, but they still needed O'Brien's winner with 3:37 to go in overtime after Central Plains managed to even the game with just 22 seconds remaining in regulation.

Emma Durand and Abigail Brigg also scored for the Hawks, while Madison Froese stopped 20 of 22 shots for the win.

The victories improved the Hawks to 11-14-1 for 23 points, but they remain six points behind fourth-place Yellowhead and just three and four points up on Westman and Brandon.

Pembina Valley has a break from league play this week but then has a busy three-game weekend Jan. 24-26 against Interlake, Yellowhead, and the Winnipeg Ice.

*The Voice*

Send news items to: [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca)  
Advertising inquiries to: [ads@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:ads@winklermordenvoice.ca)

# Pembina Valley Royals enjoying new jerseys

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Royals U18 team are looking pretty spiffy in their new uniforms this season, thanks to the work of team management and the support of local sponsors.

Head coach Mark Bergstresser shares that the new mixed team—made up of Gr. 10-12 players from Morden, Winkler, Altona, Morris, and St. Jean—started the season without Royals branded jerseys, but manager Crystal Hildebrand's work drumming up sponsors has allowed them to swap the old ones out for new, unified home and away jerseys bearing the team name and logo.

"She did a great job of getting the sponsorship money and ordering the jerseys and getting the tournament going," Bergstresser says. The Royals went 3-1 to clinch the third place medal at their home tournament in

Morden Jan. 3-4. "It was her idea to get [the push for new jerseys] going, and we're so happy to have her on our team."

The Royals have been playing in the Eastman Minor Hockey league, where they've posted six wins and a tie.

"We've been doing pretty good," Bergstresser said of the 12 games they've played so far this year. The season runs until the end of February, followed by provincials in Niverville in March.

With players coming from all over the region, it takes a lot of commitment to get everyone together for practices—once a week in Plum Coulee—and weekend games, but Bergstresser says the kids have stepped up. And the new jerseys were met with a great deal of enthusiasm from everyone.

"They're used to wearing a jersey



### SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Pembina Valley Royals won bronze at their home tournament earlier this month. Right: Morris player Nolan Bergstresser and Morden goalie Kali Hildebrand sporting the team's new uniforms.



from Altona or Morris or whatever, the same old thing, and here they got to actually pick their own numbers, they really like the colours. So, yeah, they were very excited."

## > ST. JEAN FARM DAYS, FROM PG. 12

been consistent for 38 years is that we always have a grain marketing speaker each day. We always have a weather-related speaker, and the rest is whatever is relevant to the times," Sabourin said.

"It's been the same format since we began. People want to know about the forecast in terms of market, weather, and insects, along with other things like the resistant weeds that we have coming up from the States. We bring all these experts here where people can get all the information they need and talk to local people about local issues. They get

answers, right down to how to survive the current market."

Reflecting on the event's longevity, Sabourin said, "I never thought it would go on this long. If you looked within a 15-mile radius in 1986, how many farmers were there? And you look at 2025, and there are a lot fewer farmers. It's a whole new generation of producers. Back then, I could have named every farmer in the room, and now I know maybe 10 per cent of them."

Despite the changes over the years, the essence of St. Jean Farm Days remains the same.

"We've had some of the same guys coming year after year, traveling from Portage la Prairie and Miami. They come for the speakers and the meals. And the timing is perfect. It's the first show of the year; by the end of February, people are 'meetinged' out. It's a familiar, low-key event. Pretty much business as usual," Sabourin said.

Over the years, new features have been added to keep Farm Days fresh and engaging. For instance, the farmers' bar was introduced a few years ago.

"We have the beer, and one year the cooler stopped working. I got a big round grain tub, filled it with snow,

and people loved it. Now we do it every year," Sabourin shared. Despite the additions, the cost remains affordable. "It's still just \$10 for breakfast, lunch, and all this learning. We kept it low-cost for all our exhibitors and guests."

The purpose of the event has always been to connect local producers with each other and experts in the industry.

"We wanted to provide a place where they didn't have to travel very far to get the advice and the products they needed. It's really a great event," Sabourin concluded.

**Did you know that we employ 56 carriers to deliver the newspaper and flyers door to door in Morden and Winkler - keeping our dollars local.**

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Purchase ad space or book your flyer with the Winkler Morden Voice and support our local economy. We have 56 local carriers that look forward to delivering the Winkler Morden Voice every week to save money to plan for the future. Support our future generations and book an ad or flyer with us today. Call or text Gwen Dyck @ 204-823-0535 or email: [gdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:gdyck@winklermordenvoice.ca)

**Thank you to PharmaChoice, Peavy Mart, Walmart, Natural Factors & Home Hardware for supporting our local carrier force.**

# Classifieds

The *Winkler Morden* Voice

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**PERMANENT DIVISIONAL SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST**  
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**CAREERS**



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a  
**TERM GRADE 1 & 2 CLASSROOM TEACHER**  
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**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 \$0.29/1000 gallons, effective January 1, 2025. This rate increase reflects a "pass through" rate increase of \$0.10/1000 gallons for Winkler consumers.

Public notice is hereby given that the utility rate increase will be \$1.13/1000 gallons effective for the March 15, 2025, quarterly billing in the City of Winkler. That being from the present water rate of \$8.76/1000 gallons to \$9.06/1000 gallons and the sewer rate from \$8.42/1000 gallons to \$9.25/1000 gallons.

Jody Penner  
 City Manager

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 194 of the Municipal Act of Manitoba, the audited financial statements for the Municipality of Rhineland for the year ending December 31, 2023 have been completed and are available for inspection by any person during regular office hours at the Municipality of Rhineland Administration Office, 109 – 3rd Street NE, Altona, MB.

Michael Rempel  
 Chief Administrative Officer

**FLIGHT ACADEMY**

Want to learn how to fly? Recreational Pilot Program is the best way to get started, must be 16 years of age. Privileges: fly for fun in a certified airplane, a home-built aircraft or an ultralight; fly by day only in Canada with one passenger; can easily add float rating to permit. LS Airways Flight Academy 204-651-1402.

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Border Land School Division invites applicants for a  
**TERM DIVISIONAL SOCIAL WORKER**  
 THIS POSITION WILL COMMENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND CONCLUDE JUNE 27, 2025 - WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXTENSION INTO THE 25/26 SCHOOL YEAR  
 FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

**CAREERS**



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a  
**PERMANENT DIVISIONAL DISCIPLINARY LITERACY COACH**  
 FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

**CAREERS**



**MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT**

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

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible. Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
- Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
- Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
- Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience

This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

Starting Wages:

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

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

**Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.**

**SCRAP METAL**

Buyer for all farmyard scrap, machinery and autos. No item too large! Best prices paid, cash in hand. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

**PROPERTY FOR SALE**

Nice 20-acre retirement or subdividing opportunity 4 miles west of Brandon on paved road. 1,572 sq. ft. home including appliances, wheelchair accessible, 1-level, attached garage. Also, additional adjoining subdivided 5-acre lot. Immediate possession, private sale. \$750,000. Call 1-204-723-0083 for appointment to view, anytime.

**NOTICES**

**URGENT PRESS RELEASES** - Have a newsworthy item to announce? 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](http://www.mcna.com) under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

**NOTICES**

**PLAN YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS FOR 2025!** Maximize your business plan, for a successful year. Jump on our great prices and start getting responses! Book your blanket classified ads, seen in the 31 Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please Call 204-467-5836 OR MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

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**NEWTEC IRRIGATION.** Looking to hire: Travelling Salesperson. Agricultural experience preferred. TOP WAGES. Please call for more information: 306-260-9575.

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The *Winkler Morden* Voice  
 Call 204-467-5836

**CAREERS**



**MANITOBA CROP ALLIANCE**

**Administrative Assistant**

Manitoba Crop Alliance (MCA) is seeking a full-time, permanent Administrative Assistant to join our dynamic team to execute MCA's levy administration and the delivery of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Advance Payments Program (APP). The individual must have a passion to deliver high-level administrative support to MCA, the senior leadership team and the APP. This position is instrumental in enhancing the organization's effectiveness and ensuring smooth operations across multiple functions.

To view the full job posting, visit [mbcropalliance.ca](http://mbcropalliance.ca). To apply, please forward a resume and letter of interest by email to [darcelle@mbcropalliance.ca](mailto:darcelle@mbcropalliance.ca). **Application deadline for this position is Jan. 24, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. CST.**



# Classifieds The Voice Winkler Morden Announcements

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## 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. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewoodelkranch@mymts.net

## Online McSherry Auctions

www.meyersauctions.com

**Estate & Moving #2**  
January 22nd @ 7:00PM  
Featuring Snap On Tools

## Large Online Auction

Closing Jan 23, 2025

**Estate & Moving #3**  
January 29th @ 7:00PM

- \*Antiques
- \*Collectables
- \*Furniture
- \*Shop Tools
- \*Lawn & Garden
- \*House Wares
- \*Electronics

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mcsherrytld@gmail.com

Arden, MB  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE



### CITY OF MORDEN PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN NO. 01-25 – BY-LAW NO. 02-2025 STANDPIPE PROJECT

The Council of the City of Morden has scheduled a public hearing at the Morden Civic Center at 100-195 Stephen Street in Morden, Manitoba on the 27th of January 2025 at 7:30 P.M. to present the following local improvement plan.

The purpose of this local improvement levy is to fund the replacement of old worn-out standpipe with new standpipe and THM removal system at the Morden Water treatment Plant.

The local improvement tax to be levied under this proposal is to be based on the portioned value of all assessable property in the City, which includes taxable, grant-in-lieu and otherwise exempt properties in the City of Morden, and the tax is to be based on the portioned value of all these properties. The potential taxpayers under this plan are the owners of said properties.

The total estimated cost of this local improvement is \$2,450,000.00, and it is to be funded by City of Morden borrowing at a maximum rate of 5.9 % over 15 years.

The rate will be calculated as follows: Based on the calculated annual repayment amount of \$250,613.12 and the City of Morden's 2025 local improvement district preliminary assessment value of \$721,350,360.00 an estimated 0.347 mill rate will be required. Calculated on a residential property valued at \$300,000.00 (portioned value of \$135,000.00), an estimated \$46.85 local improvement tax will be levied annually for 15 years.

The annual operating and maintenance costs associated with the proposed local improvement will be covered under the City of Morden's annual operating budget.

A written objection may be filed with the City Manager at the Civic Office located at 100-195 Stephen Street in Morden, Manitoba prior to the commencement of the hearing. At the hearing, Council will hear any potential taxpayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the local improvement plan.

All objections, written or verbal, must be filed prior to the adjournment of the hearing and must include the name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and the grounds of their objection.

Copies of the local improvement plan are available at the municipal office at 100-195 Stephen Street in Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1V3 and on the municipal website at: <https://www.mymorden.ca/>

Dated at the City of Morden, this 16th day of December 2024 and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.

Nicole Reidle, CMMA  
City Manager  
City of Morden  
204-822-4434

## INVITATION TO TENDER

### INVITATION TO TENDER

We invite TENDERS for the purchase of approximately 37.52 Acres of land in the R.M. of Rhineland described as:

THE W ½ OF THE E ½ OF THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 6-1-3 WPM EXC WATER CONTROL WORKS PLAN 49287 MLTO Title No. 3093661/4 Roll No. 118200

A cheque for \$10,000.00 must accompany the tender as a down payment. Written tenders must be received by 2:00 p.m. on January 31, 2025. Down payment will be returned if tender not accepted.

Closing date for the sale shall be February 28, 2025, by cash or approved loan proceeds. Any loan advances paid after closing date are subject to payment of interest at loan rate during reasonable delay for registration of security. Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of all 2025 property taxes and GST or shall self-assess for GST. The highest or any Tender may not necessarily be accepted.

#### ADDRESS:

DOELL LAW OFFICE  
P.O. Box 1150  
1-655 Main Street  
Winkler, MB R6W 4B2  
Ph. (204) 325-8807

To the attention of Scott C. Doell For more information on the tender email: [info@doelllaw.com](mailto:info@doelllaw.com)

## 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. RZ2024-007 and By-law No. 2329-24, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2329-24, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

**675 Pth 14, legally described as Lot 2, Plan 71465 MLTO.**

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:** "CG" COMMERCIAL GENERAL

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2329-24 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 28, 2025  
**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2024.  
Designated Officer, City of Winkler

Schedule "A"



185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4  
204-325-9524 | [permits@cityofwinkler.ca](mailto:permits@cityofwinkler.ca)

WWW.WINKLER.CA

**REAL ESTATE**



**Unique opportunity  
Mid-town Morris.  
138 Main St. N**

50ft x 150ft lot on busy hwy. Zoned commercial with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Fully renovated older home set back on property. New roof, siding, doors and windows. All new wiring and plumbing, new insulation. New kitchen and bath, deck, sun-room, mudroom and a garage at back. Fridge stove, washer, dryer & microwave included. \$225,000 Ph. owner 204-712-6433

**EMPLOYMENT**

**ROSEISLE  
Backhoe  
Service Ltd.  
RED SEAL HEAVY DIESEL MECHANIC**

Roseisle Backhoe Service Ltd. is seeking a FULL TIME Red Seal heavy diesel mechanic, for an excavating and trucking company. Pay is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Welding experience is an asset. Class 1 drivers license and or the ability to operate heavy equipment will also be considered an asset.

**Call or text Jason Klassen at 204-750-0172  
or email: jasonklassen.rbs@gmail.com**

**REGISTRATION**



**Western School Division**

**Kindergarten Registration for September 2025**

In order for the schools to prepare for the 2025-2026 school year, it is important that parents register their children for Kindergarten from **January 17 to January 31, 2025**.

Additional information is available at [www.westernsd.mb.ca](http://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 4:30 p.m. from January 17 to January 31, 2025. Children born in 2020 or earlier are eligible to enrol. All parents shall include a copy of their child's birth certificate, or another document to identify their birth date with the registration.

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

Catchment areas are:

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

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

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

**Kindergarten Information Session**

*Western School Division will be holding a Kindergarten Parent Information session on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at École Discovery Trails. We look forward to seeing all the new Kindergarten parents on this evening.*

More detailed information is available online at [www.westernsd.mb.ca](http://www.westernsd.mb.ca), at the schools, or at Western School Division Office, 204-822-4448.

**Classifieds** *The Voice* Winkler Morden

**REAL ESTATE**

**SOLD BUSINESS**

8000 square foot storage building on approximately 2 acres. Metal clad, concrete floor, chain link fencing on 3 sides, 200 amp service.



**309 Montreal Ave.,  
Morris Industrial area. \$159,000  
Phone owner at 204-712-6433**

**CAREERS**



**Assiniboine  
College**

We are hiring!

**Assiniboine College  
1430 Victoria Ave E.  
Brandon, MB R7A 2A9**

**Deputy Chief Power Engineer**

**Facilities**

**Full-Time, Regular  
Brandon, MB**

**Comp #65-24/25**

**Salary: \$74,555.54 to \$90,292.80 annually**

**Classification: Chief Power Engineer 3rd Class plant (C3E)**

Under the direction of the Engineering Services Manager, this position is responsible for the safe and efficient maintenance and operation of the Steam Plants and all ancillaries at the Victoria Ave East (Brandon) & Parkland (Dauphin) campuses. The incumbent is responsible for planning and supervising work schedules, repairs and preventative maintenance performed by power engineers and/or contractors. The incumbent is also responsible for Human Resource Management of Power Plant Staff, Budget, and Maintenance Management all the while ensuring excellent client relations are maintained. For more information, please visit [www.assiniboine.net/careers](http://www.assiniboine.net/careers).

**How to Apply:**

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

**COMING EVENTS**



Join us for a discussion on **PWCP, GROW, and PVWD** programs for 2025 growing season!

Open to producers and landowners.

<b>Killarney</b> February 13, 2025 Shamrock Centre Elk Lounge Manitoba	<b>Winkler/Morden</b> February 6, 2025 Threshermen's Museum Kevin Elmy
<b>Boissevain</b> February 20, 2025 Legion Hall Seine River	<b>Saint Jean</b> February 27, 2025 Centennial Hall COVERS & CO. SEINE RAT ROSEAU

**JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND FOOD** **START TIME(S) 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM** **ATTENDANCE FREE**

**Register on our website [pvwd.ca](http://pvwd.ca) for a chance to win a door prize(s)!**

**EMPLOYMENT**

**MORRIS DENTAL CENTRE**

**HYGIENISTS!  
PART TIME  
OPPORTUNITY**

at a great family dental practice in Morris, Manitoba. Flexibility of days.

Email resume to [morrisdental@mymts.net](mailto:morrisdental@mymts.net)

**SKI & NOWBOARDING**



**FROSTFIRE  
PARK**

*Less Than 1 Hour Drive  
From Morden-Winkler Area  
11950 Co Hwy 55, Walkhalla, ND*

**Open for Ski & Snowboarding  
For The Long Weekend!  
Friday, Jan. 17 through  
Monday, Jan. 20!**

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### BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday Mam and Grandma!  
We love you very much and we are very grateful to the God that we have you!  
The God bless you!

### OBITUARY



#### Tina Thiessen

Tina Thiessen, age 78 of Miami, MB passed away at her residence on Saturday, December 28, 2024.

She is survived by two sons and two daughters: Henry Thiessen, Agatha (Randy) Krahn, Katharina (Corny) Wiebe, Abram (Esther) Thiessen, and four grandchildren: Rochelle, Arlen and Adrian Thiessen, and Allison Wiebe.

She was predeceased by her husband Jacob in 2021.

Mom was born in Altona on October 11, 1946 to her parents, Abram F. and Mary (Sawatzky)

Unger and spent the first months of her life near St. Joseph. In 1947 they moved to a farm in the Haywood area where she grew up in a small log house, learning the skills to be a homemaker. She also milked up to 12 cows when the need arose. She loved baking from a young age. She also had a love for music and played the organ.

Mom was baptized upon the confession of her faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour by Bishop John A. Friesen and accepted as a member of the Sommerfeld Mennonite church at Stephenfield on May 19, 1964. On October 10, 1965 she entered into holy matrimony with Jacob Thiessen with whom she shared the joys and sorrows of marriage for 56 years and 18 days. They were blessed with two sons and two daughters. In 1972 they moved to their present location.

Mom was a homemaker and helped with milking cows and other farm work. She kept a large garden and cooked many meals for the family farm that included Dad's parents and siblings and sometimes hired help. She operated farm equipment, from tractors and trucks to combines. Now, in her later years, she still made meals for us when we were busy with the farm work. Mom enjoyed entertaining guests in her home, serving fasha or a full meal. She still did all the canning and still loved baking. Very often when we'd come in from working outside, if she wasn't in the kitchen, she'd be sitting in her chair, reading her Bible. She had a deep concern for the souls of her children and grandchildren. Part of Mom's regular routine the last few years was riding her exercise bike in what Adrian called "Her Exercise Room", while listening to Back to the Bible every weekday morning when possible. She kept a record of distance and calories, with the last entry being December 23, 2024.

The family would like to express their thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls, messages, visits and meals. We wish to thank the ambulance attendants, RCMP, and medical examiner for their services. Thank you to Dr. Berard, who has been Mom's family doctor for many years. Thank you also to Wiebe's Funeral Home. Thank you to the ministerial of the Old Colony Mennonite Church, song leaders, ushers, sound man, serving group and caretakers.

Donations may be made to the St. Boniface Hospital Foundation or a charity of one's choice. Funeral Service was held on Saturday, January 4th, 2025 at 2 p.m. at the Chortitz Old Colony Church with Burial at Chortitz Community Cemetery after the Service.

Wiebe Funeral Chaple, Morden  
in care of arrangements  
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### BRANCH CLOSURE

#### NOTICE OF BRANCH CLOSURE TO: All members of Access Credit Union Limited (the "Credit Union")

Notice is hereby given, in compliance with the Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Regulation, that the Credit Union will be closing the Gretna branch located at:  
542 Hespeler Avenue, Gretna, MB R0G 0V0

**The branch will close effective May 22, 2025.**

The Gretna branch members will be consolidated with 129-3rd Ave NE, Altona Branch. Members may also select any other branch location in Manitoba that may be more convenient with no changes of membership number or account numbers.

DATED this 16th day of January, 2025  
ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED  
By order of the Board of Directors



### BRANCH CLOSURE

#### NOTICE OF BRANCH CLOSURE TO: All members of Access Credit Union Limited (the "Credit Union")

Notice is hereby given, in compliance with the Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Regulation, that the Credit Union will be closing the Lowe Farm branch located at:  
52 Main Street, Lowe Farm, MB R0G 1E0

**The branch will close effective May 22, 2025.**

The Lowe Farm branch members will be consolidated with 100 Main Street, Morris. Members may also select any other branch location in Manitoba that may be more convenient with no changes of membership number or account numbers.

DATED this 16th day of January, 2025  
ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED  
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**MSRP \$47,044**  
**LEASE \$45,544**  
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