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PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Knights of Columbus members Louis Tremorin, Gilles Marion, Louise Fillion, Claude Goulet, Leon Fillion, and Rita Marion served up food and smiles at St. Jean Farm Days last week. For the full story on the return of the farm show, see Pg. 17.

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Altona chamber welcomes programs and events coordinator

By Lori Penner

The Altona & District Chamber of Commerce recently welcomed a new person to their team.

Chloe Driedger has filled the new role of programs and events coordinator.

Driedger grew up in Altona and developed a love for the business community while working for her family's former business, The Ice Cream Hut.

"I've always had an interest in businesses since I was part of a family business for 14 years. I've got a good idea of what it takes to run a business, and the commitment and hard work it takes to make it a success," she says.

Being recognized in the community was one of the things that made Driedger stand out, says economic development officer Stephanie Harris.

"Everybody knows her and is comfortable working with her. That's something we were looking for in this new position. She is well liked. She grew up here. She went to school here and has been part of many community events."

One of those events was the 2019 Manitoba Sunflower Festival where Driedger was named a runner-up.

"I love this town, so I'm excited to be a part of all this," Driedger says. "It's all still very new, but it's been a great experience so far. There's a lot of training and learning about procedures and making connections. I'm really learning a lot about this community. When I first came

on board, I didn't realize how many businesses we have in Altona. You tend to go to the same regular ones, so it was amazing to learn that the chamber has about 200 members."

Driedger's position was created late last year during the chamber's restructuring process.

"In order to better serve our business community, we formed a partnership with Supporting Entrepreneurs through Economic Development (SEED) to provide a more coordinated approach to strengthen all supports and programming," Harris explains. "I am the direct point of contact for all businesses, fostering and having cumulative knowledge and oversight, and as the programs and events coordinator, Chloe will have a strong focus on creating and implementing the valuable programs and events for the chamber membership."

All the chamber and SEED services are now located in one location on Centre Ave. Harris says the new model is already proving to be a success.

"We've already seen some of those synergies at work. I have the initial meeting with the business. Through that meeting, I may find out they're also looking for a new location. And they could potentially apply for the business grant program. So now they want to join the chamber, be part of the welcome program and all the networking events. And they also got to hear what SEED can offer them all in that same conversation, all in one conversation. It's about closing gaps that may have been missed when we had

the two locations before."

Harris says she would love to say they've eased into the new year, but that is not the case.

"We kind of hit the ground running. Because the Chamber Buck program was so successful, we're seeing many of them redeemed now, so that has been keeping us very occupied. We sold over \$120,000 in Chamber Bucks just over the holiday season. The fact that they can now be redeemed at the credit union and the bank created a great response. They are going out in the community and the community is redeeming them as well."

With newcomers continuing to arrive, the welcome program has also been busy. The program has participating businesses offer coupons and promotional material, which is a great way to create visibility for the businesses and familiarity for the newcomers, Harris says

"That program has also transitioned. Now we're focusing on newcomer packages. There was not a lot of uptake on the newborn or newlywed packages last year. Only 13 packages went out. In contrast, we had about 107 newcomer packages."

Harris and Driedger will also be occupied with planning the upcoming

chamber AGM in March, and the awards banquet in April, which will be their first since 2019.

"We weren't able to host it during the pandemic, so it's great to be planning this one," Harris says.

The event has historically included a ceremony to honour Altona's Citizen of the Year, among other categories.

"We're revisiting the awards categories and considering a change from the titles in the past. We are in a transition and getting more business focused, so looking at the awards, we're wondering if they should be more community-based or business focused. Instead of a Citizen of the Year, maybe an Entrepreneur of the

Year? We're still giving that some thought."

Revamping social media pages and streamlining their contacts is also in the works.

"We're looking at strategies to make our messages more impactful and beneficial," Harris says.

Meanwhile, Driedger says she is eager to embrace her new role.

"I'm really excited to be planning valuable programs and events for chamber members and building new community connections."



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Altona economic development officer Stephanie Harris (left) with Chloe Driedger, the Altona Chamber's new programs and events coordinator.

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Altona

Assiniboine Community College launches rural nursing site in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

Assiniboine Community College (ACC) joined the City of Morden Friday in celebrating the grand opening of its rural rotating practical nursing training site here.

Morden is among a number of rural rotating sites for the practical nursing diploma program, and it is offered here in partnership with Southern Health-Santé Sud with an initial capacity for 25 students.

Practical nursing is the largest single program of study at Assiniboine, said president Mark Frison, who noted more than 4,200 students have graduated from nursing programs offered by the college since 1975.

In addition to the rural rotating sites, ACC has permanent practical nursing programs at its campuses in Brandon, Winnipeg, Dauphin, and Portage. Frison emphasized the importance of making these kinds of connections across the province.

"Community-based delivery is actually in our strategic plan ... we want to be the national leader in that," he said. "Every year, we run full-time programs in 20 to 25 communities, so this is hardwired into our DNA.

"Nursing is the largest single program that we offer ... it's one that we are very proud of," he continued. "It's

one that we've seen for a long time that needs to be addressed, and certainly the government has stepped up in a big way. This is the largest single investment we've ever gotten in our 61-year history.

The program has proven to be a success when it comes to keeping nurses in Manitoba after graduation.

"Four years after graduation, 96 per cent of the nurses who take the program are still living and working in Manitoba, so there is a very good track record," Frison shared.

"NURSING IS THE LARGEST SINGLE PROGRAM THAT WE OFFER ... IT'S ONE THAT WE ARE VERY PROUD OF."

Frison and other speakers voiced their hopes for what this program here could eventually lead to in Morden.

"We certainly had other rural rotating sites that have been there over a period of years and then they end up being converted to permanent sites, so that's never out of the question, especially when you have a large population base," he said. "I don't see that as out of the realm of possibilities."

"We will start twisting the president's arm immediately to make this a permanent site ... this is the way that permanent sites start," observed Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen.

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Dignitaries with some of the first students to go through the new rural rotating practical nursing training site in Morden at the facility's grand opening last week.

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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Nursing students chat with Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen at Assiniboine Community College's new training facility in Morden.

> **NURSING, FROM PG. 3**

He cited how this ties in well with the overall plan of the provincial government to get more health care services closer to home for more Manitobans

"It's especially gratifying to me because I think ACC has been such an important partner ... a college that gets it, that understands that while campuses are important, that the universal commitment to training closer to home really matters," said Friesen. "We look forward to the benefits that we will see in the health care system."

"The City of Morden aims to be a strong and committed and dedicated partner to Assiniboine Community College," said Mayor Brandon Burley. "We're looking forward to a strong and effective partnership."

The Morden initiative is tied into

the Manitoba government investing \$19.5 million to add 259 nurse training seats starting at five post-secondary institutions across the province as part of a multi-year plan to add close to 400 seats overall.

The proposal included an additional 55 licensed practical nursing seats through ACC in Portage la Prairie and rural rotating sites as well an additional 32 registered nursing and registered psychiatric nursing seats at Brandon University and 120 registered nursing seats at the University of Manitoba.

"Assiniboine's ongoing expansion of its practical nursing program in both permanent and rural rotating sites will allow more students to become certified in this high-demand health-care occupation," said Manitoba Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration Minister Jon Reyes.

"Being able to attend training closer to home increases participation rates for rural students ... supports our commitment to add 400 new nursing seats to meet Manitoba's health sector needs and complements our health human resource action plan to retain, train and recruit more nurses."

"Expansion of the rural rotating practical nursing diploma program in our region brings us one step closer to meeting the increasing demands to fill nursing positions," said Jane Curtis, CEO of Southern Health-Santé Sud. "This goes a long way in providing accessible post-secondary options in the eastern part of our province. This program is now offered in three locations in the Southern Health-Santé Sud region: Southport, Otterburne, and Morden."

Morden man arrested in connection to series of bank robberies

By Lorne Stelmach

Manitoba RCMP arrested a Morden man in connection to five banks robberies in four different communities across southern Manitoba.

The arrest of 30-year-old Brett Ash-ton Krashel Jan. 9 followed an extensive investigation into the series of robberies that occurred in Steinbach Nov. 10, Lowe Farm Nov. 14, Glen-boro Dec. 8, and Miami Dec. 23 and again on Jan. 3.

Krashel was arrested without incident and remanded into custody on five counts of robbery. The charges against Krashel have not yet been proven in court.

Continued on page 7

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Branden Leslie in the running for Conservative nomination

By Lorne Stelmach

A former campaign manager for Candice Bergen is now seeking to take the place of the veteran Member of Parliament.

Active in the Conservative Party for over a decade, including his stint with Bergen for the 2019 election, Branden Leslie feels his years of experience fighting for Conservative values and ideas makes him well suited to represent Portage-Lisgar.

Bergen announced last September that she would not be seeking re-election after 14 years in office.

"It just felt like the right time and the right opportunity to try to make a difference for our communities," said Leslie, who is seeking the party nomination with the slogan "The Right Conservative for Portage-Lisgar."

"Obviously Candice has been an incredibly strong advocate for this region and a very effective member of parliament in Ottawa," he said on Monday, after announcing his intentions over the weekend.

"I've had the chance to become friends with her and have her be a mentor," Leslie added. "It created a love of politics for me."

"Being consistently frustrated by watching what the Liberal government is doing as it relates to our farming community and our rural communities more broadly, I think it just really made me want to be part of the solution and really step up to make a difference."

Leslie was born in Portage la Prairie and raised on a farm south of town. He attended Portage Collegiate Institute and went on to Brandon University and Carleton University to receive a bachelor of arts in political science.

Before announcing his campaign, Leslie was the manager of policy and

government relations at the Grain Growers of Canada.

He has been a leading voice pushing back against the Liberal government's plan to reduce fertilizer use and is the architect of legislation currently before Parliament to exempt farmers from the carbon tax.

Leslie touched on several key issues on his radar as a candidate—everything from pledging to scrap the carbon tax and stopping the Liberal gun grab to defunding the CBC. He also denounced what he calls the arrogance of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the divide and conquer approach of the Liberal government as well as its penchant for spending way beyond its means.

"People are really struggling to get ahead right now, and I think it's time the governments become more responsible with taxpayers' money, spend money in a wise manner," said Leslie.

"I am running to give you back control of your life, to ensure you can raise your family according to your values and to get the Liberals out of your pocket."

"Never have Canadians been as divided, as angry and as anxious as we are today," Leslie continued. "Instead of uniting Canadians, the Liberals recklessly insult people like you and me, and our way of life. People have had enough. I've had enough."

"I don't want to just sit back and complain about politics. I want to make a difference," he concluded. "And I definitely don't want to watch my home community send the wrong person to Ottawa to be just another idle suit."

"The people who call this place home are strong, and deserve a strong Conservative voice in Parliament."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Branden Leslie with his fiancé Cailey at his campaign rally in Portage la Prairie, where he announced he is running to be the next Conservative Member of Parliament for Portage-Lisgar.

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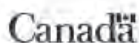
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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

• DON'T MIND THE MESS

Little boxes

When I was a little girl, my parents got a brand-new fridge.

It wasn't any big deal for us kids, even though we would be opening and closing that door thousands of times before we finally left home.

But it was the box the appliance arrived in that became a treasure for me and my little sister.

Instead of throwing it into the big barrel out in the yard where she burned all our household garbage back then, my mom left it in the living room for us to play in. For many weeks, she patiently vacuumed, cleaned, and entertained guests around this gigantic box. And as long as it didn't block the TV, the rest of the family didn't mind.

From a seven- and five-year old's perspective, that box was huge. We used it to create a whole new world. At different times, it was a house, a nursery for our dolls, a spaceship, a car, a cave, a restaurant, and even a submarine. We dragged our blankets in there, and it doubled as a tent or a camper. We could lounge and watch TV through the opening and, instantly, we were at a drive-in movie.

It was a castle where two little prin-

cesses would hide from dragons and wait for their princes to rescue them.

Eventually, we cut windows in it and my visiting little nieces and nephews couldn't resist the temptation to climb the cardboard walls. The box eventually fell apart, like so many dreams do. But this simple thing with a Westinghouse label still lives on in my memories as one of the most magical pieces of my childhood.

But there have been other boxes since—not of cardboard but of spirit and emotion. Growing up, you realize when you don't have actual physical hiding places, you seek out inner ones. During the toughest times in my life, I'd retreat to those little boxes in my heart, shielding myself from the pains of life, and having to confront the dragons I wasn't ready to fight.

My spiritual life, another often frightening frontier, also became scattered with boxes, their sizes dictated by whatever doctrines and lofty foundations of security and judgement I chose to stand on—or hide from. It soon became apparent to me that other people also lived in boxes. I always knew I was shaking their walls if I asked a question that they didn't have an answer for or made a decision or declaration they didn't agree with. I learned that everyone's box

came with rules and God help you if you broke them.

And the crazy thing about living in boxes was that if you stumbled upon some free spirit who was actually willing to face life head on, you did your best to find them a box to live in, too.

Box dwellers aren't comfortable with those who wander too freely. It makes them feel threatened and, frankly, a wee bit silly. Our little cut out windows allow moments of clarity, letting a little light in now and again, but always careful not to show too much of our faces as we gaze through them. Meanwhile, the wanderers wonder why we can't leave our cardboard containers behind.

Lately, I've allowed a few of the walls in my cardboard house to bend under the weight of my own questions and doubts. I've cut the window holes a little larger. I've crawled out and realized how nice it feels to stretch my legs. I gaze back longingly at my box, and even still live there from time to time. But my visits have become shorter.

And one day, when I'm ready, I'll jump on it until the walls crumple, and the dragons won't seem so big anymore.



By Lori Penner

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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Council denies rezoning for development in high-traffic area

By Lorne Stelmach

A proposed rezoning that would have allowed for a new condo development near what is likely the busiest intersection in Morden was rejected recently by city council.

The impact on what is already heavy traffic in the area of First Street, Victoria Street, and Highway 3 was a key concern cited by not only area residents who spoke in opposition to it but by council as well.

“At some point, that intersection will get upgraded and will be able to carry more traffic,” said Mayor Brandon Burley. “Without an upgraded intersection there, at this point, it puts more traffic on First Street northbound and more turning at that intersection ... which is something that in the short term we’re hoping to avoid until we are able to secure upgrades there with the province.”

The proposal was to rezone the properties at 20 Victoria Street and

227 First Street from residential two-family to residential multi-family to allow for the development of three buildings that would be three stories tall and gave 16 units each for a total of 48 overall.

They would have been similar to the development at the corner of 15th Street and Highway 14 in Winkler, and the proposal arose from developer K Block Developments citing strong interest for a similar build in Morden.

Area residents noted, however, that the Winkler development does not have single family residential home directly adjacent to it. They voiced concerns about the loss of privacy and the potential impact on their property values while also just suggesting there were better locations in the city for this kind of development.

“The timing for council was just off,” said Burley. “It was felt it was just too early in the redevelopment of that entire corridor to proceed ... that



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Hwy. 3 intersection heading into Morden is a busy place, and so council has decided not to allow a rezoning application that would have seen multi-family housing go up nearby.

was the primary concern that council had right now.

“It’s a reality that the density in that area will change,” he added. “It’s a premier location in the city; it’s high

traffic, high exposure, so the highest and best use of that land is not being achieved right now ... we know that change will come probably to that entire corridor at some point.”

> BANK ROBBERIES, FROM PG. 4

“Bank robbery is not a common thing, so it drew the attention of Major Crimes. We were monitoring it,” said Inspector Tim Arseneault, investigative services officer for Major Crimes Services in Manitoba. “It doesn’t happen very often, and the Miami one was twice.”

Police say the robberies, initially investigated by the various local RCMP detachments, involved the suspect entering the bank, handing the teller a note stating that it was a robbery, and then fleeing the scene.

In some instances, the suspect indicated in the note that he had a firearm, though none was ever seen, RCMP noted.

The suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash in four of the robberies, with Steinbach being the exception.

No injuries were reported in any of these incidents.

RCMP Major Crimes officers examined extensive video surveillance and were able to de-

termine the suspect had worn similar clothing during each of the robberies but had fled the scene in a different vehicle each time.

“The second one had some similarities ... then the third one, we were confident this was most likely the same person or persons,” Arseneault explained. “We saw a pattern, which engaged us, and it was by the third one that we took over, formed a team, investigated the three that we already knew about and started trying to see linkages and commonalities ... we expected more to come.”

“We were confident in the links that this was not a different person,” he said. “We wanted to stop it, because you never know what kind of violence or anything could have happened.”

The investigation continued and with the execution of several judicial authorizations, officers were able to identify Krashel as a suspect.

Search warrants were executed at two separate residences, one in the RM of Hanover and the

other in the City of Morden. The search resulted in the seizure of key pieces of evidence, including cash and clothing.

“This was a difficult investigation with crime scenes spread out across southern Manitoba. I would like to commend the investigators who quickly recognized the similarities of these crimes and worked tenaciously to identify and safely arrest the suspect,” said assistant commissioner Rob Hill, commanding officer of the Manitoba RCMP. “It’s also our hope that this arrest will bring back a sense of safety to the employees and communities who were affected by these robberies.”

Letters

THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY

We, the residents of Legion House I and Legion House II [in Morden], have been able to enjoy so many wonderful fresh vegetables and fruits again this past fall, because so many generous and caring people brought them to

our door, fresh from their gardens. Even corn on the cob, all husked, ready to cook.

Your kindness is so appreciated and we thank you all so very, very much.

We wish you a Happy New Year.

Joyce Maxwell-Windsor, on behalf of the Legion Houses residents

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Meridian Exhibition Centre launches Markers Market

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Meridian Exhibition Centre in Winkler is a bustling place most days of the week, but it's going to be even busier on Tuesdays from now until spring.

The City of Winkler last week launched its new Markers Market, filling the halls of the facility with vendors.

"We had nine vendors to start," says community events coordinator Nicole Enns, noting they've got table space for about 30 vendors each week.

The indoor market was inspired by the success of the Winkler Farmers' Market last summer.

"I noticed how busy the Winkler Farmers' Market was and I just thought it would be neat if some of those vendors could have a place to sell their things through the winter," Enns says. "We have this wonderful



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The halls of the Meridian Exhibition Centre will be lined with vendors every Tuesday until the end of May with the new Makers Market.

facility, and so I invited them all in here."

The vendor tables are set up

throughout the exhibition centre's hallways. Enns says they hope to see

lots of local artisans setting up shop,

as well as other miscellaneous farmers' market-type vendors.

"Yesterday we had a lady selling Tupperware," she notes. "We had baked goods and honey and jam ..."

The vendor fee to participate is \$25. Tables and chairs are provided. Register online at themeridiancentre.ca or in person at the centre. The deadline to register is the day before that week's market.

The market will be open every Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. until the end of May. There is no admission for shoppers.

If you haven't had a chance to check out the Meridian Exhibition Centre yet, Enns hopes this market will get you through the doors.

"Hopefully people can come check out the facility and see what we all have to offer."

Local non-profits make their pitch to Winkler council

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Two local non-profits made their pitch for funding to Winkler city council last week.

Council, which heads into its annual planning session in a few weeks to hash out its budget priorities, heard from representatives of the Pembina Valley Humane Society (PVHS) and Genesis House on Jan. 10.

PVHS grants committee chair Scott Wilson and board chair Audrey Wiebe made a case for Winkler to restore its annual grant to the regional animal shelter to \$3,500 after dropping it to \$3,000 the past two fiscal years.

He noted the community represents the greatest number of intakes annually with 41 animals surrendered in 2022 (Morden was in second at 33 animals). Winkler also saw its intakes increase 86 per cent last year, up from the 22 animals the year before.

Increasing numbers—and costs—was a trend for the shelter this past year, Wilson noted.

"Bottom line, in 2022, we had a very challenging year. Our intakes were up 13 per cent," he said, noting, on the plus side, that adoptions were also up 23 per cent.

Still, more animals coming through the facility means increased vet costs. From January to the end of September, PVHS spent \$58,236 on vet care, up 37 per cent from the year before.

"We're still feeling the after effects of COVID," Wilson noted. "There were a lot of people who adopted dogs and cats during COVID because they

were home and then once they went back to work they were unable to continue to care for the animals."

They also saw a marked increase in animals abandoned by backyard breeders due to declining market demands.

Wilson stressed that municipal funds help the shelter to not only keep its doors open but will also allow for increased programming, including increased community education programs and a new trap-neuter-release program for stray cats that will battle feline over-population.

"Without the generosity of the municipalities we service, we would most certainly be operating at a deficit. We're teetering on the brink of that even with your support," Wilson said. "With your support we can continue to address the root causes of pet overpopulation and animal homelessness, rather than simply dealing with the aftermath."

Genesis House executive director Ang Braun and housing and outreach counsellor Taylor (last name withheld at the request of the shelter) laid out the shelter's plans to open additional transitional housing units for the victims of domestic violence.

"Winkler right now currently has our crisis shelter where women can stay for up to 30 days ... but if they would like prolong their counselling or wraparound services the only option for them to do that is to actually leave our community and to go to Winnipeg or Brandon to a second stage housing unit," Taylor shared.

"We do have one here, but we aren't able to solve multiple families' issues—it's one interim housing unit, so only one family can access it per year, and realistically we like them to stay longer [up to two years]."

The shelter hopes to up its transitional housing offerings to 24 units. They've already secured funding from a few other sources and are now turning to local communities for help. Their request of Winkler city council was for \$100,000.

Transitional housing gives women leaving an abusive relationship a safe space to call home until they're able to stand on their own.

"We are hoping to break the cycle of violence," said Taylor, explaining these housing units give women time to learn the life skills needed "in order to break the cycle so they can live independently with their children ... so they wouldn't feel the need to go back [to their abuser] again."

In her first year with Genesis House, Taylor worked with nearly 50 women who did not have safe and secure housing. Many of them were under the age of 21 and with young children to care for.

"They don't necessarily have the life skills or the education to afford market housing in Winkler," she said, noting they are our community's hidden homeless, often "couch surfing" with friends and family after leaving their abusers. "Transitional housing would bridge that gap. It would give them the opportunity for a year or up to two years to be able to stay in secure

housing ... so that when they chose to leave our services they've got the education and the life skills under their belt so they can enter marketplace housing and we don't see the recurrent cycle over and over again."

Winkler council will unveil its 2023 financial plan in March.

Also at last week's meeting, council unanimously passed a resolution for a bylaw to disallow U-turns at the Highway 32 and Stanley Ave. intersection (adjacent to Hi Way Groceteria).

The resolution notes safety concerns have been raised due to the lack of a southbound turning lane there, the proximity of the lighted crosswalk, and the fact Albert Ave., which is located a stone's throw from Stanley, creates a more complex traffic situation than in other places where U-turns can be more safely executed.

Council noted in its discussion on this matter that this U-turn ban will only be for southbound traffic—the northbound road has a turning lane that allows for safer U-turns. The way the three roads line up (or rather, don't line up) made it impossible for a similar southbound turning lane to be installed when the road was four-laned a few years ago.

As Hwy. 32 is overseen by Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI), the resolution will be forwarded to them for final approval and subsequent installation of a "no U-turn" sign at the intersection.

get informed

Newcomer numbers way up in 2022: Regional Connections

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Regional Connections Immigrant Services saw its client numbers soar last year, in large part due to the hundreds of Ukrainian immigrants coming to Manitoba in the wake of Russia's invasion of their home country.

Executive director Steve Reynolds shares the organization as a whole—it has offices in Winkler, Morden, Altona and Dauphin—worked with 1,561 new clients in 2022 (its overall client numbers are about three times that, as newcomers from previous years continue to access services).

"Pre-COVID, around 1,000 newcomers would be a normal, busy year for us," he says, noting immigration has of course been down the past few years due to the pandemic.

Breaking down the numbers by office, Altona welcomed 214 newcomers in 2022, Morden 609, Winkler 633, and Dauphin 105.

"622 of those 1,561 clients were born in Ukraine," Reynolds says, noting the bulk of those families now call Morden-Winkler home.

There was an initial wave of immigrants shortly after the war began early last year and then an even larger surge of families arriving mid-year.

"A lot of people who came in the summer were friends or relatives of people already here," notes Reynolds. "We're finding now that there's still people coming, but not as many as in the summer. And there's more people now without personal connections here—they've heard about the area on social media or through employer recruitment, things like that."

Pembina Valley communities really rallied behind these newcomers, helping them find housing and jobs, donating clothing and household items after they arrived here with very little, and doing whatever else they could to make them feel welcome.

"There was a lot of community support and coordination for Ukrainian arrivals," says Reynolds. "People stepped up for all of those needs."

Still, having such an influx of new people in the area brought its fair share of challenges, especially considering most of them had not been planning on moving to Canada and were forced to arrive with very little preparation.

"Everybody had to kind of adjust on the fly," Reynold says, noting their English classes quickly filled up. "We saw quite a few people with very low English skills or very advanced English skills, and not a lot in the middle."

There are currently over 500 students in the agency's English classes, which all have waiting lists. They were able to add a few new classes to meet the need last fall, but demand remains high.

"It hasn't been the same people stuck on the wait list for three months," Reynolds says. "They do get into a class, but as they get into class more people arrive and get added to the wait list."

FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

In addition to the hundreds of Ukrainians now calling this area home, we also of course welcomed newcomers from all around the world in 2022.

Reynolds says the other top countries for the year was India, Philippines, Nigeria, and Germany.

"There's good diversity from everywhere," he says, adding that India and the Philippines have been in the top two for several years now.

There are some common hurdles newcomers to our area continue to face: finding affordable housing, securing day care for their kids, getting around without public transportation, having their professional credentials recognized so they can work in the fields they did back home, and finding ways to truly get to know their new neighbours.

"Often clients note that people are really friendly and polite and welcoming, but sometimes after being here for a year or two years they'll say that everybody's friendly, but they don't have any friends yet,"

"THERE WAS A LOT OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND COORDINATION FOR UKRAINIAN ARRIVALS."



VOICE FILE PHOTOS

Ukrainian dancers kick up their heels at CultureFest in Winkler last summer. Being able to hold in-person celebrations and programming once again was one of 2022's highlights, says Regional Connections executive director Steve Reynolds.

Reynolds shares. "So we're always trying to facilitate that with volunteer stuff, different community connections, events."

Looking back at the successes of 2022, Reynolds notes they were able to expand their programming on a number of fronts.

The new Gateway to Work Experience for Newcomers program found great success in its first year. It's a pilot project that provides immigrants with English language and job skills training for a month followed by a four-week work placement at a local business.

"It's been very successful so far," Reynolds says. A number of participants have gone on to find permanent employment at their placements or elsewhere in the community.

Another new

program launched last year provides additional supports for government-assisted refugees.

"There's been a few families that have arrived here as part of the Canadian Afghanistan response," Reynolds says, explaining the Canadian government helped at-risk Afghans flee their country in the wake of the Taliban taking over after the U.S. withdrawal.

Continued on page 10

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The *Winkler Morden* **Voice**

28 days of prizes with Family Fun Calendar

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Family Resource Centre and the Morden Parent and Child Resource Centre aim to inject a little extra fun into February.

The partner agencies are once again

selling their February Family Fun Calendar, with prize draws taking place daily Feb. 1-28.

Proceeds go to support free early childhood educational programming offered in Winkler, Morden, and Plum Coulee. When you purchase a calendar,

you can indicate which location you'd like the funds to go to.

"These funds are very important to us. We had to decide to not run as many programs as we would have liked this session, for January and February, because we didn't have the funding," notes program director Jen Froese. "So any proceeds we get from this helps us to have more programming. And there's definitely a need for it in our areas—all of our programs were full this session."

WFRC and MPCRC's various programs aim to help pre-school age kids hone their literacy, numeracy, and social skills.

Froese notes they hope to raise at least \$2,000 through calendar sales—enough to support two six-week programs in the next session.

The calendars have been selling pretty well already, with 75 copies

booked on the first day of sales alone.

The daily prizes run the gamut in goodies, including gift cards to local restaurants and other businesses, hotel stays, themed prize packages, and tickets to local attractions and sporting events. A detailed list is available at winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com.

"It's kind of something for everyone," Froese says. "And you've basically got 28 chances to win something."

Draw winners will be posted on the WFRC and MPCRC Facebook pages every morning by 9:30 a.m. You can win up to two times before your number is taken out of the draw.

Purchase a calendar for \$10 each or three for \$25 by emailing winklerfrc@gmail.com. Payment can be made by e-transfer or in person at the Winkler Family Resource Centre (750 15th St.)



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Winkler Family Resource Centre program director Jen Froese with one of the February Family Fun Calendars on sale now to support the WFRC and the Morden Parent and Child Resource Centre.

> REGIONAL CONNECTIONS, FROM PG. 9

drew its troops. "A lot of Afghans had to leave, flee the country and become refugees ... so that's been new for us, working with that program and those families."

Other highlights for 2022 included the expansion of their Altona office space and seeing in-person activities and programming resume across the region through the summer and fall

"A lot of welcoming newcomers and just being a welcoming community and everybody getting to know each other and integrating works a

lot better in person," observes Reynolds. "So it's been nice to getting to get back to doing that in person and we look forward to that again this year."

Regional Connections is always looking for volunteers to help aid newcomers with their integration into the community. There is a need for volunteer language buddies, community tour guides, settlement support mentors, and more.

Reach out to Regional Connections for more details on how you can get involved.

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Pembina Valley Filmmakers Forum aims to shoot series of projects locally

By Lorne Stelmach

An award-winning writer and director who now calls Morden home is taking steps that could put the Pembina Valley on the map as far as filmmaking goes.

Santiago Larrauri has formed the Pembina Valley Filmmakers Forum with a group of amateur and professional filmmakers who share a desire to develop the industry in the region.

There are plans in place for four film projects for 2023, and Larrauri is buoyed by the success of his most recent production, *Makeover*, a short based on a story by Geraldine Tan about someone with autoimmune disease.

Filmed as a silent movie, it tells the story of a once attractive woman who grows depressed due to her disfigurements brought about by her many autoimmune disorders. She learns the 'Lifestyle Salon' is seeking an 'extremely aesthetically challenged' woman to be their before and after makeover model for Valentine's Day. The makeover, though temporary, changes her life and poses far more challenges.

"It's done really well. It's at 45 awards out of 50 nominations in 32, I believe, film festivals, half of which we were invited to," Larrauri noted.

Larrauri has worked as a freelance writer and came and went from the business a number of times before eventually landing behind the camera. He started casting for movies, TV shows, and commercials and then

segued into writing and directing.

Life led to his family immigrating to Canada and settling in Morden, where he now sees great potential for developing filmmaking in the region, with the Pembina Valley Filmmakers Forum taking the lead.

"We decided we want to take the group further and possibly make it into a production house ... and the next short film we are going to do here in Morden and in Winkler is our start," said Larrauri.

"Just from the group we already have, I found guys who were professional audio technicians. I found filmmakers who work from here and eventually worked outside because I guess they couldn't find work here," he noted. "Some of them are coming back specifically just to help us with this film for free. Everything is pro-bono at the moment because we haven't found any funding."

Larrauri sees a lot of potential in the region not only in terms of the people with the required skills but also in terms of the setting.

"I've lived in many places. I've shot films in many places, and you'll find maybe one or two cinematic spots in one town and then you'll have to move to another town. Here alone, I think I could film an entire series just in Morden alone. You have such beautiful locations here.

"There is talent. The talent is here, and the location is beautiful. I've shot movies all over the world, and I can count 30 places in Morden alone which would be cinematically beauti-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

A group of local filmmakers, including writer and director Santiago Larrauri, have joined forces to create the Pembina Valley Filmmakers Forum to develop the filmmaking community in the area.

ful for filming."

The plan right now is to start with three short films that would be submitted to various short film competitions, followed by a fourth project: a full-length film.

Larrauri sees the four stories as basically being about love, loss and life lessons to be shot here using local actors and crew members. The three shorts currently have a good crew, an experienced director, ample equipment, and scenic locations, but no funding. They are looking at setting up a GoFundMe campaign to help support their plans.

"We plan to shoot the first three projects over the weekends and will only need two to three days of shooting time per project," Larrauri suggested, adding he sees the projects requiring

minimal financial support. "We shot our other 18-minute passion project, *Makeover*, for under \$2,500."

Larrauri is now focused on reaching out to find people who may be able to help and get involved in some way, whether that be actors, crew members, locations, or financial backers.

It is a challenge, but one that he very much welcomes.

"Back home, I had an established film studio and casting firm that I owned and a 33-year network I built from the ground up to navigate waters like these. Here, today, I am starting from scratch and plan to rebuild that network from my new home.

"We would love the community

Continued on page 15

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MANITOBA CANADA'S HEART IS CALLING



PVLIP to host first in-person 'Connecting' celebration Feb. 23

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Tickets are going fast for the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership's third annual Connecting Cultures & Communities Celebration.

After two years of hosting a virtual get-together to give people the chance to learn about and celebrate the growing diversity of our area, the 2023 edition takes place in person at the Days Inn Conference Centre in Winkler the evening of Thursday, Feb. 23.

"This is our first time doing this in person and we're so excited about it," says PVLIP coordinator Elaine Burton Saindon.

The livestream events have proven quite popular the last few years, but Burton Saindon feels being able to actually bring people together will take the event to the next level.

"This is our signature promotional event," she says, explaining it's a chance for the community at large to learn more about PVLIP's work "connecting cultures and communities."

"What we try to do with this is bring information to the community about

what we are, what we have done in the past year, and also look for their input—what do you think needs to be done in this region to build connections?"

The evening will include live music, appetizers, a trivia contest with prizes, and the launch of PVLIP's new Connecting Cultures and Communities Guide and Toolkit.

The toolkit has been in the works for the last couple of years, funded by a grant from the federal government. It's designed to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The kit includes a diversity in the workplace video series and a comprehensive resource guide for newcomers.

"We have links to multiple resources that newcomers need to know as soon as they arrive in a new community, wherever they are in the Pembina Valley," explains Burton Saindon.

Other features will serve to get local residents and community leaders thinking about what it means to be inclusive.

"What is culture? What is culture



shock? How do we know if we're being discriminating when we don't meant to be but maybe we are inadvertently?" says Burton Saindon. "It covers a multitude of topics and content that will better improve our overall awareness about diversity and how to better interact with one another."

Admission to the Connecting Cultures & Communities Celebration is free, though tickets are limited. A booking link is available on the PVLIP website (pvlip.ca).

Donations of money or cultural food items will be accepted at the event for the food banks in Altona, Morden, and Winkler.

MINI-WORKSHOPS ON NOW

PVLIP also has a series of mini-workshops running through January and February.

The Introduction to Diversity sessions are free one-hour workshops designed to help participants better

Continued on page 15



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Altona emergency coordinator focuses on preparedness

By Lori Penner

Altona's new emergency coordinator has been working to strengthen the community's response plan so we can be prepared for any event.

Retired police chief Perry Batchelor took over the role in September after town council opted to return to having a local person oversee these duties, instead of a provincial rep.

Batchelor says having a local in this role is a benefit.

"You're already familiar with the lay of the land, and the local contacts, so right away you get an advantage."

He says after the last emergency coordinator retired about 10 years ago, the town advertised for a replacement, but the government requirements for training had increased, so it was tough to find the right person.

"We've had a number of individuals step forward in a leadership role over the years, but nothing official. So the CAO and I had preliminary discussions. With my military background and years on the police service, along with some previous training, I was a good fit."

Batchelor has been involved in training through the Manitoba Association of Municipal Emergency Coordinators (MAMEC), supplementing his years of experience with the Canadian Armed Forces and in law enforcement. That training will continue into 2023.

Because of the training requirements for the role, Batchelor intends to develop a succession plan so the community will always have a coordinator in place.

He works with the local emergency response control group, which consists of Altona's fire and police chiefs, the public works manager, chief finance officer, chief administrative officer, public information officer, and a scribe to review and update the local emergency plan and budget that is approved annually by council.

Municipalities are also required to run a disaster exercise every year, tabletop or live.

"That's something we have to get to work on this spring," Batchelor says.

The hope is that Altona will be able to use the very real scenario of the spring 2022 flood to meet that mandate until 2024.

"What better way to show our response than a real situation? We'll see if they accept that scenario. It was so impressive, the way the whole community responded and how hard our public works team worked to get things under control."

Moving ahead, Batchelor will be working with the local emergency response group to expand its list of available resources in the event of a disaster or emergency.

"During the flood, we had to go outside of town for resources such as the sandbagging machine. By virtue of our membership with the Manitoba Association of Municipal Emergency Coordinators (MAMEC), we had access to a trailer full of equipment such as pumps, tents, generators, etc. We would like to add to our own stock of resources, but we have to find a balance.

"Some things are too expensive to just have sitting on a shelf, as they generally don't want to work when you want

to fire them up. Finding local sources is something we'd like to latch on to. It's weighing what you need to have versus what you can borrow."

Having a list of resources and building a database of volunteers that can be called upon is also something Batchelor would like to pursue.

"It's all about planning, mitigating, reacting,

and recovering from every event."

He encourages all residents to practise preparedness at home.

"People should think about, 'How would I survive in my house for 72 hours?' If for ex-

Continued on page 15



VOICE FILE PHOTO
Perry Batchelor is Altona's emergency coordinator.



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Pembina Valley Watershed District excited at expansion prospects

By Lorne Stelmach

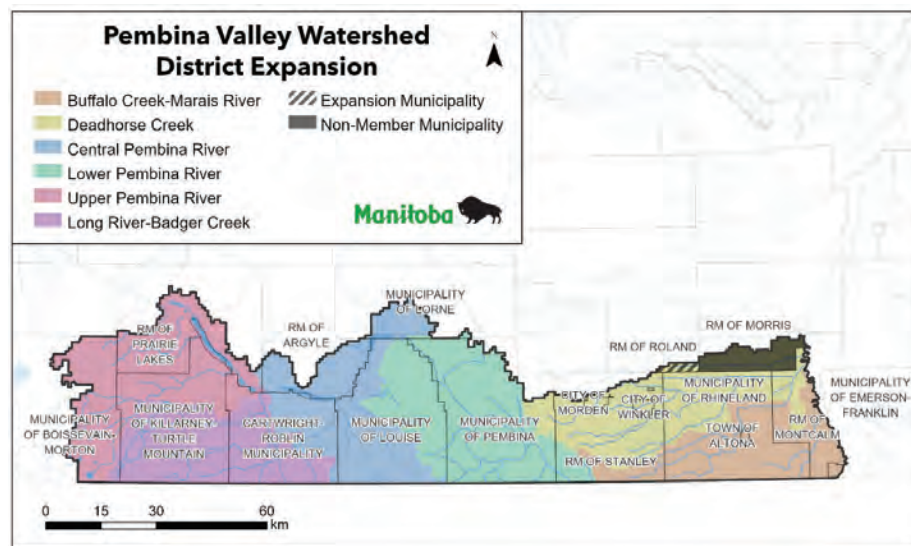
The Pembina Valley Watershed District is expected to expand by early spring from 15 to 16 members with the additional involvement of the Rural Municipality of Roland.

Watershed district representatives welcomed the expansion and believe it results from an increased recognition of the value of programs that enhance healthy and sustainable watersheds through stewardship programs and partnerships.

"I think the interest in having someone to consult and someone to ask questions to is just increasing and will continue to increase," suggested manager Ryan Sheffield. "It's even just having an organization to take your questions and concerns to ... there's someone who is a cheerleader for environmental stewardship and conservation practices.

"The incentive was the interest from the Roland municipality," he noted. "In the past, they hadn't been interested in joining ... some of the new programming that's involved is very beneficial to farmers, and they are able to apply to programming and receive funds.

"I think that is a pretty big impetus to be involved with the district," Sheffield suggested. "These certain funds, they are not able to apply for them if



SUPPLIED IMAGE

The Pembina Valley Watershed District expects to add the RM of Roland to its membership in 2023.

they're not part of a watershed district."

What was originally the Pembina Valley Conservation District was established in 1989. The original members were the rural municipalities of Lorne, Louise, Pembina, and Thompson. The district today includes many more RMs and urban communities, including Winkler, Morden, and Altona.

The Watershed Districts Act of 2020 transitioned the province's 18 conservation districts to 14 new watershed

districts with boundaries based on watersheds and an aim to enhance watershed-based water management in Manitoba.

The expanded Pembina Valley Watershed District encompasses an area of 7,187 km. The district includes the Pembina River, which is fed by several major creeks including the Badger, Long, Cypress, Crystal, Pilot, Snowflake and Mowbray Creeks. There is also the Plum River system that flows east to the Morris and Red Rivers and receives runoff collected by the Dead-

horse, Hespeler, Buffalo and Aux Marias waterways.

Surface water management, ground-water protection, riparian area health, water quality improvement and public education are primary focuses of the district's programs.

With funding from the Manitoba government and member municipalities, locally-appointed watershed district boards make planning and management decisions to improve watershed health across most of municipal Manitoba.

The Manitoba 2022 budget provided additional funding for the expansion of watershed districts into new municipalities that are not currently members of the program.

Sheffield suggested the breadth of their programs and services offer a lot of potential benefits for not only municipalities but individual landowners and producers.

"Allowing the farmers and producers to have access to some of the programming and funding is one of the biggest drivers for being involved with the watershed district, but there's other aspects of conservation that are beneficial to municipalities being involved as well," he said. "We've got the staff and the capabilities to address many of these issues."

Local fire departments release 2022 stats

By Lorne Stelmach

Winkler firefighters had a substantially busier year in 2022, while their Morden counterparts had it a bit easier.

Year-end statistics showed the Winkler Fire Department had a 27 per cent increase in calls overall, while Morden FD by comparison saw a 13 per cent decrease from the previous year.

"This is our record for number of calls in one year ... we're not sure if it is just an anomaly," said Winkler Chief Richard Paetzold.

The overall increase to 220 emergency calls included 154 in Winkler, which represented a 31 per cent increase, while 61 were in the RM of Stanley, an 18 per cent increase. Another five were mutual aid calls to assist in other communities.

Two main areas of increase were motor vehicle accidents and false alarms, noted Paetzold, who added though that the actual call hours were down despite the increase in the number of calls. The 284 hours firefighters were out on calls in 2022 represented a substantial decrease of 183 hours from the year before.

"It was interesting that the actual call hours were down, so that meant our call lengths were actually less ... they were smaller incidents," Paetzold explained.

The breakdown of the calls in Winkler included 80 fires, 58 false alarms, 57 motor vehicle accidents, 11 carbon monoxide alarms, eight assists to emergency medical services and police, three technical rescues, and three hazardous material incidents.

"We had a big jump, and it was mostly to do with motor vehicle accidents in the rural area, and a lot of it was weather related," noted Paetzold.

"I don't anticipate that to happen again unless we get more weather related stuff," he said. "We had some weather events that had some extremely slippery conditions for awhile there, so we were going to quite a few rollovers ... thankfully, we didn't have anything too serious."

In the end, Paetzold expects that there will continue to be some minimal increase in calls each year just with the continued growth of the community.

"It's a good thing that we have big industry continuing to grow, and a lot of the building sizes that are being constructed require sprinkler systems, and all of our big schools as well."

The department is continuing to grow as well. There are eight new firefighters currently undergoing their Level 1 training.

MORDEN CALLS WERE DOWN

Down the road, Morden Fire and Rescue had 132

calls in the past year, representing a 13 per cent decrease.

There were 105 calls in Morden itself and 27 in the RM of Stanley. The calls included 54 fire alarms, 27 motor vehicle collisions, 11 structure fires, six hydro pole fires or lines down, five carbon monoxide alarms, four vehicle fires, four search and rescue calls, two mutual aid requests, two EMS assists, two technical rescue and 13 other miscellaneous calls.

The decrease is in part due to the wetter year which did not produce any vegetation fires, which accounted for 24 calls in 2021.

"The biggest one right now is that we had zero grass fires, not one, and that has never happened in 30 years," said Chief Andy Thiessen. "Maybe with the training that came with it being so dry the year before and everyone being so careful ... and then last year being so wet.

"And our motor vehicle collisions were down somewhat as well," added Thiessen, who noted he might normally expect some increase overall as well with the growth of the region. "It's a percentage thing ... you want to bring that percentage down as much as you can, but with the numbers climbing, it's inevitable that things are going to happen."

Calls up in Altona/Rhineland

From Pg. 14

Thiessen also noted it is important to recognize all of the extra time and effort put in by any volunteer fire department. For example, he shared Morden Fire and Rescue members ended the year with 2,010 training hours. Members also accumulated 2,509 unpaid volunteer hours.

He is also thankful that their staffing level now has remained very stable.

"We kind of held our own this past year, so that is good," he said.

And they now all look forward to imminent completion of their fire hall expansion.

"We're pretty much all ready to go," said Thiessen. "It will mean we can have all of our equipment in one place. Right now, we've got it all in a couple different spots, and it just makes it difficult to respond as efficiently as possible, maintain equipment efficiently."

a minor increase in calls overall in 2022.

"Normally we do between 65 to 70 calls in a year, and last year we did 86," noted Chief Glen Zimmerman of Altona/Rhineland Emergency Services.

Their calls included 11 structure fires, but Zimmerman was thankful that "none of them were really major ... and there was no loss of life at all last year."

There were also 16 motor vehicle accidents and one grass fire along with 23 fire alarms, seven false alarms, seven assists to EMS, three rescue calls, four mutual

aid calls, and 21 other calls such as downed hydro lines or carbon monoxide alarms.

"The biggest thing we had seen was the lack of grass fires, so that was good," said Zimmerman. "We have way less calls [in comparison to larger departments], but that's good ... because I don't have to worry about the employers with my manpower attending calls. We're very fortunate."

"I keep telling people that they would prefer to not see me working," added Zimmerman, who was also thankful that their staffing has

"THE BIGGEST THING WE HAD SEEN WAS THE LACK OF GRASS FIRES ..."

ALTONA FD CALLED OUT 86 TIMES

To the east in Altona, there was also

> FILM GROUP, FROM PG. 11

support ... we're hoping to find funding for it ... the crew have assured us that they won't charge anything for the first film, hoping that the first film will draw in the marketing we would need to come up with the funding to

> PVLIP, FROM PG. 12

understand the challenges newcomers face in their efforts to settle and integrate into their new homes. It's also a chance to learn more about the new toolkit.

In-person sessions are scheduled for Tuesdays in Winkler, Morden, Altona, and Carman. Online sessions run

> BATCHELOR, FROM PG. 13

ample, a tornado hit part of the town, the whole town would likely be out of power. Since all the resources would be largely directed to the disaster area, it's important for everybody to have things like extra water, canned goods, a radio with batteries, candles and matches."

Residents are also encouraged to

develop the second and third film."

People who are interested in getting involved in some way can reach out to Larrauri via Messenger through his Facebook page.

Thursdays.

The full schedule and sign-up information is available at <https://tinyurl.com/pvlipworkshop>.

Burton Saindon says they'll be hosting longer workshops in March that delve deeper into the topics of immigration and inclusiveness.

sign up for the Town of Altona's alert app, Connect, which allows officials to communicate via email, text, and landline in the event of an emergency.

"It's important to stay informed so you can be prepared and take care of yourself as well," Batchelor stresses. "Hope for the best but prepare for the worst."



Slow down: ARES

Altona Rhineland Emergency Services are reminding drivers to take extra care on icy roads after they were called to an accident a mile east of Rosenfeld on Highway 14 last week Wednesday. No one was injured in the crash. "Always be aware of road conditions and drive accordingly," the department urged on its social media page.

[FACEBOOK.COM/ALTONAFIRE](https://www.facebook.com/ALTONAFIRE)

remained stable. "Our membership stayed relatively consistent between 29 and 30 members all year ... we had

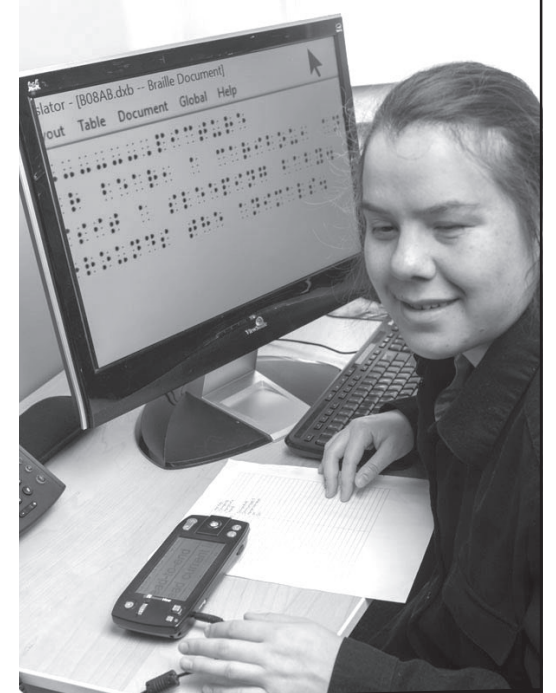
a couple people retire and we had a couple people step up and take their place."



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Manitoba

Test your home for radon this winter: Health Canada

By Ashleigh Viveiros

As we all hunker down inside during the coldest months of the year, Health Canada is working to get the word out about a hidden danger that may be lurking in your home.

The agency is urging Canadians to test their homes for radon, a radioactive gas naturally produced by the breakdown of uranium in the ground.

Living as we do on the uranium-rich soil of the Prairies, Manitobans need to be especially aware of the dangers of radon, says Eveline Schroth, senior environmental health specialist with Health Canada.

“Across Canada, about seven per cent of Canadians live in a home that is above the guidelines,” she says.

“We are one of the higher countries in the world [for radon exposure].

“In Manitoba itself ... it’s 19.4 per cent.”

That’s a sobering number, especially considering that radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, killing more than 3,200 Canadians every year.

The gas can easily enter homes un-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

This little device can give you a clearer picture of just how high the radon readings are in your home.

detected through cracks and gaps in the floors and walls that are in contact with the ground.

You can’t see it, smell it or taste it, but it’s most certainly there in some amount, Schroth says.

The only question, then, is how high is that amount in your own home? For that, you need to do a simple test, one that’s best to launch during the fall or winter months.

“Testing is pretty straightforward,” Schroth says, explaining you can simply pick up a radon testing kit from your local hardware store and follow the directions to install it somewhere it won’t be disturbed (also keeping it away from high-humidity areas like kitchens or washrooms).

“They’re just this little plastic thing, almost like a little tiny hockey puck,” she says, stressing the importance of letting it gather readings for three months to get an accurate picture of the long-term exposure in your home. You can also hire a certified professional to perform the test for you, if you’re so inclined.

Once the three months are up, you send the kit into a lab for the results.

If those results come back in the danger zone (Health Canada pegs that at more than 200 Bq/m³), you’ll want to reach out to a certified radon mitigation professional to take steps to lower those numbers and lessen your family’s

cumulative exposure to the gas.

There’s a few ways they may do that, including a method called sub-soil depressurization, which works by sucking air (and radon gas) from beneath the foundation of a home and venting it outside.

Costs for radon mitigation depends on how big your home is and what work is needed, but could range from \$2,000-\$4,000.

So it’s not cheap, but, from a health standpoint, to lessen your long-term exposure to radon, it’s most certainly worth it, Schroth says, and there are programs in place that could help defray the costs.

The Canadian Lung Association’s new nationwide Lungs Matter program, funded in part by the Take Action on Radon initiative, offers low to moderate income families grants for radon mitigation costs. Application details are available at <https://www.lung.ca/lungs-matter-radon-mitigation-support>.

Take Action on Radon also holds an annual sweepstakes where homeowners who have already paid for radon mitigation have the chance to win cash for their efforts. More information is available at TakeActiononRadon.ca

You can find certified mitigation professionals by heading to Canada.ca/radon or calling 1-833-723-6600.

• SUSTAINABLE LIVING

The problem with plastic

By Joanne Wiebe,
Altona Community Action Network

The world has a plastic problem. One need not look very far to see images of plastic wreaking havoc on the environment; animals killed by stomachs full of plastics, rivers choked by plastic garbage and the Great Pacific Garbage patch, to name a few. Our over reliance on disposable plastic has created devastating effects on wildlife and the environment.

It is encouraging that Canada is beginning to address this problem.

On Dec. 20, 2022 the first phase of the Canadian Government’s plastics ban came into effect. This initial phase prohibits the manufacture and import for sale in Canada of checkout bags, cutlery, food service ware, stir sticks and straws (i.e., straight straws). So companies can no longer produce or import these items and in a year it will be illegal to sell them.

The federal government estimates that this will lead to a reduction of 1.3 million tonnes of difficult-to-recycle plastic

waste and a million garbage bags’ worth of pollution. The ban on manufacturing is the first phase of many in an effort by the federal government to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030.

While this is a step in the right direction, environmental groups argue that much more needs to be done. The government is starting with the most common and harmful items but isn’t ruling out banning other single-use plastic products. That’s important because those banned make up only about five per cent of Canada’s plastic waste.

Recycling is only a partial solution as less than 10 per cent of plastic waste in Canada is recycled, with 3.3 million tonnes, much of it packaging, thrown out annually, according to the CBC.

In order for this ban to be effective, we need to have sustainable options available and prevent companies from switching to alternatives that are no better. Our governments also need to do a better job of holding the industry accountable.



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY JOEL NELSON

Joel Nelson snapped this photo of the hoarfrost at the Darlingford Memorial Park earlier this month, making for a quintessentially Canadian photo.

Your FARM



“Biggest little farm show in Canada” returns in St. Jean

By Lori Penner

The St. Jean Centennial Hall was packed with producers and ag business owners Jan. 11-12 for the 36th annual St. Jean Farm Days event.

What has been dubbed “the biggest little farm show in Canada” was postponed for two years thanks to the pandemic, but returned with a vengeance last week, drawing 12 speakers and over 50 exhibitors featuring equipment, crop insurance, seed, and chemicals, and much more.

Started by a group of local farm families in 1986, organizer Gilbert Sabourin says the third generation now has its hands in helping to organize and host the two-day ag celebration.

“It used to be packed into the main hall before the hall was expanded about 10 years ago. But we’ve always offered speakers and exhibitors from the beginning. We only had 10 exhibitors that first year. Some have been a part of this for decades.”

He says it’s great visibility for local ag businesses, and a day filled with information for producers.

“It’s a way to rub shoulders with other farmers and catch up on trends. Especially after two years of not being able to run it, everybody just wants to engage again.”

St. Jean Farm Days is the first farm show of the season, which also makes it quite popular with farmers and others in the industry.

“Farmers are getting back into the groove of starting to think about the upcoming growing season, so it’s a great chance for everyone to meet and network,” says Sabourin.

The full speaker program delivered relevant topics to their business, discussing new pests that have made their way into Manitoba, namely Soybean Cyst Nematode, Verticillium Stripe in canola, along with herbicide-resistant weeds that are starting to make an appearance in local

crops, and changes in the global fertilizer scene.

“There are always a few speakers on markets and weather,” notes Sabourin. “They can’t say it’s the same topic every year because those things change daily.”

Some attend mainly for the lunch put on by the local Knights of Columbus service group, who use the event as a fundraiser for projects in the community. After all, St. Jean is recognized as the “soup pea capital of Canada.”

“It’s always a success,” notes Sabourin. “And at only \$10 for the day, including the meal, you can’t lose. Going ahead, we may have to adjust the price a little, because of food costs. But it’s always going to offer so much.”

“Thanks to all the sponsors, the volunteers, and the Knights of Columbus for catering the meal. Everything worked out quite well.”



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Above: LD Seeds of Altona was one of over 50 ag businesses featured at St. Jean Farm Days. Right: Agronomy specialist Chris Manchur told producers how to spot and manage Blackleg and Verticillium Stripe in their canola fields.



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Synchronized skating competition in Morden Sat.

By Lorne Stelmach

The skill and beauty of synchronized skating will be on display in Morden this weekend.

The Access Event Centre will be home to the Crocus Open competition on Saturday. Local organizers are excited to be hosting the first provincial competition post-pandemic.

"It's looking really good for this first competition," said Asten McGill, who is not only team manager of the Pembina Pizazz synchronized skating program but also a member of the new adult team and competition chair.

She was pleased to have 17 teams including one from Ontario and three teams from Saskatchewan registered for the competition, which gets underway at 10 a.m. and continues until 2:30 p.m.

"One snag that we ran into was that we do not have enough judges who can judge at the higher level, so our Star Eight and our adult teams will have to be judged virtually at a later date," noted McGill.

"That piece of it is a little disappointing. It also though just highlights the

need that we have in our province for developing a pool of judges who can judge at that higher level.

"The teams are just so excited to be together and competing and showing their programs to each other for the first time in three years," McGill continued. "We're very happy with the numbers."

McGill also sees the event as being a good opportunity to promote the Pembina Pizazz program, which is now well established in the Morden-Winkler area.

The program has two youth teams and an adult team who practice regularly from October to March.

McGill believes the popularity of synchronized skating remains strong.

"We're just really excited as well that this is the first time that Morden has had an adult team," she noted. "It's just such a great event. It's something we don't often get to highlight."

"The single programs, we have them at the carnival and at other events, but to have this competition with synchronized skating is something unique and different. So this would be a great opportunity to check it out."



> PLASTIC, FROM PG. 16

As the oil industry faces rising concerns about pollution, climate disruption and global instability, it's been looking to plastics to increase demand. Along with creating plastic waste the production of plastic is a major pollution source, with an average of five tonnes of CO2 emitted per tonne of plastic—more if it's burned, which is roughly twice the CO2 produced by a tonne of oil.

Although Canada's plastic ban is a step in the right direction, there's much more to be done. Just as we

need to phase out fossil fuels, we need to eliminate their plastic by-products. The government of Canada has taken a step in the right direction and it is up to consumers to send a strong signal with their buying choice that single use plastic is not the right choice for the planet and its inhabitants.

ACAN seeks to inspire eco-friendly and sustainable practices in our community through education and action.



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For details visit the website at: www.communityservicesrecoveryfund.ca
or contact the Morden Area Foundation at info@mordenfoundation.ca
or the Plum Coulee Community Foundation at moira.porte@pcc-foundation.ca
Deadline for applications is February 21, 2023.



Funded by the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund



sports & recreation

Male Hawks in third place

By Lorne Stelmach

Having won four in a row and seven of their last eight games has the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks closer to the league leaders.

A weekend sweep of a double-header with Norman in Thompson continued their winning run, which has them in third place at 23-6-4 for 50 points. That puts them two points back of Brandon and three behind the Winnipeg Bruins in the standings.

Pembina Valley won 5-1 and 6-2 over Norman after their week had kicked off Wednesday in Morden, where three unanswered first period goals got them on their way to a 6-2 victory over Southwest.

Kam Thomas scored a pair with singles from Jayden Penner, Carter Campbell, Ty Love, and Liam Goertzen, while Bryson Yaschyshyn made 39 saves with the Cougars holding a 41-29 edge in shots on goal.

The Hawks took period leads of 2-1 and 3-1 in game one against Norman while outshooting the Northstars 48-25. Raiden LeGall got the win in net with 24 saves while the goals came from Campbell, Cedrik Robidoux, Marek Miller, Cohen Pilkington, and Sam Delaquais.

Thomas and Sebastian Hicks then



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Southwest Cougars Jayce Thompson looks to tip a shot in front of Pembina Valley's Bryson Yaschyshyn in Wednesday's match in Morden, which the Hawks took 6-2.

both scored a pair of goals to lead the Hawks to the 6-2 victory in game two. Also scoring were Robidoux and Ryder Wolfe, while Yaschyshyn made 18

saves as Pembina Valley outshot their opponents 54-20.

The Hawks have a big opportunity to take down the first place Bruins in

Winnipeg this Wednesday. They then host the fourth place Winnipeg Wild Friday before returning for a rematch in Winnipeg Sunday afternoon.

Female Hawks drop two to Avros, Selects

By Lorne Stelmach

A tough run now has the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks mired in a five-game losing streak after dropping a pair this past weekend.

The Hawks first fell 7-2 to the Avros in Winnipeg Saturday and were then edged 3-2 by the Eastman Selects Sunday afternoon in Niverville.

The Hawks trailed 2-1 and 5-2 at the intermissions against the third-place Avros, who outshot Pembina Valley 44-36.

Kaylee Franz took the loss with 37 saves while Caitlin Anderson and Gracie Carels scored for the Hawks.

Pembina Valley kept it close against Eastman, who led 3-1 after 40 min-

utes and held off the Hawks after they scored once in the third to pull within one goal.

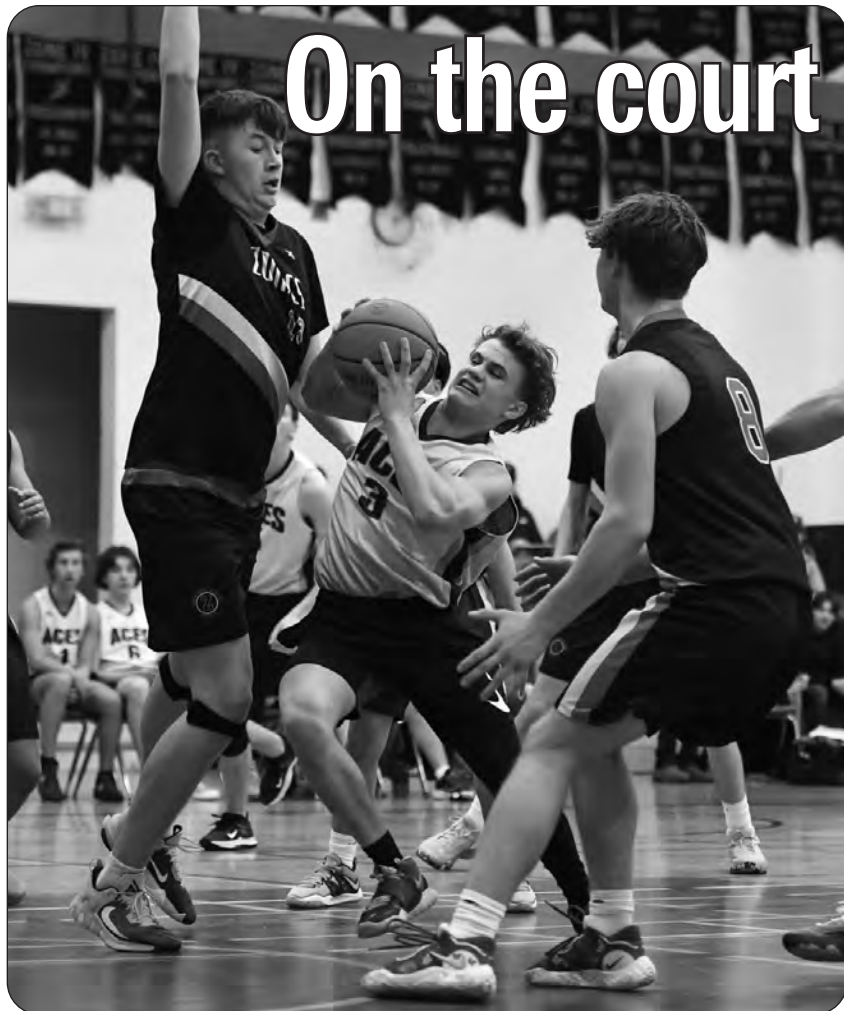
Jessica Anderson and Emma Durand scored for the Hawks while Franz made 22 saves as Pembina Valley narrowly outshot the Selects 27-25.

As they head now into the stretch run, the Hawks appear likely to end

up in the bottom group in the standings. They currently sit in sixth place at 5-15-1 for 11 points, 10 points behind fifth-place Eastman.

The Hawks take on Central Plains this Friday in Portage and then the Winnipeg Avros Sunday afternoon in Morden.

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



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The high school varsity basketball seasons are underway. In Zone 4 action last week, the Garden Valley Collegiate boys and girls teams both beat the visiting WC Miller Aces, the girls by a score of 47-25 and the boys 83-46. Left: Altona's Ziko Pankratz (#3) drives the basket between Zodiacs Ethan Wiebe (#13) and Sam Bergen (#8). Above: Zodiac Avery Montgomery (#1) tries to gain the key between Aces Lindsey Miller (#5) and Danait Tewoldeberhan (#8).

Winkler Flyers fall to Titans, trounce Blizzard

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers got squashed by the Titans but then bounced back to trounce the Blizzard in MJHL action this past week.

Friday night's home game against Niverville saw the Titans double up on the Flyers 4-2, despite Winkler outshooting their opponents 40-31.

Trent Sambrook got the Flyers up on the board for the first time that night a few minutes into the second period, tying the game at 1-1 after Niverville scored late in the first.

The Titans got that one back a couple minutes later, and their 2-1 lead held until eight minutes into the final period when Zachary Brault scored for Winkler tie things at two each.

Niverville broke the deadlock a couple minutes later and then added the game-winner with three seconds to go on an empty net, Winkler having pulled their goalie for the extra man.

Aidan Comeau took the loss in goal for the Flyers, making 27 saves off the 30 shots he faced.

The team shook off the loss to go on to crush the Winnipeg Blizzard 8-2 two nights later.

Winkler got started on that lengthy

list of goals early, with Trent Penner scoring an unassisted short-handed goal just 51 seconds in.

That was followed by goals from Brody Beauchemin, Carter Dittmer, Dalton Andrew, and Zach Nicholas before the first intermission.

Winnipeg, in turn, scored one lone goal in the period's final minute.

Beauchemin got his second goal of the night halfway through the middle frame while Penner scored two more

in under a minute for a hat trick to make it 8-1. Winnipeg managed their second and final goal of the night a few minutes later. Neither team scored in the final frame.

The Flyers outshot the Blizzard 47-17, with Malachi Klassen making 15 saves in net.

With that, Winkler's record for the season thus far is at 22-9-5-1 for 50 points, putting them in third place in the MGEU East Division.

Leading the pack are the Steinbach Pistons in first with 56 points and the Portage Terriers in second with 54 points and three games in hand.

The Niverville Nighthawks are a full nine points behind the Flyers with 41 points.

This week the Flyers host the Terriers Wednesday and the Winnipeg Blues Friday. On Sunday they head into Neepawa for a rematch against the Titans.

Bombers, Wild add wins in SEMHL action

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Bombers and the Red River Wild were the only local teams in the SEMHL to bolster their records with a win last week.

Morden downed Red River 4-2 Thursday night, with Mike Rey and Andrew Clark both having two-goal nights en route to victory. Across the rink, TJ Matuszewski and Blake Forsyth scored for the Wild. Reed Peters had a 43-save night in net for Morden.

Red River bounced back from the loss with a 6-1 victory over Ste Anne

Saturday night. The list of goal-scorers included Jared Magne, Justin Baudry, Brayden Klippenstein, Brendan Keck, Paul Remillard, and Jamie van der Linde.

Meanwhile, the Winkler Royals found themselves on the losing side of a pair of matches against the first-place Portage Islanders, falling 3-2 Wednesday and 8-4 Sunday.

Also on Sunday, the Altona Maroons fell to the Warren Mercs 4-0.

At press time, Morden was holding on to fourth place in the standings with a 7-4-0-1 record at 15 points,

trailing the Mercs in third by two points. Portage and Ste Anne hold firm on first and second place with 26 and 20 points, respectively.

Red River is in sixth place (6-5-2-1 for 15 points), Winkler is in seventh (6-7-1 for 13 points), and Alton is in 10th and last place (2-10-1 for five points).

This weekend sees Altona host Portage and Morden host Ste Anna Saturday while Winkler travels to Ile des Chenes Sunday. The Wild get a bit of breather—their next game is Thursday, Jan. 26 in Notre Dame.

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

Local softball players bring home the hardware

By Lorne Stelmach

Local softball players, teams, and coaching staff were all honoured recently by Softball Manitoba.

The agency's annual award ceremony this fall saw the Central Energy organization capture a number of honours.

Among the accolades were the top female U13-AAA player honours for Kennedy Funk of Morden and the top female U19-AAA player honours for Abbi Conrad from Mariapolis.

A teammate of Conrad's also received some recognition, as Alexa Guilford earned the Eugene Michalow Memorial Bursary. Guilford and Conrad played together last year for the U19 Energy team that went to Fredericton for the nationals, and both played as well for Team Manitoba in the 2022 Summer Games.

Other accolades included the Bill Sadonick Memorial Award for top minors coaching staff going to the U15-AAA Central Energy group including Hailey Yuskin, Kelly Yuskin, Mark Friesen, Cassidy Cunningham, and Bobbi-Jo Guffei.

As well, the award for top fast pitch team went to the Central Energy senior women, and the top minor U13-AAA team award also went to the Central Energy squad that included Funk.

Both Funk and Conrad were honoured to be selected from strong groups of players.

"I know there's so many well deserving players in the league, so it's just incredible to be chosen out of that great pool of athletes," said Conrad, who completed her final U19 season last summer.

"I was really excited. It's good to know that all my hard work paid off," said Funk, who was part of the squad that received the U13-AAA team award after having been back-to-back provincial winners. "I was proud of it because our season went really well, and we had a really good team.

Funk gave credit to what she called "amazing coaching" while also noting the team's work ethic and camaraderie.

"We start practising for sure by January. Some teams start before then, and we work hard all the way up into the season," she said.

"Another thing that I feel like works really well is everybody on the team gets along really well, and everyone is friends with everyone, so if we have fun together then it's really easy to play well together."

Having started playing at a young age and moving to the AAA level three years ago, Funk sees herself continuing with the game for as long as possible.

"I would love to go to college for it one day maybe," she said. "I think it's really cool to play against teams from farther away than just closer towns.

"It's very challenging for me. I like the challenge because it's very fast paced and takes a lot of skill ... the pitching is different from baseball ... it kind of changes the whole game."

"It feels incredible to receive recognition like this," noted Conrad, who is now in year two at college in the United States and playing softball.

Having also played hockey, including four years with the U18 Pembina Valley Hawks, it was a hockey coach who had a hand in getting the Central Energy softball program going again



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Morden's Kennedy Funk was named the top U13/AAA player by Softball Manitoba this fall. Funk plays in the Central Energy program.

that originally got her involved.

"I've been in the league since I was 12 years old, so it's just kind of like a little girl's dream come true," Conrad said.

"Our team was very, very strong this year and has been for a while now. We did very well at provincials, and unfortunately nationals didn't go as well as we had hoped. We were hoping that we would be able to medal but we lost out in the first round of playoffs.

"We had a very good group of girls and a strong team, so it was a really enjoyable year, and this award has kind of capped it off."

Conrad also sees a number of things coming into play with their success.

"It is a very good organization and just full of very strong athletes ... every year I feel like it keeps getting better and better," she said. "We have very great managers and a great pool

of coaches, and lots of girls who have graduated from the program are coming back to coach the same program they grew up in as well."

"It's nice to see all the young girls receiving these awards ... in the central region especially," said Guilford, who is attending the University of Minnesota at Crookston to study animal science with a focus on veterinary studies

"I've been very lucky to have a lot of good coaches," said Guilford, who sees the game continuing to grow in this region and being very competitive. "I've had a lot of support and encouragement along the way.

"The award means a lot to me. I've been involved in softball competitively since I was 11," she said. "Basically my whole life has revolved around softball, so to be able to receive this award shows all my hard work has paid off."

Twisters gain ground with wins over Transcona, Stonewall

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters continue to gain ground in the MMJHL standings.

A pair of wins last weekend had them inch up into fifth place, bolstering a run which has seen them win five of their last six games.

A 5-4 win over Transcona Friday followed by a 6-4 victory over Stonewall Sunday improved Pembina Valley to 11-9-3-2 for 27 points, which is one up on both Charleswood and Transcona while eight behind Fort Garry Fort Rouge.

Logan Enns was busy in net with 51 saves as Transcona outshot Pembina

Valley 55-35. Scoring for the Twisters were Riley Goertzen, Slade Sotheran, Derek Wiebe, Merek Degraeve, and Brett Bergman.

Caelen Russell scored a pair as Pembina Valley held period leads of 3-0 and 4-3 against Stonewall Sunday. Scoring as well for the Twisters were Degraeve, Cohen Thomas, Zander

Carels, and Joel Vigier. Matt Grysiuk made 40 saves with the Jets holding a 44-42 edge in shots on goal.

The Twisters will be aiming to keep their streak going this weekend as they face the third-place River East Friday then second-place St. Vital Sunday, both games at home in Morris.

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AGRICULTURAL CROWN LANDS are presently available for rent for hay or grazing or cropping. These lands will be available for rent through an online auction. These lands are situated in the Rural Municipalities (RM)s of: ALONSA, ARMSTRONG, BIFROST-RIVERTON, CITY OF WINNIPEG, CLANWILLIAM - ERICKSON, COLDWELL, CRANE RIVER-NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT, DE SALABERRY, ETHELBERT, FISHER, GIMLI, GRAHAMDALE, HARWILL-NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT, HOMEBROOK - PEONAN POINT-NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT, INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION & NORTHERN RELATIONS, KELSEY, LAC DU BONNET, MONTCALM, MOUNTAIN, NORTH CYPRESS-LANGFORD, RIDING MOUNTAIN WEST, ROBLIN, ROCKWOOD, ROSEDALE, ROSSBURN, ST. ANDREWS, SIFTON, SPENCE LAKE-NORTHERN AFFAIRS ACT, SPRINGFIELD, SWAN VALLEY WEST, TACHE, VICTORIA, WEST INTERLAKE, WESTLAKE-GLADSTONE & WOODLANDS. A complete listing of Agricultural Crown Lands available for rent can be found online at: http://resd.ca/leases_and_permits/LPproperties.aspx The online auction will take place from February 6 - February 10, 2023, hosted by Garton's Auction Service: <https://gartonsauction.com> For additional information, please contact your nearest Manitoba Agriculture (MA) Agricultural Crown Lands District Office (or via email at agcrownlands@gov.mb.ca) or call Real Estate Services Branch at 1-866-210-9589. A listing of MA Agricultural Crown Lands District Offices can be found online at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/land-management/crown-land/agriculturalcrown-lands-district-offices.htm>

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Matter of the Estate of Anna (Anne) Braun, late, of the Town of Altona, MB, deceased. All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Executor at 3 Grassington Bay, Wpg. MB R2N 1E6 on or before Feb. 28/23. DATED at the City of Wpg, this 13th day of January, 2023.
JANICE FRIESEN
Executor

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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

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Mail: LGCA Objections

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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.

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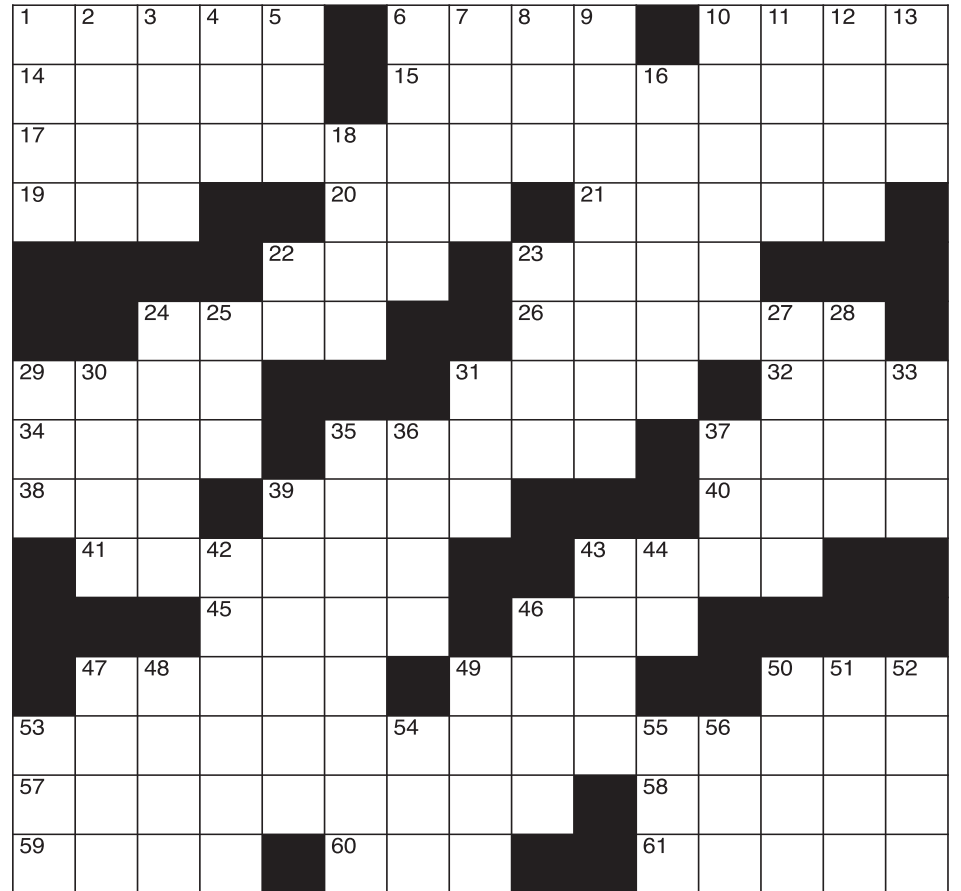
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Email Cindy at cindyek@mts.net or call 204-362-7151 for more information.

take a break

> GAMES

X CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Not invited
- 6. Whale ship captain
- 10. One point south of southwest
- 14. Small cavity in a rock
- 15. Recidivists
- 17. City of Angels hoopster
- 19. A way to mark with one's signature
- 20. OJ trial judge
- 21. Rice cooked in broth
- 22. One point east of due south
- 23. One point east of southeast
- 24. Complements an entree
- 26. Grouped by twos
- 29. Disfigure
- 31. Woods
- 32. Political action committee
- 34. Longer of 2 bones in the forearm
- 35. Kin groups
- 37. Philippine Island
- 38. Contrary to
- 39. Bluish-gray fur
- 40. Comprehend the written word
- 41. Natural depressions
- 43. Felines
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancake made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river

50. Foot (Latin)

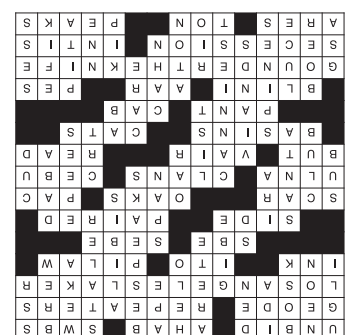
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Monetary units of Peru
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. High points

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Green and yellow citrus fruit
- 2. A bright color
- 3. Thicket
- 4. Journalist Tarbell
- 5. A place to work or relax
- 6. Sharp mountain ridge
- 7. Helicopter
- 8. Mimic
- 9. Suggests
- 10. More musty
- 11. Large, flightless rail
- 12. Make beer
- 13. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 16. People who can account for you
- 18. Taunt
- 22. South Dakota
- 23. Cover the entirety of
- 24. Kids' favorite visitor
- 25. A way to save for retirement
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. C. China mountain range
- 29. Type of sandwich
- 30. Team
- 31. Paddle

33. Partly digested food

- 35. Most cagey
- 36. Shoppers make one
- 37. Cathode-ray tube
- 39. Food supplies
- 42. Backbones
- 43. Concern
- 44. Blood group
- 46. Broadway songwriter Sammy
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Deity of a monotheistic cult
- 50. Type of bread
- 51. S. Nigerian people
- 52. Scottish tax
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Brazilian city
- 55. Hide of a young animal
- 56. Midway between north and northeast



Crossword Answer



Office Administrator

Competition: #2022-23-37
Location: Morden, Manitoba

Preference will be given to candidates who are bilingual in French and English.

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MASC has five core competencies: communication, decision making, initiative & innovation, leadership, and organization. Competencies relate to every position at MASC and along with the technical requirements, are included in the qualifications for all positions at MASC.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

- A certificate in a related discipline or a combination of education and related office experience may be considered.
- Experience performing clerical/administrative support duties including reception related duties, processing cheques, preparing bank deposits, tracking and distribution of documents, and file maintenance.
- Experience in data entry and processing correspondence.
- Experience interpreting and explaining programs, policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Ability to provide customer service.
- Ability to maintain accuracy and pay attention to detail.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Experience using Microsoft Office 365 (SharePoint, OneDrive, Excel, Word, Outlook) in a cloud-based environment.
- General knowledge of the agriculture industry.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience in agriculture is an asset.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

- Must be legally entitled to work in Canada.
- Must possess a valid driver's licence, access to a vehicle, and the ability to travel within the Province of Manitoba.

APPLY

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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 im-
portant 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 reg-
istration 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 registra-
tion 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.

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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



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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the ESTATE of
Donald George Braun, late of the Town
of Altona, in Manitoba, deceased.
All claims against the above estate,
duly verified by Statutory Declaration,
must be filed with the undersigned at
the Town of Altona, in Manitoba, on or
before the 24th day of February, 2023.

**Dated at the Town of Altona, in Mani-
toba, this 13th day of January, 2023.**

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Solicitors for the Executors

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Perry Krahn
1960 – 2022

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-Dad and Mom and sister Ruby
and family

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CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank our family and friends for their compassion, kindness and support in the passing of our Dad, Grandpa and Great-Grandpa Ross Hanks. All the cards, visits, calls and donations were greatly appreciated in our time of loss.

A huge thank you to the staff at the PrairieView Lodge for their excellent care of Dad over the years, to the Wheatland Funeral Chapel for all their preparations and to Rev. Chewe Mulenga for his meaningful service which was held on January 2nd, 2023. Also, a special thanks for your donations to The Heart and Stroke Foundation.

-Wayne (Donna) Hanks, Linda (Landon) Cavers, Bruce (Eunice) Hanks and their families

BOOK YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT *The Winkler Morden Voice*
Call 467-5836 Email ads@winklormordenvoice.ca

OBITUARY

Lorne Harvey Adams
1928 - 2023



With sadness we announce the passing of Lorne Harvey Adams at the Boundary Trails Health Centre on Sunday January 8, 2023.

Lorne was born in Miami, MB to Harvey Woodruff and Elizabeth Agnes Hannah (nee Elder) Adams of Altamont, MB on September 14, 1928. As a humble man, Lorne was a farmer, friend, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and kiddo as well as a lifelong soulmate to Elsie for 68 and one-half years.

Left to mourn his passing include wife, Elsie, daughter, Joan (Dan) Wiens and their daughters, Pamela (Matt), Jocelyn (Wes), son, Kevin (Angela) and their daughters, Danielle (Joel), Nicole (Logan), great grandchildren, Derek, Zachary, Ayden, Elise and Holly, brother, Dale (Valerie), sister, Fay, sister-in-law, Linda and

nieces and nephews.

We would like to thank the staff at the Boundary Trails Health Centre and the Menzies Medical Centre and especially Dr. C. Holmes for all the special care provided to Lorne. A special thanks to Lorne's extended families of Rhonda, Michelle and their families for all the help provided to Lorne over the years and up to the last.

As per family wishes there will be no formal service at this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Lorne's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

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



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Devotion

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OBITUARY

Barry Duane Treichel
1959 – 2023



With deep sorrow and much love, we share the passing of Barry Duane Treichel of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Barry passed away January 11, 2023 at the St. Boniface Hospital at 63 years of age.

His memory will be cherished by his wife Ellen; his sons Jeff (Amber) and Jeremy (Cherry), stepdaughters Beckie (Matt), Sarah (Jesse) and grandchildren Justin, Marcus, Connor, Adalynn, Carter, Jayla and Jacob; brother Brian (Chris) and sister Lorie (Ken), nieces Stephanie (Jai) and Michele, and great-nieces Violet and Aurora. Barry was predeceased by his father Elmer in 1991 and his mother Doreen in 2021.

Barry was born August 18, 1959 in Morden, MB. He completed high school and worked a few odd jobs before settling into his 40 plus year career at Infasco (Docap), Winnipeg. Barry will be remembered for his passion for the Philadelphia Flyers, Eagles, Phillies and 76ers. Another passion of Barry's was spending time with his family in the backyard playing games and enjoying many wiener roasts. He also loved to travel to Las Vegas where he and Ellen had owned a house for approximately five years. Barry also took pride in his yard and his Philadelphia man cave in the basement. Barry was loved by all and will be missed by anyone who knew him.

Cremation has taken place and a private graveside service will be held at Hillside Cemetery in Morden on Saturday, January 21st.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Barry's memory to CancerCare Manitoba.
Ejcoutu.ca

OBITUARY

Helena Suderman (nee Klassen)
1928 - 2023



On Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at Salem Home in Winkler, MB, Helena Suderman aged 94 years formerly of Chortitz passed away.

She is survived by six daughters, Maria and Joe Faschauner, Kathy and Harold Bland, Sara Heide, Helen and Abe Reimer, Agatha Harder, Eva and Abe Bergen; three sons, Pete and Penny, John, Abe and Dorothy as well as 29 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and one sister, Elizabeth Penner.

She was predeceased by her husband, Abram Suderman (2017), son, Jake and daughter-in-law, Helen, son-in-law, Peter Heide, granddaughter, Melody Dyck and great-grandson, Nicholas Wall.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 15, 2023 at the German Old Colony Mennonite Church with interment at the Church Cemetery.

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



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OBITUARY



**Katharina (Tina) Penner
(nee Peters)
1954 – 2023**

It has been the will of our Heavenly Father to call to her Eternal Home my wife, our mother and grandmother, Tina Penner.

Tina was born on April 1, 1954 to Franz and Katharina Peters in Mexico. When she was four years old, the family moved to Canada. They first moved to Matheson, ON and within a year, they moved to Manitoba. The family resided in Gnadenthal, Grunthal and Rosengart. On June 11, 1973, upon confession of her faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour she was baptized by Bishop Jacob Penner and accepted as a member in the Old Colony Mennonite Church in Blumenfeld. She remained a faithful member

of the church and attended as long as she was physically able to. On July 22, 1973, she was united in marriage with Peter Penner. Together they shared the joys and sorrows of marriage for 49 years, 5 months and 18 days. They were blessed with a family of one son and one daughter. Tina loved children and was a wonderful mother for Ken and Jennifer. She taught Sunday School for a number of years as well as participated in the Ladies Fellowship Sewing Circle. She also took part in the church serving group for some years. In the years of homeschooling Ken and Jenny, Bible memorization was important to her. Tina loved to sew, which was evident in the neatly sewn dresses that Jenny wore. She often babysat for younger moms in the church and her grandchildren. Later, she was like a grandma to Brittany Giesbrecht, daughter of Jake and Tina Giesbrecht and who was a "special child". Tina also enjoyed traveling and in later years, often went along with Peter when he delivered loads of potatoes to Winnipeg. For 15 years, Tina served as a deacon's wife. Together they reached out in love and compassion, making many friends. As dementia set in, it became harder for her to reach out in public, but she always had a friendly smile or greeting even when she couldn't recognize her friends. She enjoyed going to church and sitting with Pete. Even after her thinking was challenged, she would pray for Pete or join him in reciting Philippians 4:4-8.

On December 22, 2022 she was hospitalized. Even during her short stay, she was a blessing to the nurses. Her condition declined rapidly and was not able to eat, drink or respond for 10 days. We watched her suffer and asked God to take her Home. God answered our prayer when He came for her at 3:12 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2023. Tina reached an age of 68 years, 9 months and 8 days.

She was predeceased by her parents, one sister, Margaret Peters and one brother in infancy. She leaves to mourn her passing her loving husband, Peter Penner; son, Ken and his children, Ryan, Kayla and Emily, daughter, Jennifer and her children, Ziam and Wyatt as well as four sisters, five brothers, many relatives and friends. Tina will be greatly missed but we sorrow not as those who have no hope, but fully trust that through the grace and mercy of her Saviour Jesus Christ, she has now gone to her Eternal Rest.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at the Old Colony Mennonite Church in Chortitz with interment at the Church Cemetery.

We would like to thank the home care workers and the staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre for their wonderful care; thank you Wiebe Funeral Home for your compassionate service and also to all who helped with the funeral service. Thank you to the Penner and Peters families for your love and care (Anne and Dave for the many things you did for Tina and the times you came by to help out). Thank you to the church family for your prayers and visits. Thank you to the Four Seasons farmers for always allowing me to take Tina along when hauling potatoes. Thank you to all who attended the service for the prayers, visits and the love you have shown.

"And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler
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OBITUARY



**Pauline Marie Goertzen
(formerly Friesen, nee Rietze)
1938 – 2023**

Pauline Goertzen was admitted to Boundary Trails Health Centre on December 28, 2022 and passed away peacefully with family around her on Friday, January 6, 2023.

Born in Winkler on January 22, 1938 to Kay (Katherine, nee Dyck) and William (Bill) Rietze, Pauline had one brother, Dennis (LuElla), born in 1946. As members of the Lutheran Church in Winkler, Pauline was baptized and loved singing in church. Pauline loved school and was proud to attain top marks in her courses. After leaving school she started her first job with the Winkler Credit

Union in 1955. While working as a teller there, Pauline met the love of her life, John P. Friesen and they were married on November 24, 1956. John and Pauline moved to Winnipeg shortly after their marriage, where John worked at several different jobs. They were blessed with four children: Murray (Lauren Gibson), Valerie (Barry Loewen), Cheryl (John Dueck), and Sheldon (Lynn). John and Pauline moved the family to Morden in 1967, where John and his brother, Henry purchased the International Harvester Dealership, which became known as Friesen Implements. Pauline supported John in their business, while caring for their four children. With the family home right beside the business for the first few years, Pauline was a significant part of the accounting department. With Pauline's caring support and guidance all four children graduated from Morden Collegiate. In 1974, a second business Circle F Sports, was started and Pauline loved helping customers find the appropriate apparel for riding motorcycles and snowmobiles. Pauline, with strong support from John, was a thoughtful manager for this new business. After the businesses closed in 1981, Pauline went on with her entrepreneurial spirit to continue to help people as a Welcome Wagon Lady and then to become a Real Estate Agent. Pauline started as a Real Estate Agent in Winnipeg, but when John and Pauline moved back to Morden in 1993, Pauline helped to start the first Remax Real Estate Agency in Morden. Pauline loved helping people and was excited to help them find the right home and supported clients as best she could with those big decisions. Many friends and family will remember Pauline as a caring, compassionate, and hard-working individual who supported her community with a passion for life. Pauline continued to work and stayed actively involved with the community and the Christ Lutheran Church, even after John passed away suddenly in 1998.

After retiring from the Real Estate business in the early 2000's, Pauline met widower, Bert Goertzen while taking time to catch up with friends and family in the coffee shops around Morden and Winkler. Both Pauline and Bert loved being active and spending time with friends and family. On October 6, 2007, they were married in the Christ Lutheran Church in Morden. Pauline and Bert entered the next chapter of their lives together with all the passion and excitement of all newlyweds. They purchased a home together and were blessed with over 15 years of being dedicated to each other. Bert's first wife, Helen, passed away in 1999. Bert and Helen have four children: Darrell (Pauline), Brenda (Ed), Greg (Val), and Ray (Adina). Pauline and Bert enjoyed some travelling and time with family and friends before Pauline started having some health issues. With those health issues, Pauline was restricted in how often she went out with friends and family and became comfortable enjoying life from home with conversations on the phone.

Pauline leaves to mourn her passing many friends and family, including her grandchildren: Ashley (Alan), Katie (Tom) and their son, Oliver, Jaimie (Derek), Adam (Stephanie), Kendra (Derek) and Kieron and Pauline's brother, Dennis (LuElla) Rietze and their children: Daphne (Dan) and Matt (Tony).

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday January 13, 2023 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden with a private interment prior to the service at Chapel Cemetery.

The family would like to send special thanks to the doctors, nurses, staff and volunteers at Boundary Trails Health Centre, who have cared for mom during her surgeries and during her final days.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Pauline's memory to the Christ Lutheran Church.

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> MEAL IDEAS



Orange Shrimp Quinoa Bowls

- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 cucumber, sliced into half moons
- 5 green onions, sliced
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 1 teaspoon sesame seeds
- 2 tablespoons cilantro, chopped
- Cook quinoa according to package instructions. Set aside.

In medium bowl, whisk orange juice, hot sauce, honey, soy sauce, vegetable oil, lime juice and miso until combined. Pour 1/4 of liquid into separate bowl. Set aside.

Add shrimp to remaining mixture and marinate 15 minutes.

Heat large skillet over medium heat with butter. Add shrimp, salt and pepper. Cook 2 minutes on each side until pink. Add mushrooms and cook until tender.

In two serving bowls, divide quinoa, bell pepper, cucumber, onions, avocado and shrimp. Sprinkle sesame seeds and cilantro over both bowls.

Drizzle with reserved dressing.

- Servings: 2
- 1 cup quinoa
 - 1 cup orange juice
 - 1 tablespoon hot sauce
 - 1 tablespoon honey
 - 1 tablespoon soy sauce
 - 4 tablespoons vegetable oil
 - 1 tablespoon lime juice
 - 1 tablespoon white miso
 - 1 1/2 pounds shrimp, peeled, deveined and tails removed
 - 1/4 cup butter
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/8 teaspoon pepper
 - 1 cup mushrooms, sliced



Brunch Fruit Tart

- 1 package gelatin
- Toppings:
 - strawberries, sliced
 - blueberries
 - kiwis, sliced

To make crust: Preheat oven to 350 F.

In large bowl, combine granola, butter and honey. Grease 11-inch tart pan with nonstick cooking spray. Line bottom of tart pan with parchment paper.

Press granola mixture into tart pan. Place tart pan on baking sheet and bake 10 minutes. Cool completely.

To make filling: Using mixer, combine yogurt, cream cheese, sugar, vanilla extract and gelatin until whipped completely.

Pour yogurt mixture into tart crust. Refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Top with strawberries, blueberries and kiwis.

Recipe adapted from homemadeinterest.com

- Crust:
- 4 cups granola mixture
 - 1/2 cup butter, softened
 - 4 1/2 tablespoons honey
 - nonstick cooking spray

- Filling:
- 2 1/4 cups vanilla Greek yogurt
 - 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
 - 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



Beef and Blue Cheese-Stuffed Mushrooms

- 1/2 teaspoon steak seasoning blend
- chives (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 F. Remove stems from mushrooms; reserve. Season mushroom caps with salt; set aside. Mince stems to yield 1/2 cup; discard remaining stems.

Combine ground beef, minced stems, blue cheese, breadcrumbs, green onions and steak seasoning. Spoon beef mixture evenly into mushrooms.

Place stuffed mushrooms on rack in broiler pan. Bake 15-20 minutes. Sprinkle with chives, if desired.

- Recipe courtesy of Beef Loving Texans
Total time: 50 minutes
Servings: 40
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) button mushrooms
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/2 pound ground beef
 - 1/3 cup blue cheese
 - 1/4 cup whole-wheat breadcrumbs
 - 3 tablespoons green onions

Expert patient here to help!



Susie Schwartz

By Susie Schwartz

Another year, another resolution? Nope!

Well, not exactly. As someone with many health needs to juggle – appointments, insulin pump management, food intolerances, etc., the thought of yet another responsibility does my head in. But a new year, a fresh start, right? It's good to better oneself and set goals. So here's how I think about resolutions now:

Set unmeasurable goals.

Before you think I've lost my mind, hear me out. We've all been there. We set a goal like, 'I'm going to do 50 crunches a day to get my abs in shape' or, 'I'm going to wake up at 5:30 a.m. every day, including weekends to write my blog' (What are you, psycho?! 5:30 is the middle of the night! Go back to bed.) Or, 'I'm going to post pictures about my Less Health Stress business on Instagram five times a day to gain 5,000 followers/week.' (Good luck with that one. You might need an assistant.)

But what happens when we miss a day or two? We get discouraged and say, 'next week is a new week', don't achieve it again and then feel defeated. And then what? The guilt

sets in.

After years of not taking care of my Type 1 Diabetes and health (I try much harder now!), I've felt enough guilt to last 400 lifetimes. So I am no longer interested in setting myself up for self-shame and loathing.

Here's the reframe: Try to change attitudes rather than actions. For example, be more grateful for your life and find ways to remind yourself of that. Maybe that's writing in a gratitude journal whenever you feel thankful for something. Or listen to those people around you who seem to notice all the beautiful things in life, and then while it's top of mind, think of one thing you, too, think is beautiful. Maybe you could follow someone on Instagram who posts gratitude prompts which get you thinking. Notice how I didn't say 'everyday' or other measurable tactics. (I mean, if that helps you, then crack on! I don't want you to feel pressure.)

If you are struggling with your health, be it physically or emotionally, it's okay not to make any new year's resolutions! There. I said it. All I ask is that you take care of yourself and your health best. Put your energy there. And if only a few more people a week follow your Instagram, well, you've just found a few actual human lives that care about your world. And maybe your story can help them in theirs. That's huge! I might even say something to be grateful for. (Wink)

Happy New Year! |

Less health stress, yes?

A published author and musician, Susie currently lives in the UK. Find her on Instagram @medicalmiss_stress, and at www.lesshealthstress.com where you can sign up for Convos with Carlos – 1 Care, 1 Quote, 1 Question to get weekly support to your inbox.



Pesto Pasta Salad

- 1/2 cup walnuts, toasted

Prepare red lentil rotini according to package directions; cool 15 minutes.

In bowl, mix rotini and one dressing packet from salad kits. Sprinkle with salt and pepper; mix well. Refrigerate, covered, 30 minutes, or until rotini is cold.

In large bowl, mix lettuce from both salad kits with remaining salad dressing package. Add rotini and tomatoes; toss to combine. Sprinkle with garlic brioche croutons and shredded Parmesan cheese from salad kits and walnuts.

Substitution: Traditional rotini can be used for red lentil rotini.

- Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 6
- 1 quart cooked red lentil rotini
 - 2 packages (9 1/2 ounces each) Fresh Express Twisted Pesto Caesar Chopped Salad Kits
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
 - 1 cup grape tomatoes, halved



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Galleries aren't the only places where you'll find works of art.

According to Olga Krahn, they can also appear on shirts, jackets, and caps, along with a variety of other products.

The Altona artist and owner of OK Signs & Art specializes in creating embroidered products to promote businesses, clubs, teams, and organizations.

"To me, every project is a work of art," Krahn says. "And it gives me so much joy when I can create something that is exactly what my customers are looking for."

Krahn grew up on a farm near Altona and has always had a passion for sketching and painting. After training at Red River Community College and the University of Winnipeg, she worked as graphic artist at Friesen Corp., eventually turning her craft into a home-based business that has been thriving since 1990.

Screen print designs soon evolved to digital embroidery which opened a wider world of colours and options.

Through the years, Krahn has honed her skills with a variety of materials such as cotton, leather, vinyl, silk, and nylon, stitching everything from badges, crests, and logos to hats, shirts, jackets, towels, ribbons, and lanyards, just to name a few.

While most of her work is promotional, many of her projects include individual, specialized work, commemorating milestones and celebrating family and community events.

And while the world of graphic design is stacked with competition, Krahn isn't worried. Not only does she bring years of training and



Olga Krahn has been running her successful home-based business, OK Signs & Art, for over 30 years.

experience to the table, but she also always adds her own natural artistic style, precision, and unchallenged quality to the equation.

Many of her paintings and sketches have appeared in galleries and exhibitions across the Pembina Valley and Winnipeg, and she brings that same passion and attention to detail to the work she does for her customers.

Along with a reputation for a perfect product, friendly service and competitive pricing are also some of the perks you'll enjoy at OK Signs & Art.

Krahn credits much of her success to the Altona & District Chamber of Commerce, which promotes home-based businesses by giving them more exposure in the community.

"They're a great organization when it comes to networking and putting your products and services out there."

OK Signs & Art is located at 78 Willow Bay in Altona. Krahn can be reached at 204-324-5170, 204-324-7091 or by email to olga@oksigns.ca.



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