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Dreaming of sunny days



Lisa Gagne, Cindy Doerksen, Jackie Harms, and Rachel Wahl struck a pose in warm weather attire for the Altona Curling Club's Beach Party Bonspiel over the weekend. For a few more photos, see Pg. 13.
PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

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Pembina Valley
Local Immigration
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Pembina Valley
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Community Free Store puts call out for donations

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After a successful test run just before the holidays, the 500 Stephen Community Centre is launching a new program to support those in need.

The Community Free Store will run once a month at the downtown centre, providing individuals and families who could use a helping hand with access to a range of small necessities at no cost.

It all started, explains executive director Kevin Driedger, thanks to the generosity of local residents.

"The Barnswallow Quilt Guild had their holiday event here and they all brought various personal items to donate for us to give out," he said. "And actually other people had been bringing us things as well. People were really concerned about the homeless

in our community and so they made bags filled with stuff for us to hand out. Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hand lotions, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, as well as some socks and mittens—it was a little bit of everything."

The community centre hosts the Morden Community Food Bank distribution every Wednesday afternoon, so Driedger put some of the donated items out for patrons to peruse and grab two or three per person.

It was such a hit that they're going to keep it going for the next few months, and perhaps beyond.

"At least until summer—we'll see how it goes, see what sort of community response we get, because this is very dependent on the community," Driedger said, explaining they can only offer what people are willing to donate to keep the free store operating.

They've put a call out for bar soap, small-size shampoos, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, hand/skin lotions, deodorant, toothbrushes, wet wipe, small packages of facial tissues, socks, mittens, and scarves. Due to limited space, they are not accept-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Community Free Store in Morden will run the last Wednesday of the month and offer those in need basic personal necessities at no cost.

ing larger clothing items (parkas/boots). Nor are they accepting donations of mouthwash.

Donations can be dropped off at 500 Stephen weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

"This gives an opportunity to the community, a very simple way to help support others," Driedger says. "It's very much about the community supporting the community."

Already, Mordenites have responded.

"Just today someone came with a bag full of things because they saw our post about it on Facebook," Driedger shared.

The store will be open for people to shop at the same hours as the food bank on the last Wednesday of every month. The next day will be Jan. 28.

There's no need to register or prove need to pick up a couple items from the store.

"They just have to identify themselves as having a need," Driedger said. "We're not going to screen or judge anyone's worthiness of this ...

if the worst thing is someone who doesn't need some toothpaste gets some, so be it."

There will be limits on how many items and of what type individuals can take, though, to ensure there's variety left for everyone.

The first store day was met with great enthusiasm from patrons.

"One mother of a young child saw that there was some baby shampoo in there, and she was so excited to get some of that because she had such a young child," Driedger shared.

The food bank has certainly seen its numbers grow of late, often hitting record highs.

"Through our partners that we work with, we hear again and again of the need for really all kinds of supports," Driedger said. "There's a lot of people in our community who are struggling, so any little thing, any little show of support can make a big difference."

"I really hope the community sees this as another way that they can provide some concrete help to those who need it."

"IT'S VERY MUCH ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY."

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Man killed in workplace accident near Altona

By Voice staff

A 42-year-old man was killed in a workplace accident outside Altona last week.

On Thursday, Jan. 15 just before noon, emergency crews were called to a food manufacturing factory in the Rhineland Industrial Park just north of town.

The victim was treated by paramedics for severe injuries he sustained after being pulled into machinery. He was transported to Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, where he later died of his injuries.

Manitoba Workplace Health and Safety and Pembina Valley RCMP continue to investigate.

Cutting the ribbon on Pembina Valley Hospice

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new facility in the region aims to provide a peaceful and supportive environment for those entering the final days of their lives or who are awaiting placement in a personal care home.

The Pembina Valley Hospice House cut the ribbon at 533 Tower Dr. in Winkler last week. Their staff are currently completing final training with the regional health authority ahead of welcoming the home's first guests sometime next month.

"Today is not just the opening of a building, but the beginning of a promise—the promise of compassion, dignity, and care for those who need it most during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives," said Celma Pinto, who heads up both the hospice and the Heavenly Care Agency, which has provided private home care services across southern Manitoba for the past several years.

"Hospice care is about more than medical treatment. It's about comfort, respect, and support, not only for patients but also for their families and

loved ones," Pinto said.

Access to hospice care in rural areas especially has long been an identified challenge in Manitoba.

People at the end of their lives or waiting for a bed in local care homes don't want lengthy stays in the hospital or to be sent to care homes outside the area while awaiting a long-term placement, Pinto said.

"This facility changes that. It brings essential service close to home, close to families, and closer to people who need it."

The facility is located in a former house that has been renovated for its new purpose while still maintaining a home-like environment.

It offers six beds and shared kitchen, dining, living room, and washroom areas, all created to be accessible. It will be staffed 24/7 and provide residents with meals, grooming and personal care, medication assistance and administration, and bathing and hygiene support. Both short- and long-term stays are available, including palliative, end-of-life, and transitional care for people waiting for a bed elsewhere.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Pembina Valley Hospice House cut the ribbon on its facility in Winkler last week. Right: CEO Celma Pinto says it will provide a peaceful and supportive place for people in need of care.



It's the culmination of a longtime dream for Pinto. As a youth in Mozambique, she dreamed of a career in health care, but it was a scholarship in business studies that brought her to Canada on her own in 1997.

Continued on page 4

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Pembina Valley Hospice House has six beds for end-of-life care as well as transitional housing for those awaiting placement in personal care homes.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

> HOSPICE HOUSE, FROM PG. 3

She finished her studies with no real vision of becoming the entrepreneur she is today, she recalled.

“My goal was to become a medical professional, and I didn’t give up,” Pinto said. She secured a job as a health care aide and later pursued a nursing degree. “My heart is all in health care, and here we are today.”

She started up her home care business to meet the growing need for private services in rural Manitoba, and then took the next step to open this hospice for the same reason.

“I live here, I live in Southern Health, I live in the Pembina Valley,” Pinto said. “The community has helped me for the past 10 years, and I felt once again that they need more.”

They’re starting small, but dream of eventually opening up other similar facilities to offer more beds across the region.

“As small as it is, this will give people opportunity to see that anything is possible,” Pinto said. “This serves as an example for other entrepreneurs to say that it doesn’t need to be a big facility—a small gesture will open the eyes of young people [with] ambitions like I [had] 10 years ago, to create something bigger.”

You can learn more about Pembina Valley Hospice House online at pembinavalleyhospicehouse.ca.

Public health officials announce local measles exposure sites

By Voice staff

Public health officials are alerting the public about new measles exposure sites in our area.

Anyone at the locations on the specified date and times is asked to monitor for symptoms until the identified date:

- C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre Teen Clinic at 385 Main St., Winkler, on Jan. 8 from 12:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Jan. 30.
- Garden Valley Wellness Centre Inc., at 239-C Stephen St., Morden, on Jan. 13 from 2:40 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. Monitor for symptoms until Feb. 4.

Public health is also asking anyone who was at these locations during the specified times to check their immunization records and ensure they are up to date with measles vaccine.

Further information on measles, exposures, and immunization is available at www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/measles.html or call Health Links-Info Santé at 1-888-315-9257 toll-free in Manitoba.

Symptoms of measles generally appear seven to 21 days after exposure. Initial symptoms may include fever, runny nose, drowsiness, irritability and red eyes. Small white spots may also develop on the inside of the mouth or throat. Several days after the initial symptoms, a red blotchy rash appears on the face and progresses down the body. Measles can lead to complications including ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia (lung infection) and encephalitis (brain inflammation).

Call your health-care provider if symptoms occur.

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Task force urges residents to stand up against racism

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A task force begun in the wake of a racially-motivated attack last summer is putting a call out to the community to stand up against discrimination and racism.

The Pembina Valley Antiracism Action Team has released a public letter (see *Letters*, Pg. 7) with several actions people can take to foster an environment of inclusion and respect.

The team is a coalition of 30 community leaders across eight municipalities who have been meeting the last several months to come up with a concerted plan to battle racism in the Pembina Valley.

"There was quite a bit of shock when we all heard, rather unexpectedly, about the assault that happened in Winkler," shared Elaine

Burton Saindon, who heads up the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) and is one of the founders of the action team.

The June incident saw a man physically assaulted in a residential area of Winkler. His turban was torn off his head and his attackers reportedly hurled racial slurs at him during the assault. Three men were charged.

The incident left community leaders wondering what could be done to battle the anti-immigrant viewpoints that fueled it—sentiments that have been on the rise of late, Burton Sain-

don said.

"So we reached out to other colleagues and stakeholders to ask if there was interest in having a conversation about how do we respond to something like this. Twenty-five people showed up."

They represent local immigration and social support services, municipalities, law enforcement agencies, faith groups, school divisions, businesses, health care agencies, and other like community groups.

"We all came to the conclusion that saying nothing is still saying something," Burton Saindon said, noting that while a public statement condemning the attack was issued last summer, the group felt more is needed long-term to really get to the root of this issue.

They've been working on that plan ever since, and are now asking the community to help them with the first steps of rolling it out.

"It's a call to action," Burton Saindon explained of the "Speak Up Pembina Valley" campaign, which urges residents, businesses, and other organizations to reach out and connect to newcomers to ensure they feel welcome here, to speak up publicly to condemn discriminatory actions you see or hear of occurring, to establish safe

reporting mechanisms for staff and volunteers for when incidents occur, and to remember our shared roots as a community made up of people from many different backgrounds and cultures.

"Silence can be mistaken for acceptance," the action team collectively stresses. "We need everyone to speak up and act, so our towns remain welcoming and safe for all."

Burton Saindon shared that the action team has applied for federal grant funding they hope will allow them to further refine anti-racism efforts in the Pembina Valley. They should receive word about whether they'll get it or not this spring.

In the meantime, they intend to do what they can with limited resources, including this awareness campaign and potentially hosting public forums to dialogue with newcomers and longtime Canadians alike.

PVLIP also has resources on its website (pvlip.ca) designed to help community members support diversity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging for everyone.

founders of the action team alongside Burton Saindon and Tash Olfert from Pembina Valley Victim Services. He says racism in our community comes in many forms, some of them overt and some much more subtle.

"It's a mix of both ... some incidents have been very direct, like derogatory name calling and stuff that's being said to people and how people are being treated that's very clearly directed to their culture, their ethnicity or where they're from, or just that they're an immigrant.

"It happens in the workplace and in community spaces. It's been at coffee shops and parks and in schools between kids, at youth events. Definitely everywhere and the whole range."

"I would say people are getting more brazen about it," observed Burton Saindon, noting that's certainly not unique to our area. "It's everywhere in Canada, not just us. But what we've seen locally is that we've never had this kind of escalation at this level, people being more vocal ... they're expressing thought processes that they typically in the past maybe would have just kept internally or around their kitchen table. That's what we're starting to see.

"At the end of the day, it's bullying. We need to pull together against it."

"AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S BULLYING. WE NEED TO PULL TOGETHER AGAINST IT."

RM of Thompson loses court appeal in councillor dismissal

By Lorne Stelmach

The Manitoba Court of Appeal has sided with an RM of Thompson councillor in a case that dealt with her dismissal from the municipal council.

The municipality made the appeal in its effort to disqualify Donna Cox, despite a court ruling that had reinstated her and ordered Thompson to pay most of her legal costs.

In October 2023, a Court of King's Bench judge ruled in favour of Cox, ordering the RM to pay \$45,000 toward her legal fees and allowing her to remain on council. The judge found the RM had acted improperly in trying to remove Cox for missing three committee meetings.

The RM filed an appeal, arguing the judge misinterpreted Manitoba's

Municipal Act and should not have ordered the municipality to pay Cox's legal expenses.

In the written court decision, it was noted "the application judge considered the following factors in exercising his discretion: the absence of any neglect or irresponsibility on Cox's part, the disingenuous excuse offered by the reeve of the RM for changing meeting times, the legitimate employment reasons of Cox for missing the meetings, Cox's genuine unawareness that missing LUD committee meetings could result in her disqualification, the LUD committee's failure to entertain the possibility of excusing Cox from one or more meetings and the failure of the applicants to con-

"WE NEED TO PULL TOGETHER"

Steve Reynolds is the executive director of Regional Connections Immigrant Services and one of the

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The **Voice**

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS



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

OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Lord of the flies

I was browsing the internet recently the way someone might browse their fridge and cupboards. Just casually looking at various social media sites for some tidbit or morsel of content to tide me over for a while.

Eventually, having wound my way through various and sundry web-based back alleys, I stumbled into a fun conversation started by a Gen Z type. These are folk somewhere between 14-27 years old.

Essentially the conversation started with the question: "I've heard stories about how Gen X people essentially woke up, got dressed, left the house, and were gone all day on weekends and most of the night on weekdays."

The response was quick and affirming by loads of Gen X people who were clearly excited by getting any attention at all as they were typically ignored as youth and Boomers shouted back and forth over them.

As a person solidly in the Gen X category I can say without equivocation that yes, this was true.

On any given weekend and summer day I would be up early, maybe grab a bowl of cereal, and then jump on my bike, vanishing for the day's adventures. If Mum was awake, I might tell her what I was up to, which would typically amount to me saying: "Going bike riding for the day, bye."

To which she would respond:



By Peter Cantelon

"Ok, have a good time, try to be home for dinner."

Most often I would not be home for dinner. I would be on my bike exploring every square inch of Guelph (where I grew up) ... testing every door to every public building just to see what might be beyond.

There were times when I would head out the door on a 31-degree day in summer wearing shorts, a T-shirt, rubber boots and carrying a flashlight. With these things in hand, myself and friends would climb into the broken storm sewer grate and wander the subterranean depths of the city for hours carefully listening beneath manhole covers to avoid climbing out onto a busy street. I would have been about 12 years old during these antics.

On Sundays it was fun to explore the concrete pipe manufacturing property, as they were closed. We could get into the building by climbing the 45-degree angled conveyor belt which would bring us out inside the locked building at the very top. At this point we would climb around the catwalks until we got bored and left to ride our bikes to new destinations.

We were everywhere: abandoned buildings, junk yards (running from many a dog), empty railroad cars, public buildings in the summer like the university, the riverbanks, etc.

On the hotter days you might find me swimming under a bridge downtown

with new friends who happened to be there. Sometimes we would swim to the top of the dam and send ourselves down the wet, moss-covered concrete chutes to rocket into the river below.

Most weekend and summer nights were spent sleeping over at a friend's or having them over. Somehow, we didn't starve to death but scratched what coins we could and grabbed a lunch of chips and or candy to tide us over until dinner.

This was life. We didn't know there were alternatives. There were no helicopter parents. It was no safer then than it is now. It's probably safer now given the attentiveness to public safety.

Perhaps this lifestyle is what has made so many Gen X people the type who just "figure it out" when it comes to problems, obstacles, etc. in life. We had little in the way of resources other than ourselves.

I'm not suggesting this is the healthiest approach to problem solving and life in general—it's just how we developed. I think it's better to seek help in community when you can.

Still, despite the many traumas life can throw at a kid growing up as a Gen X, I appreciated the unbound freedom.

Heck, when I walk past an abandoned building I still want to pull a board off a window and climb in to explore, but these days I try to resist (emphasis on try).

Letter policy

The *Voice* welcomes letters from readers on local matters.

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

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

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

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

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

Letters

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to news@winklermordenvoice.ca. Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

STAND TOGETHER AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

Dear Community Members,
In June 2025, a racially motivated assault occurred in our region shook the sense of safety and belonging for many of us. In response, 30 community leaders from across the Pembina Valley came together to affirm a shared commitment: discrimination and racism have no place in our communities.

We believe the strength of our communities lies in the values of respect, inclusion, and unity. But these values only thrive when the silent majority speaks up. When we witness someone being mistreated unfairly, our voices matter. Our actions matter.

Here's how you can make a difference today:

1. Reach out and connect.
If you meet someone new to the community or see someone being treated unfairly, take the time to reach out. Invite them for coffee, listen to their story, and let them know they are not alone.
2. Speak up publicly.
Issue a statement—whether as an individual, business, or organization—condemning discriminatory actions and declaring the welcoming values you stand for. Silence can be mistaken for acceptance; let your voice be heard.

3. Create safe reporting channels.
If you are an employer or community leader, ensure your team knows how to respond. Racism and discrimination do occur here. Develop a clear mechanism for reporting incidents, so everyone feels safe to speak up and knows who to turn to.

4. Remember our shared roots.
Remember our diverse backgrounds and who our ancestors are. The people who make up our communities today are originally from many different places, cultures, and languages. Today we are neighbours, coworkers, and friends. Let's honor our history by treating all community members with dignity and respect.

Together, we can ensure our communities remain welcoming and safe for everyone. Let's turn this moment into a movement—because change begins with us.

Will you join us? Speak up. Reach out. Take action.
Sincerely,

**Pembina Valley Antiracism
Action Team**

year, it is a great time to sit down and reflect on the season and recognize how much our community steps up to help one another out. It may seem redundant to continually voice, but year after year we are truly overwhelmed by the generosity and support provided to ensure Christmas Cheer can continue to operate. It invokes a deep sense of pride to call this place home.

On behalf of the Morden Christmas Cheer Board, we would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone for making our 2025 season so successful! Through your generosity and community support we were able to make the holiday season a little brighter for 969 people.

Thank you to everyone who organized events, volunteered their time, promoted events in support of Morden Christmas Cheer, attended fundraising events, and/or donated items and money to go directly into filling the hampers- it truly takes a community and we can't express the amount of gratitude we have towards this wonderful community of ours.

Thank you!

**Morden Christmas
Cheer Board**

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

As the holiday season is behind us for another

> RM OF THOMPSON, FROM PG. 5

sider that Cox was the voters' elected representative and that the actions of the applicants effectively obstructed Cox from acting as a councillor and disenfranchised voters.

"In my view, these were all appropriate considerations and the application judge made no errors in principle in exercising his discretion. To summarize, in my view, the application judge correctly interpreted the act and made no reversible error in exercising his discretion to dismiss the application."

Cox declined to comment on the decision.

The municipality through Reeve Brian Callum declined to be interviewed but did issue a statement:

"We were disappointed and confused by the decision. We followed the municipal act and the legal advice we received. The decision says the municipal act is open to liberal discretion by the court. It doesn't say that in the act," it read. "Going forward, we are concerned about the strength of the municipal act for all municipalities.

"One thing the court couldn't seem to figure out was the change in council meeting times. This wasn't the problem and was not related to the case. She was attending most meetings and council was not concerned about this at all. This had no bearing

on the missed meetings. The meetings she missed were LUD meetings, of which the time didn't change from previous term. And to say in the decision leave was not granted for those meetings, well, it was never asked for.

"But we need to move past this. As a council, we are moving forward as we have many projects on the go. We have obtained funding for several and continue to work together for the municipality. This council is proactive and has generated outside revenue to help taxpayers over the years. This will continue. While the cost is more than we would have liked, we have planned for this situation over the last three years."

The RM of Thompson and the Local Urban District of Miami previously applied under the Manitoba Municipal Act to disqualify Cox and declare her council seat vacant. The attempt followed her absence from three consecutive committee meetings, all held at 9:30 a.m. while she was working at her full-time job.

Cox, who was first elected as a Ward 2 councillor in October 2022, said her employer would not grant unpaid leave for the morning meetings. Shortly after her election, the RM council passed a bylaw changing regular council meeting times from alternating 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to only 9:30 a.m. meetings.

Cox was the only councillor to vote against the change and informed council she would only be able to attend one meeting per month if the new schedule was adopted. Callum testified in court that the new schedule simply worked better for most councillors.

In the original court decision, it was noted that "in dismissing the application, the application judge stated that "[a] municipality cannot, in a situation such as this, in effect, obstruct a councillor and disenfranchise voters, by taking actions it knows, or should reasonably know, will preclude the elected representative from fulfilling their function." The judge concluded that the applicants had "failed miserably" to foster "communication, collaboration and compromise."

The appeal court decision found that "[m]issing meetings [was] not the same class of offence as conflict of interest. I agree with this distinction," the judge said. "The municipal council conflict of interest act provides that

'where a judge finds that a councillor violated a provision of this act unknowingly or through inadvertence, the councillor is not disqualified from office, and the judge shall not declare the seat of the councillor vacant, in consequence of the violation.'

"A council member must be given adequate notice of a meeting in order to be considered absent from it. Otherwise, the meeting will not be 'properly constituted,'" the decision continued.

"In this regard, procedural rules will be applied strictly and a failure on the part of the council to closely observe them will negate the consequence of a councillor's absences. Before council can successfully obtain a declaration of disqualification, there is an expectation that the council will afford a level of procedural fairness to the councillor," the judgement stated "This may include making reasonable accommodation to a councillor in scheduling meetings."

The **Voice**

What's *your* story? Call 204-325-6888

Morden Fire receives new ladder truck

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden Fire and Rescue recently received a belated Christmas present with the arrival of its new ladder truck.

It replaces an older ladder truck that was not past its best-by date, but this newer 2012 refurbished vehicle offers some improved features for the fire department.

"We found that we needed something more with longer reach and more capabilities," said Chief Tim Reimer.

"So we went from what was a 75-foot ladder truck to a hundred-foot platform truck," he explained. "There's a bucket on top that the guys can work

safely in, and we're able to perform rescues a lot safer and at a higher height as well."

He sees improved resources like this as being very necessary.

"With a growing community and everything like that, buildings are only going to be getting taller, and we felt this was something that would definitely benefit our community much better."

Reimer noted that these trucks come at a fairly significant cost.

"I know a new truck like this is worth anywhere from \$2.6 to \$2.8 million," he said, estimating this one came in closer to \$1.2 million.

Reimer said the firefighters are now anxious to get to work with the new



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morden's new ladder truck is 25 feet taller than the old one and comes with other modern safety features.

truck.

"The guys are very excited. We can hardly wait to start training on it and put it into use. We're hoping to start our training on it probably in the next couple of weeks," he said.

"It's not our front line pumper, but

it definitely is another tool in the toolbox for us," he noted. "Everyone's very excited about it. I know when it arrived that Saturday evening, the guys could hardly wait to get it out there and get it into service."

Focus on community, connection for Alzheimer's Awareness Month

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It's Alzheimer's Awareness Month and this year's theme focuses in on the importance of both community and connection for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

Rebecca Atkinson, south central regional coordinator for the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba, shares that the support groups operating in Morden, Carman, and Altona have proven to be a safe space for so many people.

"People walk into them feeling they're no longer alone, and they walk out going, 'I can't wait to come back,'" she observed. "There's this real sense of peer connection."

Right now, the support groups are aimed at the caregivers of people living with various forms of dementia, but Atkinson would love to start

some groups designed to support people actually living with Alzheimer's and other related diseases, if there is enough interest.

The society's regional office—serving communities across the Pembina Valley and beyond—also provides access to a wealth of other services designed to raise awareness, educate, and support families walking this path.

"There's the one-on-one support," Atkinson said. "People are surprised: 'How were we going on along without this? And now we called the Alzheimer Society and it's like a different story—now there's hope, now there's skill, now there's information that allows for different care to happen.'

"That connection and community—the community in the peer support and then the connection to information and resources—can change the quality of life for someone, take it from maybe feeling despair or hopeless to, okay, we can make this challenging behaviour or this challenging context a little more positive. We can find that happy place with the help of information and resources and support."

In addition to the support groups, which meet monthly, the south central chapter also has its latest session of Minds in Motion preparing to start up.

The eight-week program for people living with dementia and one of their care partners takes place Wednesdays in Morden starting Jan. 21. Each session features gentle fitness and conversation activities.

There are also take-home kits available from the Winkler Senior Centre and the Altona Library for anyone who can't make Minds in Motion.

"We have these cognitive care kits, which are a pretty good option as well," Atkinson said. "They're full of things you can do at home, and you can also call me for more ideas of how to do what we do at Minds in Motion at home."

The Alzheimer Society of Manitoba also offers numerous educational workshops and conferences throughout the year.

"We have awesome webinars, and now we have these in-person ones in Winnipeg where you can learn from professionals," Atkinson said.

For a full list of upcoming seminars head to alzheimer.mb.ca.

DISPELLING STIGMA

A big part of Alzheimer's Awareness Month is to get people talking about life with dementia.

"There does seem to be this barrier, this stigma," Atkinson said, noting, however, it is a fact of life for an estimated 771,939 people in Canada to-

day. By 2030, researchers project that number to hit nearly one million.

The society is leading the charge on a national day of action on Jan. 28. People are encouraged to wear forget-me-not pins (Atkinson has a few available if anyone would like to pick one up from her Winkler office in the Buhler Active Living Centre—contact her first to arrange a time) and to share a photo and tag the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba on social media.

"Show your support for families impacted by dementia to help reduce that stigma," Atkinson said, encouraging people to also share their stories of how dementia has affected themselves or their loved ones

Above all, don't be afraid to reach out for help when you need it, she stressed.

"I want people to know that they can find hope in their day, and find joy in the day," Atkinson said. "Call us so that we can help you find that again if you've lost it, or help you keep it for both you as a care partner or as a person with dementia."

"Until there's a cure, there is care. Let us help you give good care and receive good care."

To learn more about the local Alzheimer Society programs or connect with Atkinson about the other supports available, call 204-325-5634 or email ratkinson@alzheimer.mb.ca.

"I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT THEY CAN FIND HOPE IN THEIR DAY, AND FIND JOY IN THEIR DAY ... UNTIL THERE'S A CURE, THERE IS CARE."

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

Santa Paws drive brings in over 1,000 items for PVHS

By Lorne Stelmach

Supporters came through once again in support of the Pembina Valley Humane Society during the holiday season.

The organization held its Santa Paws campaign for a fifth straight year with the goal of helping meet its needs for dog and cat food and cat litter for 2026.

"We started it during COVID, and it blew us away the first year, and it continues to do that," said donor engagement chair Tanya Rempel. "We have so many people, even from local businesses, who offered to collect for us.

"It shows we have people in all different areas of the Pembina Valley and all different ages who are willing to do whatever they can to help the shelter," she said. "We have a lot of people who are willing to help us out."

The goal this year was to collect 300 cans each of wet cat food and wet dog food as well as 100 cans each of wet puppy and kitten food and 50 bags of cat litter.

Rempel shared last week that they collected over a thousand donated items overall.

"We met all of our donation goals aside from cat litter, but a lot of them, we exceeded. We were very happy with it.

"We kind of streamlined it to less items this year, and it seemed to go over really well," Rempel noted. "We got over 250 cans of kitten food, which is great because we run of that usually in a couple of months."

How much they go through and how quickly can vary from one year to the next.

"It's hard to say. It's dependent on the kitten season," Rempel explained. "Last year, I think, we probably put a call out multiple times during the year, and we burned through that by the spring.

"This won't get us through the year, but it will likely get us through that first kitten season in the spring."

Rempel felt it was worthwhile to focus on the most important basic needs.

"We focused on the things that we go through the most ... and it's kind of a cost effective things people can buy," she said. "People can buy a can of food for a dollar or so, and it's a nice way to feel like you are donating



The region really came through for the Pembina Valley Humane Society during its Santa Paws donation drive last month.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

something worthwhile.

"We often have had to buy the wet kitten and the wet puppy food, especially if we have malnourished animals, so if we don't have to buy that it gives us a little more money to pay

for vet care or things like heating costs and other things that are going up.

"We're very, very grateful to everyone who donated and all of the businesses that helped out," stressed Rempel.

Light Up the Streets returns Feb. 21

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Central Station Community Centre has put a call out to the community to help them "grow the glow" at their fourth annual Light Up the Streets next month.

The three kilometre walk through Winkler raises funds for programming that supports those most in need, says Krista Rempel, impact director at Central Station.

"Doing this at the coldest time of the year is really a signal to people that when

we go into our homes and we have our warm heaters and our fireplaces—not everybody has the ability to go back to that," she said. "People in our community right here in Winkler do not have homes to go to. They are sleeping in the streets and in business

vestibules and under trees and in dumpsters. It's not always visible to people, but we want to bring awareness that this is happening.

"We want everyone to be aware as they're walking through town that day that this cold, this is some people's everyday reality."

This year's walk sets out from the community centre (555 Main St.) on Saturday, Feb. 21. Registration will run from 4-5 p.m. The walk will start at 5 p.m., starting and ending at Central Station. It will be followed by a warm meal for all participants.

The 2025 walk raised over \$96,000 for Central Station's many programs that seek to help individuals and families move toward long-term stability. That includes providing access to warm meals, safe and welcoming

"PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY RIGHT HERE IN WINKLER DO NOT HAVE HOMES TO GO TO."

Continued on page 14



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“Gather” art show on now at Winkler gallery

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Arts and Culture’s latest exhibition invites art lovers to come together and consider the role pottery plays in all our lives.

Gather features the pottery of artists Kristina Lik, Renae Hildebrand, Val Zacharias, Lori Friesen, and Jane Reimer, ranging from intricate board game sets to beautiful but functional tableware to purely artistic pieces.

“I’ve been thinking about the word ‘gather’ for years, thinking about how it comes up so much with clay,” said Hildebrand, who spearheaded the show alongside Lik. The duo co-own Winkler Clayworks, from which they sell their varied ceramic pieces and also offer classes.

Clay, in its many forms, is with us through every phase of our life, Hildebrand observed.

“It’s something that we hold quite a bit when we’re sitting together and talking,” she said. “If we’re gathering our thoughts, we might write in a journal with a cup of tea or coffee beside us.

“At birth, people will often do handprints or footprints of their kids in clay,” she continued. “And it also carries us around to funerals with the urns we might use at the end of life.

“And when thinking of the word ‘gather’ I also think how we were created from dust, and we go back to the earth as dust. It’s really just full circle.”

Hildebrand and Lik reached out to other ceramic artists in the area and invited them to ponder a bit on the theme and submit a few pieces to the show.

“There was a lot of eagerness,” Lik said.

“People were really excited to be able to showcase their work here in such a beautiful space,” Hildebrand added, noting pottery and sculpture have been on display at the art gallery before, but often as a smaller part of a larger show, not as the main focus.

“ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES”

When an artist has a ball of clay before them, it could become literally anything, Lik said.

“It’s just endless possibilities. There’s not a specific way to do something or a specific way



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Renae Hildebrand (above) and Kristina Lik (right) with some of their ceramic art pieces now on display at Winkler Arts and Culture.



it has to look—it’s really you just sit down and sometimes you don’t even know where that ball of clay is going to take you. It can be anything you want.”

It’s neat to see how different artists will approach common pieces, Lik noted, putting their own unique spin on things.

“You can really see a person’s personality or style come out in their work.”

Hildebrand hopes gallery patrons will walk away from the show with a greater appreciation for pottery as an art form.

“I just hope they realize how much heart goes into homemade pieces compared to factory-made pieces,” she said, noting there’s a personal connection that comes when you know a piece you love and may use every day was crafted by another human with care and consideration. “People will say, ‘That’s the mug I go to every time because I love the way it feels.’ You don’t say that about mugs you get at a store.”

For Jane Reimer, who dipped her toes into pottery a couple of years ago and quickly fell in love with it, it’s the mix of beauty and function that draws her to this medium.

“There’s something about making something I can use,” she said of the vases, planters, bowls, and mugs she has on display in the show. “There’s something so satisfying about it.

“I don’t always know before my hands touch it what it’s going to be,” she said. “I might have an idea some-

times, but not always. And then all the sudden it’s ‘I have to do this’ and it’s where did that come from? It’s all coming through my hands.

“I always liked Play-Doh as a kid,” she added, laughing. “This is just the adult Play-Doh.”

She hopes visitors to the gallery will see “that pottery’s not just one thing. It can be functional but it can be fun and it can be art as well. It can be tiny and it can be big.”

Gather is on at the Park St. gallery until Feb. 10.

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Jane Reimer with a few of her pieces, which merge beauty with functionality.

Sled borrowing bin installed at Buffalo Creek Nature Park

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Town of Altona has installed something new at the Buffalo Creek Nature Park.

A sled borrowing bin is now in place right beside the hill to encourage residents to go for a slide on a whim.

Recreation services manager Eric Hildebrand shares the idea was inspired by similar sled libraries in place at the hills in Winkler and Selkirk.

"I think a large percentage of people kind of assume everyone must have a sled, but that's not always the case," he said, noting the free-to-use sleds remove all barriers to enjoying this quintessentially Canadian winter pastime.

"Sometimes people come to skate on the pond, visit with friends or family,

or stop by on a whim and wish they had a sled with them. This program is really about convenience and making winter activities more accessible, so everyone has the opportunity to fully enjoy the park while they're here."

The sleds were purchased locally from Altona Home Hardware, and Town of Altona staff built the custom bin to store them in.

Right now, the sled bin is only at Buffalo Creek, though if demand is high a second bin could be a possibility at Ash Park in the future.

"We'll monitor the season over at Buffalo Creek Nature Park and see how well it's received first," Hildebrand said.

There's no charge to borrow a sled—residents are simply asked to return them to the bin after use and to report any damaged sleds to the recreation



PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

A bin full of free-to-use sleds has been set up in the Buffalo Creek Nature Park to make it easier for people to hit the snow hill whenever the mood strikes.

department.

And if you've got an old toboggan or whatnot in good condition but collecting dust in your garage, Hildebrand

said they would welcome it as a donation to build up the Town's sled fleet. You can reach him at the recreation department office.

Queen Quest program puts call out for participants

By Holly Thorne-Wiebe

Young women in the area are invited to consider a unique opportunity for personal growth, leadership development, and community involvement through the Manitoba Sunflower Festival Queen Quest.

Queen Quest is open to women between the ages of 18 (by Dec. 31 of this year) and 21 who live or have previously lived in Altona or the Municipality of Rhineland.

According to one of the organizers, Megan Fehr, the program is designed to help young women build confidence, leadership skills, and a strong connection to their community.

"The feedback we receive most often, both from past royalty and past en-

trants, is how much the Quest helped improve their self confidence," she said. "That confidence shows up not only in public settings, but in everyday social situations as well."

Fehr said the program focuses on well-prepared public speaking opportunities, community appearances, and volunteer involvement, all aimed at encouraging participants to step outside their comfort zones.

"The goal of the Queen Quest is for royalty and entrants alike to develop a deeper understanding of their own capabilities and self-worth, while also building a personal connection to the community," she said.

The skills gained through the Quest often extend beyond the festival year. Fehr said participants develop leader-

ship, self-awareness, teamwork, and time-management skills, along with qualities such as dedication, kindness, generosity, and social awareness.

"These are skills that support young women in their future goals, whether that's education, a career, or continued community involvement," she said. "The Quest

is a positive, fun environment that encourages teamwork and collaboration, not competition."

The Sunflower Festival Queen also takes on an ambassador role, representing Altona at local events and internationally through the community's sister-city relationship with Emerald, Australia. She receives a sponsored trip to Emerald to attend the Central Highlands Easter Sunflower Festival, where she connects with community representatives and festival royalty.

"In return, our queen helps host the queen from Emerald when she travels to Altona," Fehr said. "That includes organizing activities and tours for our Australian guests, which provides valuable leadership and organizational experience."

Queen Quest winners and runners-up also play a mentoring role within the program, supporting new entrants and serving as role models in the community, including by mentoring Gr. 6 students.

"That mentorship component is incredibly meaningful," said Fehr. "We often hear from our entrants and royalty that they were once part of that program themselves, and were inspired by the women they met."

Most Quest-related activities take place locally in Altona, with participants getting involved in local fundraisers and community celebrations. The busiest period occurs in the weeks leading up to the festival in July, with

the festival week itself filled with appearances and events.

"It's a wonderful whirlwind of activity," Fehr said. "But it's also full of friendship, connection, and pride in the community."

For more information on the Queen Quest, contact Fehr at 204-304-2189 or meganfehr22@gmail.com or Adina Schellenberg at 204-362-5776 or curtadina@gmail.com. Interested participants are encouraged to connect with them by Jan. 31.



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IN MORRIS MB

“We got quite a bit done ...”

By Lorne Stelmach

A few significant projects were undertaken this past year or are in the works for the year ahead for the Municipality of Rhineland.

In a year-end interview, Reeve Don Wiebe touched on some of the highlights in terms of both the priorities and challenges being faced by the municipality.

Wiebe felt Rhineland overall had a good year in 2025.

“We got quite a bit done ... a good number of projects were completed.”

He highlighted federal funding that came through the Prairie Grain Roads program.

“This project involved upgrading about 30 miles of municipal roads,” he said, noting particularly Road 3 West and Road 9 West. “More specifically, the project consisted of the installation of drain tile on the edge of the road and reinforcement of the road base.”

In addition, there were improvements to the entrances to the industrial park as well, and another key project was the installation of new bridge across the South Buffalo Creek.

“As a result of severe water damage a few years ago, and the cost of that new bridge is between \$3.7 and \$3.8 million. That’s been completed and is now open.”

Another significant project involved improvements to the sewage lagoons for Plum Coulee involving a new specific enzyme formula for the treatment process.

“This application was quite successful,” said Wiebe. “The mechanical

process for sludge removal is much more difficult and costly.”

Work was also completed on a new water line in the area of the village of Blumenort that he noted “will help stabilize the water pressure for local residents.”

And no less significant for the municipality was the construction of a new storage shed to house municipality’s equipment.

“This is a huge benefit in maintaining and protecting our equipment from the elements.

“So 2025 was a very busy year for our public works department ... making roads, cleaning ditches, maintaining drains and maintain the infrastructure,” he added. “I believe we have a very dedicated staff, and they have done an incredible job.”

Wiebe then looked ahead to a number of key priorities for 2026.

“We have a number of projects that are in the planning stage,” he said. “The Plum Coulee lagoon is close to full being at capacity, and Rhineland has launched a study to upgrade the lagoon.”

There is also a water line project in the works as well as construction of a new reservoir that would serve both Gnadenthal and the Blumenort colony

Wiebe also cited the importance of work on a crossing of the South Buffalo at Road 7 which was washed out a couple years ago.

“Hopefully, we can start that project next year,” he said, adding another priority is a crossing at Altberghthal because “it is in very poor shape.”

In the area of economic develop-

ment, Wiebe looked at the building permit statistics for the past year as a key indicator of what’s to come.

“The value of building permits was down from this [past] year to the previous year, but that last year was kind of an exceptional year, so it’s still very good.”

He noted the value of the development had dropped from about \$35 million to about \$30 million, although the number of building permits actually increased.

Looking ahead, Wiebe noted there is some keen interest in residential development on the east side of Plum Coulee.

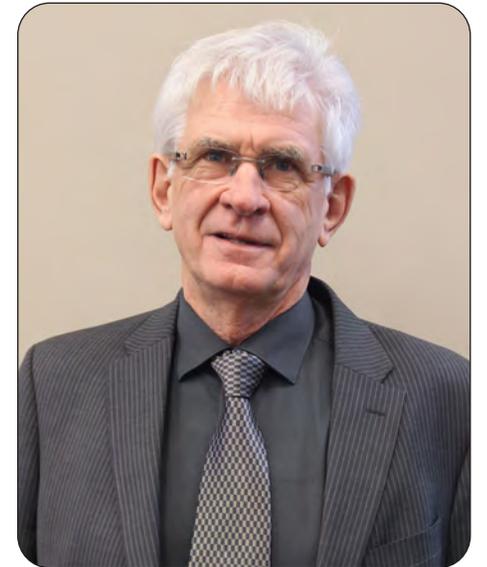
“We’re pushing very hard on the lagoon study because to accommodate those two developments, we need a bigger lagoon, quite a bit bigger lagoon.”

Wiebe also cited the importance of working collaboratively through such means as Altona Rhineland Economic Development.

“We’ve also been working regionally ... the highlight of regional co-operation is the municipal commitment of \$15 million to the Pembina Valley Water Co-op,” he said. “This helped to leverage recent provincial and federal support of \$22 million ... it will certainly help us to meet the potable water needs for our growing region.”

Meanwhile, Wiebe said they also try to continue to advocate on other issues of concern to local residents.

“We are certainly advocating for more doctors,” he cited as an example. “And Rhineland is sensing growing needs with respect to affordable housing ... income disparity, rising



FILE PHOTO

Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe has high hopes for the year ahead.

food costs and income insecurity ... what is needed is a collaboration with all partners to address these concerns.”

Wiebe said they will continue to work with the province in such areas as maintenance of provincial drains and restoration of low level crossings as prime examples, and he hopes there will be some progress in the year ahead.

“They are way, way behind in their drain maintenance, and we are trying to work with them and work collaboratively,” he said. “We can also help be part of the solution. We can help get it done because it’s really critical.”

Wiebe finally also touched on the importance of being involved with the watershed district.

“We continue to support this because we think it is in our best interest to have water managed on a watershed basis,” he said. “We are trying to be very active in supporting those efforts.”



PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

Beach blast at the rink

Stormy weather didn't put too much of a damper on the Altona Curling Club's Beach Party Bonspiel, which saw men's and women's teams battle it out on the ice Jan. 16-17. Jackie Harms, Lisa Gagne, Cindy Doerksen, and Rachel Wahl won the



ladies event while Dan Pappel, Lonnie Stoesz, Dusty Braun, and Mitch Fehr won the men's first event.

Your FARM



Cover crop survey looking for your thoughts

By Ashleigh Viveiros



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Manitoba Agriculture's Callum Morrison is part of a group of researchers putting out a new cover crop survey—five years after the last one—to find out what producers think about the practice.

It's been five years since the Prairie Cover Crop Survey looked into farmers' thoughts on the practice, and it's time for an update.

Researchers from the University of Manitoba, Manitoba Agriculture, and the Ontario Cover Crop Steering Committee are teaming up for a new survey now open to all farmers and crop advisors across Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

The last round of surveys, held in 2020 and 2021, was "the first Canadian survey looking at cover crops," shares Callum Morrison, who was a PhD student involved with the project at the time and is back again for this new round, this time in his role as crop production extension specialist with Manitoba Agriculture.

"Dr. Yvonne Lawley [head of the previous study] at the U of M has continued to study cover crops, but this group as a whole, it's been five years since we met up and put [results] out."

Cover crops are those grown when the land would otherwise be left bare, often during the shoulder seasons of spring or fall when the cash crop is not on the field. They're planted mainly for environmental benefits

"THERE ARE DEFINITELY A LOT MORE PEOPLE UTILIZING COVER CROPS OUT THERE ..."

such as improving soil health or preventing erosion.

"Five years ago when I was talking to Prairie farmers, I quite often had to explain what a cover crop was," Morrison said, noting it was a relatively newer practice in North America. "I haven't found myself having to do that now."

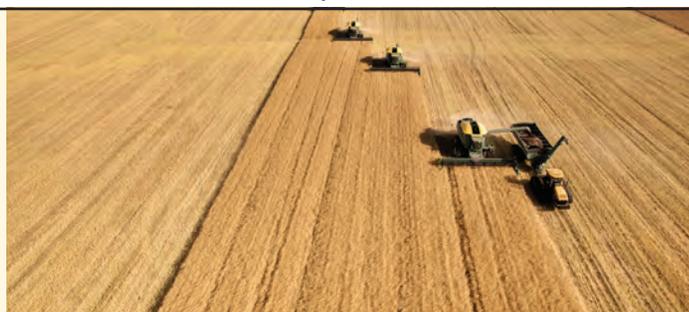
Still, cover crops are much more popular in Ontario than on the Prairies, he observed.

"There are definitely a lot more people utilizing cover crops out there, just because they have longer growing seasons, they tend to have more moisture in the fall, whereas out here we're kind of at the edge of where it is possible."

Continued on page 15

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> GROW THE GLOW, FROM PG. 9

spaces, and support navigating housing, income supports, and essential community resources.

Every dollar raised stays in the community, Rempel stressed, and the importance of this event to the community centre's operations can't be overstated.

"This is our largest fundraiser of the year," she said. "This will fund a good portion of programming at Central Station, and staff salary so that we can deliver the programming. It allows us to continue to offer the things that we do and also to expand and to be able to do the work we're doing in poverty reduction."

Continued on page 15

Your FARM



> COVER CROP SURVEY, FROM PG. 14

The survey five years ago found that of the 150 or so Manitoba respondents about a third had been growing cover crops for three to five years, while 24 were planting their first such crop. Thirteen per cent had been growing cover crops for more than 10 years.

Most producers were putting their cover crops in after spring wheat. Oats was by far the most popular choice for a crop, followed by peas and clover.

Many producers at the time reported an increase in their profits thanks to

cover crops, though most identified our province's short growing seasons and a lack of moisture as major obstacles.

Morrison is curious to see how things may have changed in the intervening years—have more producers embraced the practice? What benefits do they see? What challenges?

"This is your opportunity to tell us what you've actually experienced, what works, what doesn't work, what barriers exist on your farm for this integration," Morrison said. "And we

want to hear from anyone, just your honest feedback."

To that end, the survey is open to any type of producer or crop advisor, whether they've grown or advised on cover crops or not.

"We're not trying to promote or say that you should or shouldn't be growing cover crops," Morrison explained. "We're here to allow farmers to share what they've actually done, to inform other farmers as to what happens so they can benchmark and know what the industry is doing.

"We have some questions specific-

ly for people who used to cover crop by no longer do," he noted. "We need to also understand that there are limitations which make integrating cover crops a challenge and we need to identify what they are ... we want to tell the whole story."

The data will be invaluable to researchers and policy makers as well, he noted, ensuring work they do under the scope of cover crops takes into account what's actually happening out on the fields.

To take the survey, head to <https://gfo.ca/cover-crop-survey/>.

> LIGHT UP THE STREETS, FROM PG. 14

"This money allows us to keep advocating for systematic barriers to be removed and for programming that really focuses in on exactly what it is that keeps people in the cycle of poverty. We want to break people out of that."

You can support Light Up the Streets by coming down that day to participate as a walker (individually or as part of a team), collecting pledges, making a donation, or coming on board as a corporate sponsor.

Registration and donation details are available online at winklercentralstation.ca/luts.

New this year is a kids colouring contest. Children in Gr. 6 and under can pick up a colouring sheet at the community centre or download it from the website above. Return the completed piece to Central Station for display and a chance to win a gift card prize.

Walk participants will also each be given a voucher they can use to enter to win one of several prize packages up for grabs. The draw for those will be held while the walk is happening so the winners can be announced at the meal afterwards.

However you can get involved, Central Station is grateful for the support.

"If you can come and walk, that's wonderful. If you can raise funds from friends and family and businesses you may have a con-

nection to, that's amazing," Rempel said. "And if all you can do is help us spread the word and talk about it, share it on social media, we need that help too.

"We will accept it all, and we're so appreciative. We've always had such a generous community," she added, noting that generosity is what allows them reach out to so many struggling families.

"Every single person here has a place at our table. That's our motto, and that's what we hold true to."

"WE'VE ALWAYS HAD SUCH A GENEROUS COMMUNITY."



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Central Station's fourth annual Light Up the Streets takes place on Saturday, Feb. 21 to raise awareness and support for those in need in our community.

JOIN US FOR THE JANUARY CONSIGNMENT SALES 2026

JANUARY OFFSITE Consignment Sale

Viewing: Jan 19th -22nd 9AM to 5PM.

Bidding starts: Jan. 22, 2026 at 9:00AM

Lots start closing on Jan. 28, 2026 at 10:00AM.

Pick up days: Friday, Jan. 30th & Saturday Jan. 31st from 9AM to 5PM

JANUARY ONSITE Consignment Sale

Viewing: Jan. 19th - 22nd 9AM to 5PM.

Bidding starts: Jan. 22nd, 2026 at 9:00AM

Lots start closing on Jan. 29th, 2026 at 10:00AM.

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Emerson-Franklin launches new online tourism portal

By Lorne Stelmach

The RM of Emerson-Franklin is making a concerted effort to promote tourism in the region with the unveiling of a new online portal.

Accessed through the municipality's website, the tourism portal offers a glimpse of the area's cultural landmarks, historic buildings, interpretative trails, and natural wonders as well as a variety of year-round events where Emerson-Franklin's stories and landscapes come alive.

Reeve Dave Carlson said it has been part of their strategic planning process and has been in the works for some time.

"We wanted to really highlight tourism for our area as part of the quality of life aspect of things," said Carlson, who is part of a dedicated tourism committee that includes several other representatives from the community. "We really wanted to highlight some of the places in our area that we would like to see people come and visit."

The tourism portal covers a lot of ground and notes such highlights as the Senkiw cable suspension bridge built in 1946, Roseau River canoeing, kayaking, and tubing, the Franklin Museum in Dominion City, Roseau Crossing Heritage Park in Dominion City, historic log buildings and a suspension bridge in Emerson and the Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Reserve.

The region is part of the Crow Wing

trail, and it annually hosts a variety of festival and events such as the Emerson Canada Day bash and Dominion City Summer Fest.

"And there's just a lot of outdoor things to do," he added, noting there are two challenging golf courses in Emerson and Dominion City.

"We're a very historical area. We had settlers here quite early," said Carlson. "Fort Dufferin is a real highlight because it's where the Boundary Commission was based out of for a couple of years back when they were mapping the border back in the early 1870s."

"We have the Senkiw swinging bridge in the eastern part of our municipality which has become a real tourist draw, and we're really proud of it. That bridge was built in the 1940s, and we've kept it up."

It was a fair bit of work to pull all of this information together in a user-friendly way.

"What we did initially was kind of take an inventory of all of our assets through our planner," Carlson said. "We took an inventory of everything that we had and put them into their different segments."

"We figured we should have a story map so that people can find these places of interest or the services or restaurants or campgrounds," he added. "We thought it could be a real help to those in the communities who have these businesses and attractions."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Emerson-Franklin's new online tourism portal highlights the many sights there are to see across the region, such as the Senkiw cable suspension bridge.

"We just want to make sure that people know we're open for business and that we have all of these amenities in our area," said Carlson, suggesting there is much more to the region than what people may realize.

"We have a lot going on," he said. "We have a beautiful river that runs through the entirety of our municipality, and we've got a lot of great people doing great things, so we just wanted to highlight that, and we just want people to support it."

The municipality is now also part of the Central Manitoba tourism agency,

and Carlson thinks that will provide a further boost.

"I think the timing was really good because now we're introducing our area to a whole new audience," he suggested.

"We're very proud of what we've been able to accomplish, and the website will be ever evolving," Carlson added. "We'll be adding more things as they come up. We hope we have a lot of people come out to visit ... it can be a real economic driver for our region."

Winkler Arts & Culture adds new satellite gallery

By Ashleigh Viveiros

If you've already checked out the

latest exhibit at Winkler Arts and Centre's main gallery (see story on Pg. 11), now you also have two satel-

lite gallery spaces to enjoy.

The Park St. arts centre started off the new year with artwork up at both the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre and Mulligan's Restaurant & Lounge.

Their relationship with the clinic goes back years, says WAC executive director Jared Hildebrand.

"The clinic has quite a few pieces right now, probably about 15 or 16," he shares, explaining many of the works are from Olga Krahn's *Power of Perseverance in Manitoba* show. Much of the art lines the clinic's main hallway.

Mulligan's, meanwhile, is a brand new canvas for WAC.

"They reached out to me a few months ago and we were able to find a really good match for their taste," Hildebrand says. On display throughout the restaurant are pieces by artist Jeff Zacharias. "It was a good fit ... it really finishes off the space there."

The art at the clinic rotates out every six months or so, while the Mulligan's

"ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO GET LOCAL ART INTO MORE EVERYDAY SPACES AROUND THE COMMUNITY."

pieces will likely be changed annually.

"Then we'll switch it up to something else and give another artist an opportunity to have their pieces up," Hildebrand says.

The gallery has had a rental program to connect artists with businesses for many years. Hildebrand would love to hear from more places looking to decorate their walls with a local flair.

"Anything we can do to get local art into more everyday spaces around the community."



FACEBOOK.COM/WINKLERARTS

Winkler Arts and Culture now has work from Jeff Zacharias on display at Mulligan's Restaurant and Lounge. Paintings from Olga Krahn are also up at the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre.

sports & recreation

Female Hawks best Lightning, fall to Avros

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks have been having a rough go of it lately, including having now lost five of their last six games.

The lone bright spot came last week as the seventh-place Hawks earned a 3-2 shootout victory Wednesday over the eighth and last-place Interlake Lightning. That was followed by a 5-2 loss to the third-place Winnipeg Avros this past Saturday.

Pembina Valley had been trailing 2-1 going into the third period against Interlake, but Casey O'Brien's second of the game and ninth of the season evened it up at 2-2 just 3:11 into the third.

Overtime solved nothing, so it went to a shootout that lasted five rounds and saw Payton Manness and Clare Boyd connecting for the Hawks to earn the extra point. Shots on goal were 42-26 in favour of the Hawks, with Madison Froese earning the win in net.

On Saturday, Pembina Valley had grabbed a 2-0 lead on the Avros in the second period but couldn't keep the momentum, as Winnipeg had it even



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley's Bree Pearce attempts to tip a point shot in front of Interlake goalie Joslyn Tetlock in last week's 3-2 SO Hawks victory.

at 2-2 after 40 minutes and then put it away with three goals in the third.

O'Brien scored her 10th of the season while Sophia Cox got the team's other goal. In net, Froese made 37 saves as the Avros held a 42-29 edge in shots on goal.

Pembina Valley's record has now dropped to 7-13-0-1 for 15 points, which leaves them nine ahead of Interlake and two back of Central Plains.

Coming up, The Hawks are participating in the 13th annual Female World Sport School Challenge tour-

namment Jan. 22-25 at the Hockey For Life Centre in Headingley

They return to league play with a pair of home games Jan. 31 against Yellowhead and Feb. 1 against Westman.

Male Hawks in four-game losing streak

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks are mired in a four-game losing skid after dropping a trio of games this past week.

After being edged 4-2 by Eastman last Thursday in Steinbach, the Hawks didn't fare any better on home ice in Morden as they fell 3-2 and 5-3 to Parkland Saturday and Sunday.

Koen Bleznuk went above and beyond to keep Pembina Valley in the game against Eastman, as the Selects

outshot the Hawks 58-28 including 23 in the final frame alone.

Carson Hiebert scored for the Hawks in the second period to even things up at 1-1. Casey Magarrell then did the same partway through the third to make it 2-2. Eastman got the winning goal just 13 seconds later and then put it away with an empty netter.

Pembina Valley led 2-1 after 40 minutes against Parkland Saturday, but the Rangers tied it up early in the third and then got the extra point

when they connected for the winner 4:52 into overtime.

Hiebert and Cole Secord scored for the Hawks. Shots on goal were 39-38 in favour of Parkland, with Bleznuk taking the loss between the posts with 36 saves.

Allowing a pair of power play goals made the difference in the second game Sunday as those markers helped propel the Rangers to a 4-2 lead after 20 minutes.

Secord, Hiebert, and Magarrell scored for Pembina Valley, while

Bleznuk stopped 30 of 34 shots before Parkland put it away with an empty net goal. Total shots on goal were 44-36 in favour of the Hawks.

Pembina Valley now sits in eighth place at 18-13-1-1 for 38 points. They are three back of Parkland and Southwest and five in front of Yellowhead.

After visiting Eastman Tuesday, the Hawks were scheduled to head to Brandon Friday and then to Shoal Lake for a weekend doubleheader with Yellowhead.

The **Voice**

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What's *Your* story?

Winkler Flyers standing tall in fourth place

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers bolstered their fourth-place standing in the MJHL East Division with a pair of wins this past week.

Last Tuesday night's game against the visiting Selkirk Steelers saw Rhylan Baxter and Kade Stringer give the home team a 2-0 lead after 40 minutes.

Selkirk clawed their way back into it with a trio of goals in the third, but Niklas Gudmundson, Tanner George, and Riley Fequet, with an empty-netter, got Winkler the win 5-3 in the final six minutes.

Liam Ernst denied 19 of the 22 shots he faced in net. Across the rink, his teammates fired 25 at the Selkirk goal.

Ernst was between the posts again a few nights later in Dauphin against

the Kings, called on to face down 26 shots on goal.

He let just two slip past him—late in the first and third periods—while his team's offensive lines peppered in goals throughout, Baxter and Gudmundson doing the honours in the first, Fequet and Gudmundson again in the second, and Charlie Weaver hammering home the final nail early in the third.

Sunday's scheduled home game against the Winnipeg Blues was cancelled due to road conditions.

With that, the Flyers are 21-13-1-2 for the season thus far, good for 45 points. They trail the Niverville Nighthawks in first place (67 points), the Steinbach Pistons in second (55 points), and the Portage Terriers in third (51 points). Well behind them in fifth place are the Steelers with 36 points. The Winnipeg Blues and Monarchs round out the di-



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT /VOICE

Flyer Liam Carlone tries to get around the check of Selkirk's Peyten Legg-Cote. Winkler won it 5-3 thanks to a trio of goals in the third.

vision's cellar.

Coming up this weekend, Winkler heads to Steinbach to play the Pistons

Friday and then hosts the Northern Manitoba Blizzards Saturday.

Overtime drama highlights South Eastern league play

By Annaliese Meier

Aaron Lewadniuk scored a hat trick and set up the game-winning goal as the Winkler Royals earned a 6-5 overtime victory over the Red River Wild on Saturday, Jan. 17, in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action.

Lewadniuk opened the scoring early in the first period and added two late third-period goals to force overtime, helping the Royals erase multiple deficits in a back-and-forth contest.

Winkler took a 2-0 lead midway through the opening frame on goals from Lewadniuk and Brett Bergman before Red River answered late in the period. The Wild briefly seized control in the second, scoring twice in under a minute, but Braden Hildebrand pulled the Royals back within one with a goal at 13:24.

Red River extended its lead early in the third period, but Winkler refused to go away. Lewadniuk struck twice in the final two minutes of regulation — including the tying goal with one minute remaining — to send the game to overtime.

In the extra frame, TJ Matuszewski sealed the comeback, scoring the winner at 4:35 to complete the Royals' dramatic rally.

Goaltender Matthew Thiessen was busy in the Winkler crease, stopping 44 shots to earn the win, while Red River netminder Jayden Catellier

made 43 saves in the overtime loss. Special teams proved even on the night, with Winkler going 0-for-2 on the power play and Red River finishing 0-for-3.

The win keeps the Royals competitive in the tight SEMHL standings as they prepare for a pair of upcoming home games.

Coming up, Winkler hosts the Mor-

den Bombers Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and then hosts the Wild next Tuesday night.

Red River, meanwhile, hosts Portage Friday and Notre Dame Sunday.

Mudbugs fall to Mitchell on the road

By Annaliese Meier

The Hanover Tache Red River Mudbugs ran into a hot Mitchell Mustangs squad on Thursday night, dropping an 11-1 decision at Mitchell Arena in HTJHL action.

Mitchell struck early and often, opening the scoring just 11 seconds into the game and carrying a 4-0 lead out of the first period. The Mustangs added four more goals in the second

and three in the third to pull away.

Red River's lone goal came late in the second period, when Oakley Peters found the net at 19:54, converting a feed from Reece Fehr and Tyson Froese to break the shutout.

Connor Parago faced heavy pressure in the Mudbugs' crease, turning aside 39 shots, while Mitchell goaltender Sam Fontaine earned the win with 30 saves. Red River went 0-for-3 on the power play in the loss.

With the defeat, the Mudbugs sit eighth in the HTJHL standings at 8-14-0, holding 16 points through 22 games.

Red River returns to action Friday, Jan. 23, when they visit the Macdonald Jets at Sanford Recreation Centre. The Mudbugs then host the Springfield Falcons on Saturday, Jan. 24, before welcoming East St. Paul on Wednesday, Jan. 28, both games at St. Jean Arena.

Twisters idle as weather postpones games

By Annaliese Meier

The Pembina Valley Twisters were sidelined last week as both of their scheduled Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League games were postponed due to inclement weather.

The Twisters' home matchup against the Transcona Railer Express on

Thursday, Jan. 16 was postponed, as was their road game Sunday, Jan. 18 against the St. Boniface Riels. Make-up dates for both contests have yet to be announced by the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League.

Pembina Valley enters the coming week in 10th place in the league standings with an 8-point total through 28

games, but will have a chance to return to action with a pair of road contests.

The Twisters are scheduled to visit the Stonewall Jets on Friday, Jan. 23 for an 8 p.m. start, before travelling to St. James on Sunday, Jan. 25 to face the Jr. Canucks at 2:45 p.m.

Winkler hosting Synchronized Skating Championships

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Figure skaters from across two provinces will be in Winkler next week as the Winkler Skating Club hosts the 2026 Prairie Regionals Synchronized Skating Championships.

The Skate Manitoba event will see 24 teams of all ages lace up their skates Jan. 31 to Feb. 1 at the Meridian Exhibition Centre.

"We have 282 skaters coming from Manitoba and Saskatchewan," shares club president Gina Klassen, noting this is by far the largest event the club has hosted in years.

In addition to the many out-of-town teams, the homegrown Pembina Pizazz will also have their chance to shine.

"We have six of our girls skating with the Pembina Pizazz teams ... and three of our coaches actually skate on the adult Pizazz team," noted Klassen. "That program is based out of the Morden Figure Skating Club, but it is a regional team."

The Winkler Skating Club is also putting together its own synchronized skating team for the weekend, dubbed The Precision.

"They're a Star 3 team, so they don't have a program but they go out there

and they'll do some elements," Klassen said.

The kids have been hard at work preparing for the competition.

"They're really excited," she said, noting the Star 3 skaters are "just getting into competing singly, too, so hopefully it will grow our program."

Figure skating is already booming in Winkler, with 13 youth taking part in the advanced StarSkate program and another 70 or so in the CanSkate and RisingSTAR programs.

"Our programs are full," Klassen noted.

The schedule for the two-day competition was expected to be released this week. The skating club will be posting the performance times on their social media pages.

"The second we know, everyone else will know," said club vice-president Charmaine Enns, urging people to come cheer on the local skaters. Admission is \$5 a day for adults and \$3 for kids (children six and under get in for free)

Winkler skaters and their parents will be filling a lot of the volunteer positions required to put on an event of this size, but there are still a number of areas where community volunteers are most certainly needed.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Winkler Skating Club is hosting 24 synchronized skating teams from across Manitoba and Saskatchewan next week.

"We are needing volunteers, anyone wanting to come be part of it and watch some amazing skating," Enns said.

The positions available truly run the gamut, but there are a few areas they're especially in need of right now.

"We're looking for someone to look after the turf area, just to make sure people are following the rules there

and to keep the general public off it. That's where all the teams are going to be to warm up," Enns explained. "We're also looking for first aid volunteers. You just need your first aid CPR certificate to do that."

For details about these and the other positions and time slots available, check out the Winkler Skating Club on Facebook or Instagram.

Take the plunge for Special Olympics MB

By Lorne Stelmach

A record number of people braved the cold waters of Lake Minnewasta last winter for the Polar Plunge in support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics Manitoba, and organizers are hoping for a similar response again this year.

People will once again be "freezin' for a reason" as the fundraiser returns Saturday, Feb. 14 in Morden.

Last year's plunge saw 52 participants collect over \$22,500 in pledges.

Lead organizer Scott Edwards of the Morden Police Service believes doing it at the lake rather than into the large tank used in earlier years has gone over well enough for them to keep doing it there.

"We've had good support obviously from our participants and our local business community and help from the team up at Lake Minnewasta," he said. "And we've been fortunate this year to be able jump on board with Winterfest once again."

Edwards said there is just something different about doing it into the lake.

"It's something that I think is a little bit more challenging mentally ... rather than in a controlled environment like into the tank. You're jumping into the lake, and it's got maybe two or three feet of ice, so there's a little bit of exhilaration that comes with that, but even just the environment, and you have people out there supporting you and cheering you on."

And of course it is supporting a



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Last year's Polar Plunge raised \$22,500 for Special Olympics Manitoba and the Law Enforcement Torch Run. This year's event takes place Feb. 14 at Lake Minnewasta.

good cause at the same time. Edwards said they see a lot of people who come out every year.

"It's usually a very similar group," he said. "We've been lucky every year that we've been able to add a few new faces, and we've been fortunate that often those new faces come back again next year."

This year, a new addition is that they

have partnered with Rendezvous for a fundraiser in advance of the Polar Plunge. Tentatively set for Feb. 6, it will be a lunch event with the proceeds going to Special Olympics Manitoba.

If you'd like to take the plunge, head to specialolympics.mb.ca and find it on the events page to register.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2025-010 and By-law No. 2360-25, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2360-25, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

194 & 200 Victoria Street, legally described as Lots 6 & 7, Block 1, Plan 30045 MLTO.

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

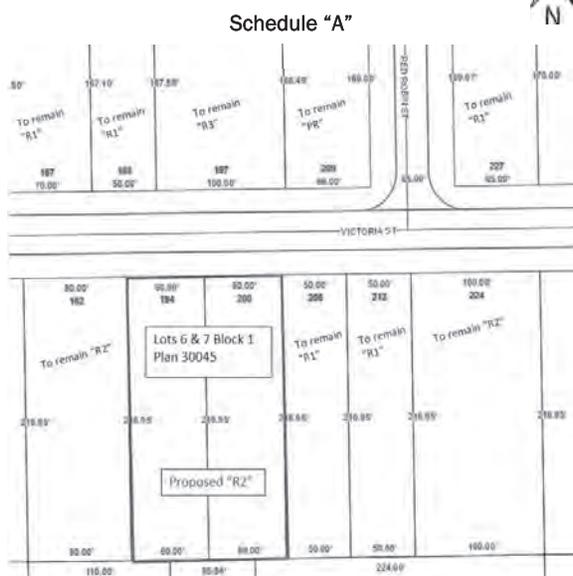
FROM: "R1" RESIDENTIAL LOWER DENSITY

TO: "R2" RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2360-25 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

Date of Hearing: February 10, 2026
Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Winkler Council Chambers,
 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 30th day of December 2025.
 Designated Officer, City of Winkler



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**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
TOWN OF MORRIS
REVISED WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES
MORRIS WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY**

January 7, 2026

The Town of Morris (Town) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised water and wastewater rates for the Morris Water and Wastewater Utility (Utility) as set out in By-law No. 04/25, read the first time on October 23, 2025. Rates were last approved in 2011 in Board Order No. 120/11, with current rates coming into effect October 1, 2013, except for water rates, which were last revised effective January 1, 2025, as a result of a pass-through increase from the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (PVWC). There are upcoming pass-through increases planned for January 1, 2026, and 2027, as per By-law No. 01/24.

The current and proposed rates are as follows:

	Current Rates*	Proposed Rates			
		July 1, 2026	Jan 1, 2027	Jan 1, 2028	Jan 1, 2029
Quarterly Service Charge	\$ 9.20	\$ 11.66	\$ 14.12	\$ 16.58	\$ 19.04
Step 1 - Water rate (per 1,000 gallons - first 15,000 gallons/quarter)*	\$ 19.48	\$ 19.91	\$ 20.34	\$ 20.77	\$ 21.20
Step 2 - Water rate (per 1,000 gallons - over 15,000 gallons/quarter)*	\$ 18.05	\$ 18.84	\$ 19.63	\$ 20.42	\$ 21.20
Wastewater rate (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 0.76	\$ 1.79	\$ 2.82	\$ 3.85	\$ 4.88
Minimum Quarterly Charge**	\$ 69.92	\$ 76.76	\$ 83.60	\$ 90.44	\$ 97.28
Minimum Quarterly Charge - Water Only**	\$ 67.64	\$ 71.39	\$ 75.14	\$ 78.89	\$ 82.64
Minimum Quarterly Charge - Wastewater Only***	\$ 13.76	\$ 27.77	\$ 39.50	\$ 51.23	\$ 62.96
Reconnection Fee	\$ 15.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Hydrant Rental Fee	\$ 75.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Deposit for Water Meter Accuracy Testing****	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00

*Current Rates include PVWC Passthrough Increases

**Based on 3,000 gallons

***Based on 6,000 gallons currently, proposed to increase to 9,000 gallons per quarter

****If the meter is found to register in excess of the allowable limit (4% of water flow), the deposit shall be refunded.

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

If you have concerns/comments regarding the Town of Morris's application for water and wastewater rates, please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment. Please note all comments will be forwarded to the Town.

Questions or comments should be sent on or before **February 22, 2026**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MORTGAGE SALE

MORTGAGE SALE

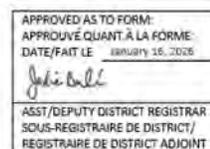
The land and building known as 281 Main Avenue, Plum Coulee, Manitoba, as described in Certificate of Title No. 2672960/4 will be sold at auction on Wednesday the 11th day of February, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. The auction sale will be held by way of video or teleconference. There will be no in-person attendees at the auction. In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Dan Ransom at either 204-988-0443 or dransom@tmlawyers.com. On the date of the auction, an email will be sent to all attendees at the email addresses provided. The attendees will need to follow the instructions in the email, which will include a video link or teleconference call-in information. The successful bidder shall have a period of 24 hours to provide the deposit in certified funds payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP and sign the auction sale conditions. TO THE BEST of the Vendor's knowledge, the property is an 1040 square foot commercial building situated on a lot of approximately 26 x 130 feet. The building is 1040 square foot frame construction with stucco exterior, likely built in the 1950s. It includes a 2 piece washroom, a 23 x 23 foot front retail space, 2 office space or storage areas, 200 amp service, electric furnace and HWT, and a 12 x 19 foot basement/crawlspace for storage. The property is fenced and includes a 14 x 22 foot detached garage. The concrete floor in main retail area is newer and has floor heat pipes installed.

PRIOR ENCUMBRANCES: **Caveat No. 1072753/4**
REALTY TAXES (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to **December 31, 2023**.

TERMS OF SALE: a deposit of **\$10,000.00** by way of cash, certified cheque or bank draft payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP, and the balance according to conditions which will be available for public view at the Auctioneer's address above prior to the auction. The property will be sold subject to a Reserve Bid of \$110,000.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 11th day of February, 2026 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale. The maximum amount of cash that may be provided as part of the deposit is **\$7,500.00**. The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca.

FURTHER information may be obtained from:

TAYLOR McCAFFREY LLP
2200 - 201 Portage Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 3L3
ATTENTION: Daniel Ransom
Phone No.: 204-988-0443
File No.: 109367-3



*Email Preferred: dransom@tmlawyers.com

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www.mcna.com

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CAREERS



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School of Nursing
 Full/Part-Time, Term & Casual (Jan 26, 2026, to June 11, 2027)
 Fort Alexander, MB (Sagkeeng FN)
 Comp #46-25/26
 Salary: \$65,184 to \$102,262 annually (\$34.58 to \$54.25 hourly)
 (Educational supplement: Masters \$1.60/hour, PHD \$3.19/hour)

As an Instructor in our Practical Nursing program, you will play a vital role in shaping the future of nursing education. Reporting to the Chairperson or Program Coordinator, you will develop and deliver curricula, evaluate student performance, and engage in various administrative functions. You will also support college promotion, student recruitment, student placement, and industry liaison.

How to Apply:

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

For accommodations or alternative formats, contact careers@assiniboine.net or 204 725 8729.

Assiniboine College is privileged to provide learning opportunities on the lands of the Dakota Oyate, Nakoda Oyate, Ininiwak, Nehethowak, Nehiyawak, Anishininewuk, Denesuline, Anishinaabeg, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

REGISTRATION



Western School Division

Kindergarten Registration for September 2026

In order for the schools to prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, it is important that parents register their children for Kindergarten from **January 30 to February 6, 2026**. Additional information is available at www.westernsd.mb.ca.

Registrations may be completed and submitted electronically, or a registration package can be picked-up at the school and returned between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from January 30 to February 6, 2026. Children born in 2021 or earlier are eligible to enrol. All parents shall include a copy of their child's birth certificate, or another document to identify their birth date with the registration.

Please enrol 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

- English program only. All rural. Within the city, all areas south of South Railway St. as well as the area south of Hwy 3 and west of Mountain St.

Maple Leaf Elementary School, 225 12th Street, Ms. Cindy Dick, Principal, 204-822-4458

- English program only. Within the city, the area north of North Railway St. and east of Mountain St.

École Discovery Trails, 1079 Parkhill Drive, Mr. Samuel Jerema, Principal, 204-822-2292

- All French Immersion - entire division

- English program students residing north of Hwy 3 and west of Mountain St.

Kindergarten Information Session

Western School Division will be holding a Kindergarten Parent Information session on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 6:30 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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CAREERS

NAKONECHNY & POWER
 CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS LTD.

Nakonechny & Power is a small CPA firm located in rural Manitoba that has been in business for 48 years. Our awesome team consists of 10 regular staff members including 4 that have worked at our firm for over 2 decades. We are seeking a permanent, full time accounting clerk and a temporary, part time tax return data entry clerk. We would consider part time applicants for the accounting clerk position.

Accounting Clerk

The successful candidate will be self-motivated, be very meticulous in their work, and able to work well with co-workers and clients. Tax season can be demanding so the individual must be able to handle working in a high stress environment and willing to work some overtime in the months of March and April. After the extra hours in tax season we offer reduced hours in July, August and September. In addition, we proudly offer an accommodating work life balance.

Duties would include monthly bookkeeping, personal and corporate income tax return preparation, preparation of year end working papers for businesses and other accounting related tasks. Must be comfortable dealing with farm clients and must possess strong computer skills (specifically Microsoft Excel). Knowledge of Quickbooks would be an asset. Wage will be dependent on experience.

Tax Return Data Entry Clerk

This job entails data entry for basic personal tax returns. The job will require approximately 10 hours per week during the months of March and April. The hours worked are very flexible but the successful candidate needs to be able to work every 2-3 days. Knowledge about personal tax return is not required but would be an asset. Wage will be dependent on experience.

Forward resume by Monday, February 2nd to:

Nakonechny & Power, Chartered Professional Accountants Ltd.

Attention: Lauren Nakonechny

Box 880, Carman, Manitoba R0G 0J0

Fax: (204)745-6322

Email: Lauren@nakandpow.com

CAREERS



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

Executive Director

Contract - 1,200 hours approximate

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

Key Responsibilities

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

Qualifications

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

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

Please email your resume and cover letter to:

admin@cornandapple.com

This posting remains open until the position has been filled.

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

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CARD OF THANKS

To all my friends and family who made my 90th birthday so special with gifts and love. Bless you.

-Toots



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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

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OBITUARY



Susan Thiessen

On Sunday, January 11th, 2026, at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Susan Thiessen was called home to her eternal rest. A mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Susan (Susie) Thiessen (nee Penner) reached the age of 87 years, 7 months and 20 days.

She was born May 22nd, 1938 to her parents, David and Aganetha Penner. She grew up near Plum Coulee. Upon confession of faith, she was baptized on May 25th, 1958, and was accepted as a member in the Church of Jesus Christ by Bishop C. Nickel.

She entered into the state of holy matrimony with Henry Thiessen on July 26th, 1959. The Good Lord granted them 51 years, 5 months, and 27 days before Henry passed away on January 22, 2011.

This marriage was blessed by one son and one daughter.

She leaves to mourn her passing: her son, David and his wife, Vicki; her daughter, Susan and her husband, Martin; nine grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Helen; as well as many friends, relatives, nieces and nephews.

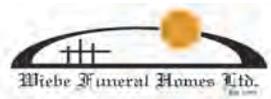
She was predeceased by her husband, Henry Thiessen; one brother, David; one sister-in-law, Tina; one sister, Neta; two brothers-in-law, Isaac and Peter; one nephew, Henry; and one nephew-in-law, Kelly.

Although we are saddened by our loss, we are gladdened by her gain.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, January 18th, 2026, at Chortitz Old Colony Mennonite Church, with interment at Rudnerweide Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Katie Cares Cottage.

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



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The Voice
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2.) Pt of SE2-2-4W, RM of Stanley.

19.99 Acres of Prime Farmland.
Located 1/2 -mile N of the Village of Neuenburg.

Tender deadline: February 3/26 - 4:00pm.

Possession date: March 2026.

Minimum \$10,000 deposit per parcel.

Buyer is responsible for GST.

Highest or best offer not necessarily accepted.

Parcels can be purchased separately.

For crop history, additional information or to submit a tender, contact The Property Brokers Real Estate Group Inc. at 204-325-8325, online at thepropertybrokers.ca or in person at 5-655 Main St, Winkler.



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take a break

> GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

X CROSSWORD

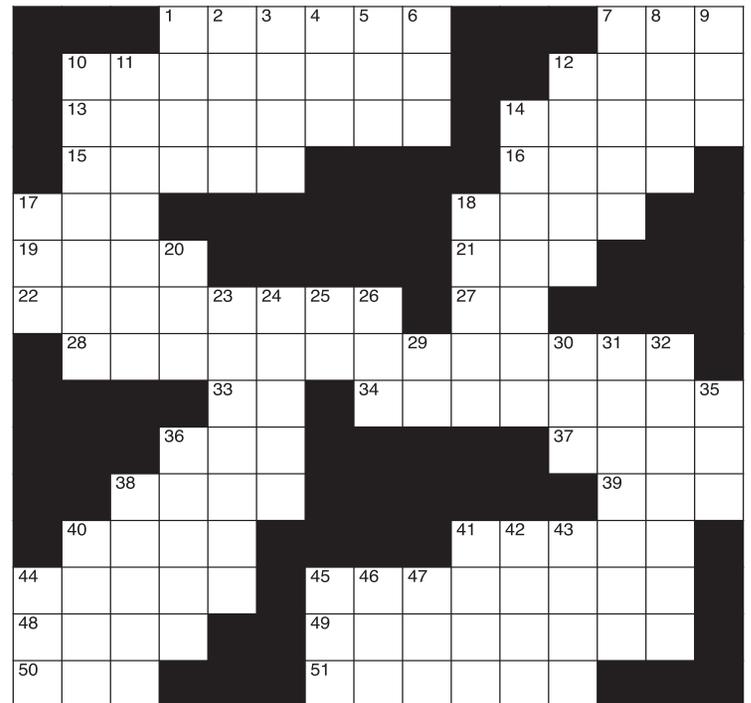
CLUES ACROSS

1. Mechanical lever
7. Rocky peak
10. Leave a country
12. Discount

CLUES DOWN

13. D.C. ballplayer
14. Partner to "oohed"
15. Engine sound
16. Japanese ornamental box
17. Fido is one

18. Amounts of time
19. DiFranco and Phylo are two
21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
22. Make secret plans
27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
28. "His Airness"
33. Morning
34. Perfected
36. Winger guitarist Beach
37. Abba __, Israeli politician
38. Self-immolation by fire ritual
39. A way to save money
40. Pulpit
41. Make ecstatically happy
44. Once more
45. Works on
48. Nocturnal S. American rodent
49. State again
50. Expression of disappointment
51. Type of door



14. Where planes land and depart
17. Political fundraising entity
18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
20. Buffer used in microbiology
23. Light, open carriage
24. Metrical feet
25. Email subject line feature
26. A street with lots of nightmares
29. Rapper Rule
30. River in Scotland
31. One who settles a dispute
32. Most chummy

35. We all have our own
36. Arab tribe
38. Slap
40. Ottoman military commanders
41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
42. Emit coherent radiation
43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
44. Inclined to
45. Olfactory reference syndrome
46. Chest muscle (slang)
47. Body part

Back 40 Festival has two fundraising concerts coming up

By Lorne Stelmach

February will be a good month for local music lovers as the Back 40 Festival is hosting two concerts at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler.

First up will be a blues night Friday, Feb. 6 featuring David Gogo along with local opening act Link and the Moustaches. That's followed by the always popular '70s Show fundraiser set for Saturday, Feb. 28.

Back 40 board chairperson Scott Bell said they normally wouldn't look at doing two events in a month, but the opportunity to bring in Gogo was too good to pass up.

"This guy has played with some great people, and he has done some pretty impressive stuff," he said.

Gogo has six JUNO award nominations and has been named guitarist of the year three times at the Maple Blues Awards, musician of the year at the West Coast Music Awards, and blues recording of the year at the Western Canadian Music Awards. He also received the Great Canadian Blues Award for his lifetime contribution to the blues in Canada as voted by the listeners of CBC's Saturday Night Blues.

He has performed on stage with the likes of BB King, Johnny Winter, Albert Collins, Bo Diddley and Otis Rush. He has been chosen to open shows for ZZ Top, George Thorogood, The Tragically Hip, Little Feat, Jimmie Vaughan, Robert Cray, Robin Trower and Wishbone Ash, and his songs are featured in films and television and have been covered by a variety of artists, most notably Buddy Guy.

Bell noted how the blues has been a mainstay for the Back 40 over the years.

"There's something about it. It's a traditional form of music, and we've just been fortunate to have some really good blues musicians locally," he said. "So there's a tradition of the blues even in this area.

"In the past, these shows have been quite well supported. There's an appreciation for the music amongst the concert-going public because it is a great unique form of music," Bell added. "It's rooted in tradition, and it goes quite a ways back."

The annual '70s Show fundraiser, meanwhile, has also become a tradition of sorts.

"There's a lots of local talent donating their time to help raise some money to cover the operational costs

of the Back 40 Festival," said Bell. "It's going to be really cool."

The lineup will run the gamut from Joe Willson and his band doing Waylon Jennings and Willy Nelson and Bill Dowling and The Even Breaks doing Bruce Cockburn to Vanessa Kehler doing Joan Baez as well as a band doing a tribute to Boston. Another highlight will be Faces for Radio doing some disco and dance music like Boney M.

"And there will be a big tribute to Elton John with a wide cross section of local musicians getting together for that," said Bell. "There's lots of amazing songs to choose from there."

Bell noted everyone loves getting involved, especially with the '70s Show each year.

"Very often, the Back 40 tries to promote original music, but I think musicians really enjoy the fun of doing a theme night like the 70s Show and picking an artist that they really enjoy.

"The audience is so responsive and appreciative, and even back stage and in soundcheck and in rehearsals, the sense of fun among the musicians and how they support each other is really special."

You can get your tickets through winklerconcerthall.ca.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

David Gogo headlines the Back 40 Festival's blues night concert at the Winkler concert hall Feb. 6.

Paint & Sip night



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A fun team-building exercise of sorts had some directors and staff of the Many Hand Resource Centre gather at the Pembina Hills Gallery in Morden last Tuesday for a paint and sip evening. Artist and gallery volunteer Margie Hildebrand guided the participants through recreating a painting. Artists were also able to enjoy a glass of wine as they worked.

The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Harrison Droll © "Happy New Years!"

Well, here's to **NOT** making dumb resolutions of changing who we're already happy being, just to make someone else happy.

New Year, New Whatever!!

