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## Snow artists

Students at École Parkside School have created dozens of snow sculptures at the Altona Centennial Park for the community to enjoy. For the full story, see Pg.12.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

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# “It’s important that police officers get support”

Winkler PD chaplain offers members a listening ear

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Arnie Klassen retired from the Winkler Police Service in 2022 after a 23-year career in law enforcement, but he’s still a familiar face at the downtown police station.

As Winkler’s first police service chaplain, Klassen stops by a few times a week to provide moral support to the department’s 22 officers.

It’s a role he took on not long after hanging up his own uniform for the last time.

“At my retirement, which is just over two years ago now, they asked if I was willing to stay on in a voluntary position as chaplain,” Klassen recalls. “It started fairly informally because there hasn’t been anybody in that position here before. I didn’t get a specific job description, so I’ve kind of navigated it and tried to figure out what it should look like.”

What it looks like is Klassen pop-

ping by during both day and evening shifts to chat with officers about whatever might be on their minds.

“Maintaining a connection is a big part of what I see as the job and a way of being able to support the members—I’m there if the guys need me,” he says, noting he’s also been called to a few critical incidents—high pressure situations where officers could perhaps use someone to talk to about it afterwards. The department also provides its members with access to professional counsellors, but sometimes a more informal approach is appreciated.

It’s a role Chief Ryan Hunt has wanted to introduce to the department for some time.

“Over the years as a constable, I always knew that some police services had chaplains,” he says. “I don’t know how common it is, but I knew when I became chief that was one of the goals that I wanted for the department, was



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler Police chaplain Arnie Klassen (left) with Chief Ryan Hunt. Klassen moved into the volunteer position after his retirement from the police department two years ago. He stops by to chat with members a few times a week.

to have a police chaplain here.

“The big part of it for me was that we found the right person ... it was important to me that we find somebody that the guys would respect, somebody with integrity and good morals.

“When Arnie retired, we thought maybe this was the perfect opportunity to start down this road,” Hunt says. “It just seemed like a perfect fit, and I really think it has been.

Continued on page 4

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# Flowing forward

## PVWC showcases expanded Letellier water treatment plant

By Lori Penner

On Jan. 28, board members of the Pembina Valley Water Co-op (PVWC) took an exclusive tour of the newly expanded water treatment plant in Letellier, marking a significant milestone for the region's water infrastructure.

The \$16 million expansion has increased storage capacity by four million liters, alongside a major chemical system upgrade and enhanced distribution pumping. Alongside that project, this year will see the estimated \$7.8 million installation of a new Red River intake pipe to pull more raw water into the Letellier plant to be treated.

"As the region continues to grow, so do the demands placed on the Pembina Valley Water Co-op and its infrastructure," said PVWC CEO Dale Toews. "It's an important project, and we wanted to bring the board in to see what we've been working on. Our board members are all elected officials, and some CAOs were here as well. We are municipally owned, providing water to these organizations, so it's crucial they see how their water supply is managed."

The plant began utilizing the upgrades in the latter part of 2024, and the transition has been ongoing.

"We're still using parts of the old facility, but with much greater efficiency," Toews explained. "Previously, we had 2.5 million liters of reservoir storage. With this added capacity, we can better handle peak demands. The new headworks system, distribution pumping, and bulk chemical feeding systems have significantly improved efficiency. Now, we're preparing to expand our membrane treatment facility to further enhance our output and meet Manitoba's growing water needs."

Engineering work is already under-

way for the next phase: a \$25 million membrane plant expansion. Toews emphasized the urgency of the project, with \$10 million in funding already committed by the province.

"We need to move forward to keep up with demand," he said. "We serve 14 member municipalities, a population of 60,000, and all the industries and agricultural operations that come with that. We're a large system, and we keep growing. Water is essential to economic development, and the province recognizes that. Ensuring water availability is critical for the region's future."

The upcoming membrane plant expansion will incorporate advanced ultrafiltration technology, enhancing water purification and significantly improving the plant's capacity to remove contaminants. Membrane filtration is a highly efficient method that forces water through semi-permeable membranes, effectively removing bacteria, viruses, and other microscopic impurities. This technology will help the PVWC meet increasing water quality standards while boosting overall efficiency.

### A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK

Lead plant operator Trevor Hodgins led the tour, offering board members an up-close look at the plant's operations.

"We showed them everything that goes into making the water safe to drink," Hodgins said. "It was great to see everyone engaged and asking questions."

The tour began in the main office, where visitors viewed the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) screen, which monitors plant processes in real time, tracking flow rates, chemical levels, and turbidity. Attendees then explored the treat-

Continued on page 5



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Board members, including reeves, mayors, and councillors from 14 municipalities, toured the completed expansion of the Pembina Valley Water Co-op treatment plant in Letellier on Jan. 28.

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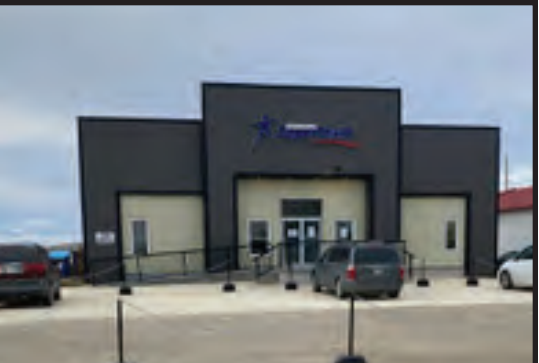
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# Celebrating family literacy



**PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS, LORNE STELMACH, AND LORI PENNER/VOICE**  
The South Central Regional Library branches marked Family Literacy Night last week with storytime, crafts, and snacks. Clockwise from above, left: In Winkler, librarian Brittany Morgan read books with a jungle theme—a hint as to this summer's reading program theme—and then helped the kids make snakes out of beads afterwards; at the Morden Library Geri Martens read to the kids; and in Altona, Cst. Brent Krahn and Cst. Dustin Giesbrecht from the Altona Police were the guest readers, joining librarian Michelle McLaughlin.

## > POLICE CHAPLAIN, FROM PG. 2

"The guys look up to him, and just the fact that he reaches out to them and opens up that ability for them, if they want to, to talk to him if something comes up," the chief says, noting he is very much hands-off when it comes to this role within the department—what's said between Klassen and the officers remains private. "This is just another way we can work towards the wellbeing of our members in a real constructive way."

The role of a law enforcement officer can really wear on a person, as they deal with traumatic situations and violence on a regular basis, even in a relatively small community like Winkler.

"I've often said that policing is different than other frontline emergency personnel in the sense that police officers are always driving around and looking for crime, trying to detect crime and trying to stop crime ... and they do it on duty and off. You can never just turn it off," Hunt says. "It's a different mindset ... and it does weigh on you over the years."

"It's a tough job, and when officers are struggling, they tend to bring it home too, and that can affect the family," he says. "I feel it's so im-

portant in a police service to have a person doing exactly what Arnie is doing: connecting with members, talking to them in confidence, supporting them."

"It's important that police officers get support, partly because of the traumatic things that they see and experience and witness," Klassen agrees. "That can be hard on people, psychologically and spiritually."

The job can also come with more than its fair share of ethical quandaries, he observes.

"There's also a moral aspect that can be a struggle because you're required to, you've committed to uphold the law, and society has different expectations of what that looks like. There's sometimes laws that officers have to enforce that they don't necessarily fully believe in."

Cynicism is another mental hurdle most every police officer finds themselves battling after they've spent

any amount of time on the job, Klassen shares.

"I'm a pretty positive person, but there was definitely a period in my policing career where I had to actively combat cynicism and figure out how to get over it because you deal with such a negative aspect of society ... so it's good to have some help with that, support to get through that."

Klassen is a man of faith, but preaching isn't a focus of the position. He's not there to convert, but to provide the religious and non-religious alike with a sympathetic ear and perhaps some sound advice.

"The typical perception of a police chaplain is more of like a preacher or pastor role, but that's not how I have learned to view it or how I believe it's effective," he says. "I do have my own faith and beliefs, but I'm careful not to push those on other people ... I don't expect everyone to have the same faith and beliefs, but I think most people acknowledge some spir-

itual aspect of their lives. And that's kind of where I try to find common ground.

"Trust is the biggest thing, and having been an officer and having worked with many of the members that are here, I think I had a head start with gaining that trust. They knew me and they know I know where they're coming from, because I've done the job," Klassen says. "So it's about maintaining that trust relationship and then showing an interest in their work and personal lives and trying to make sure that they know and understand that I'm available for any kind of support they might need."

Klassen has really thrown himself into this new role, getting involved as a member of the Canadian Police Chaplains Association and attending educational seminars. He's been gratified to hear from members that his efforts are making a difference.

"My position is kind of on the sidelines, and people don't maybe acknowledge or realize the value in it, but I have received several comments of appreciation and thanks for my role and a few things that I've done, so that has gone a long way to encourage me that this is a worthwhile position."

**"THE TRAUMATIC THINGS THAT THEY SEE AND EXPERIENCE ... THAT CAN BE HARD ON PEOPLE, PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY."**

# Local community foundations receive Thomas Sill Fund grants

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Community foundations across Manitoba continue to benefit from the generosity of the now-defunct Thomas Sill Foundation.

The first round of annual grants from the Thomas Sill Manitoba Fund—an endowment fund created from the assets of the charitable agency when it shut down in 2023—has been distributed to all Manitoba community foundations affiliated with the Endow Manitoba program.

This includes foundations all across our region: Altona, Carman, Clearwater, Miami, Morden, Morris, Pembina Manitou, Pilot Mound, Plum Coulee,

Sturgeon, and Winkler.

A total of \$1.2 million has been distributed for 2025. The amount received by each organization depends on the size of their total assets, explains Kevin Parsons, senior capacity building advisor with Endow Manitoba. In all cases, though, the funds need to be granted out by the end of the year.

“The Thomas Sill Foundation was dedicated to supporting community initiatives across Manitoba for decades, and with the establishment of the Thomas Sill Manitoba Fund that legacy will live on through the work of community foundations across the province,” Parsons says. “Since all

the grants will be coming from the community foundations, we always want to keep the focus on them, but it’s definitely worth recognizing the generosity of the Thomas Sill Foundation.”

For many smaller community foundations, the gift will have a huge impact on how much they’re able to give out each year.

Both the Plum Coulee Community Foundation and the Morris Area Foundation, for example, received \$22,903.32.

“That will about double what we’re able to grant in a given typical year,” shares Plum Coulee board chair Levi Taylor. “We’re usually able to grant out between \$15,000 to \$20,000 based on our funds accumulating interest. But every year now, as long as we continue to receive this Thomas Sill money, we’re going to be able to distribute about \$20,000 extra into the community.”

It’s the same story in Morris, says board chair Curtis Evenson.

“It’s a substantial amount of money,” he says, noting the foundation typically grants about \$20,000 every fall.

To be able to grant out \$40,000 on its own each year the foundation would need upwards of \$1 million in its community endowment fund. It’s

not quite there yet—they’re at around the \$700,000 mark—so to have these Thomas Sill funds boosting their granting ability like this is a phenomenal gift, Evenson says.

“We get more applications every year than we can grant,” he shares. “So this will make a huge difference. We’ll be much closer to what’s needed for many projects, or maybe some projects we didn’t approve at all, maybe now we can.”

“It makes a world of difference when you have double the funds.”

This isn’t the first time local community foundations have benefitted due to the closure of the Thomas Sill organization.

A little over a year ago, the community foundations in Winkler, Morden, and Altona all received lump-sum amounts ranging from \$750,000 to over \$1 million in recognition of Sill’s connection to those communities.

Sill was a philanthropist and accountant who worked in communities across the province. The foundation that bore his name was created from his estate in 1987. It became one of the province’s largest private charitable foundations over the next four decades, distributing millions in grants to countless community projects and causes.

## > WATER PLANT EXPANSION, FROM PG. 3

ment equipment, climbed to the top of clarifying tanks, and observed the intricate filtering and chemical processes that transform raw river water into potable drinking water.

One of the key upgrades featured in the expansion is the enhanced chemical treatment system, which now includes a state-of-the-art bulk chemical feed mechanism. This upgrade has improved the precision of chemical dosing, ensuring optimal water quality while reducing waste and handling risks for plant operators. Additionally, the new high-efficiency pumps allow for greater control over water pressure and distribution, ensuring reliable service even during peak demand periods.

“The expansion has been a huge success,” Hodgins noted. “The ability to store nearly a full day’s worth of treated water has made a tremendous difference in plant operations. It allows us to run more smoothly, conduct maintenance without being under pressure, and operate more efficiently. The upgraded chemical systems are also a big improvement—safer, more accurate, and easier to adjust and monitor.”

The plant’s filtration process was also optimized to improve water clarity and safety. Clarification tanks now feature improved sedimentation technology, which aids in the removal of suspended particles before further treatment. This enhancement has resulted in a more consistent and reliable filtration process, ensuring that treated water meets or exceeds regulatory standards.

Greater operational efficiency means fewer disruptions, a crucial factor for a team that is on call 24/7 to ensure the region’s water remains clean and reliable.

“I started here in 2008, and I’ve seen a lot of changes over the years,” Hodgins said. “It’s rewarding to see improvements that make the job easier and benefit the community.”

## A REGIONAL EFFORT

Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder and Municipality of Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe were among the attendees. Both expressed admiration for the plant’s advancements.

“I was pleased to see that we’re integrating two technologies. Neither method is perfect. They keep the old calcium hydrate plant and then add a membrane plant. With the two treatment processes, you can produce pretty good water, and that’s what we’re looking forward to,” Wiebe said.

“Many years ago, when I was in public works, I toured the original facility when it still had those original blue tanks,” Schroeder recalled. “The expansion is impressive, with a much larger storage capacity.”

However, Schroeder acknowledged that more work lies ahead.

“We’re one of 14 municipalities committed to securing water for the future, but we still need ongoing support from our provincial and federal governments. These water plants sustain the entire Pembina Valley.”

During the tour, it was noted that Altona alone was drawing in about 60 liters of water per second.

“People don’t always realize what it takes to keep the water flowing,” Schroeder noted. “You turn on the tap, and the water is just there—but behind the scenes a lot of effort and investment goes into making that happen.”

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# The Voice

# getheard

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#### OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



## Fear is the mind killer

**F**or a very long time now I have believed that fear is the enemy of creativity. Fear kills art, fear kills audacity, fear relegates people with great potential in leadership to simply become people who react.

I respond almost viscerally to fear because of how much I despise it.

As a child of fear, having experienced a world built brick by brick of it, I was enthralled and profoundly moved when I first read the incredible



By Peter Cantelon

novel *Dune* by Frank Herbert and encountered the Litany Against Fear:

"I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear. I will permit it to pass over me and through me. And when it has gone past, I will turn the inner eye to see its path. Where the fear has gone there will be nothing. Only I will remain."

I think what I appreciated most about this little saying is the idea that I have a choice when faced with fear. The idea that I can choose to not fear.

Fear has a place in the world. It warns us of danger and tells us to prepare. I understand this. But fear, when left unchecked, can burn through us like a wildfire turning people into cowering, petrified statues, incapable of action.

Fear destroys relationships as it transforms into paranoia. Fear drives people to make terrible decisions and give power to people who do not de-

serve it. Fear can be manipulated by despots and dictators to their own end. Beware anyone who seeks to move you with fear.

As Yoda would say, "Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."

Like most emotional extremes fear takes an enormous amount of energy and personal resources to sustain, resources that could be better spent more productively elsewhere.

One of the other things I appreciated about the litany is that it does not tell us to fight against fear or shove it away, it simply sees it as something that we can allow to pass through and around us. That fear gets its power from opposition.

I am thinking a lot about fear these days as there are many things in the world that we might be afraid of.

Continued on page 7

## Letters

### TIME TO STAND UP FOR WHAT'S RIGHT

The *Voice* is a community newspaper which for the most part deals with local issues. However, the recent U.S. election has become a topic of discussion for many in this area, sometimes referred to as the Bible Belt. It has been interesting to learn about different perspectives about the times we're living in through social media and coffee shop talk.

It's shocking that there are 'Christians' in the U.S. (and Canada) who support Trump's angry response to Bishop Budde's plea to Trump for compassion for the less fortunate in their country. They continue to worship at the feet of this 'Beast' whose actions are anything but Christian.

Thankfully though, there are also Christians who understand scripture and the meaning of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40 where he

says "when you refused to help the least of these...you were refusing help to me."

Love and compassion are the foundation of the Christian faith. It's time Christians stand up for what is right. Their voices are desperately needed in these times.

Barb Toews,  
Morden

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# getinformed

## Back 40 festival making some changes for 2025

By Lorne Stelmach

The Back 40 Folk Festival will be changing things up a bit this year, as highlighted at its recent annual meeting.

One major change is moving the flagship festival from the first Sunday to the first Saturday in June.

"We're just trying something new in light of the fact that numbers have been in decline in terms of attendance. We thought we would try something different," explained board chair Scott Bell. "And we're going to go a bit later into the evening as well. The plan is to have the music go till about 10 p.m., and then start a little later in the day as well.

"Financially, we lost money [last year], so this is I think the third year running that the festival has lost money just based on attendance numbers. Prior to that, it was consistently making a modest profit, and that money would go back into funding future festivals," he said, noting that while fundraising events and sponsorships help defray those losses, they're still hoping to get the attendance numbers

back up.

Otherwise, Bell was pleased with not only the festival lineup last year but also with its other events in the months since.

"We had our most profitable 70s Show that we've ever had, which was nice, and it was a great show. I know the performers enjoyed it," he said. "It's nice because it's our key fundraising event of our year that it was so well received and so many people came out to see it.

"And I think the festival again, artistically and musically, was great," Bell noted. "We just had a poor weather day. The weather is such a huge factor for us.

"There were also some new initiatives with the festival, which was nice. We finally got a beer tent, which was new to the festival and seemed to be appreciated."

Bell noted that their events throughout the year are vital to the festival in a number of respects.

"We had a string of well attended and excellent coffee houses that we do in partnership with Winkler Arts and Culture. Any time we can pull in



VOICE FILE PHOTO

This year's Back 40 Folk Festival will take place the first Saturday in June—a move from the traditional Sunday date.

a full room of appreciative music listeners is always good.

"And it's not just financially but also just culturally for the area to have," he said. "There are so many groups in the southern Manitoba area that are putting on music events like this and providing opportunities for musicians. It's important.

"One of our main objectives is to provide opportunities for local musicians, and we have a lot of great local performers and songwriters. We like to give them a stage."

Behind the scenes, Bell noted there have been a couple of changes on the festival's organizing board, and he particularly highlighted two long-time members—Bill Dowling and Hank Hildebrand—stepping down.

"They have been really vital members of the board and awesome volunteers that have helped Back 40 run and keep going," he said. "We're grateful for their contributions."

### 70S SHOW COMING UP

Looking ahead, the festival is now gearing up to kick off the year with the 70s Show Friday, Feb. 21 at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler.

The show will feature tributes to such acts as Queen, the Bee Gees, Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Eagles, Howlin' Wolf, Aerosmith, and Billy Joel.

Tickets are available online at [winklerconcerthall.ca](http://winklerconcerthall.ca), at the Meridian Exhibition Centre box office, or at the door.

"Tickets are selling quite well already, so we're pleased to see that," Bell noted. "It's a great lineup of local performers, and they're covering some acts that haven't been covered before at the 70s Show."

### > CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

Locally we have concerns related to water and adequate healthcare support. Provincially and nationally we continue to face high costs of living, scarce affordable housing, a new federal election, threats of tariffs and takeover from the new American president. Globally of course it's climate change and a rising tide of fascism. All this on top of the many private fears we harbour in our personal lives, like a fear of death, for example.

If we are not vigilant fear of these things can paralyze us and drive us to hiding in our beds instead of living the lives we have been given.

We have been told, *Do not be afraid*, and these are wise words. Recognize that fear is a reality we have to live with but not a master that we have to bow down to. Let it come and let it wash over you in the knowledge that it has no power except that which we give it.

## Letter policy

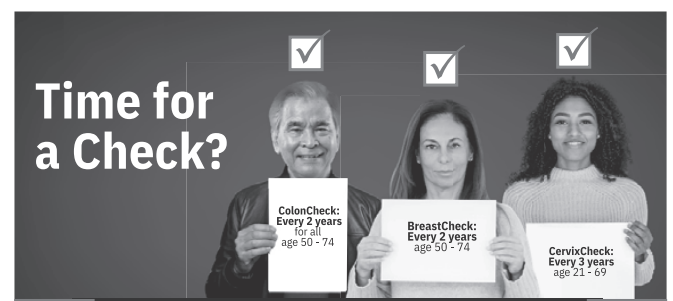
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# Morden tables local improvement plan bylaw for water treatment upgrades

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden taxpayers will be helping to pay for a vital improvement to the city's water treatment plant.

Council last week gave first reading to a local improvement plan bylaw that sets out how a new standpipe and THM (trihalomethanes) removal system will be paid for with a 15-year debenture.

The estimated cost of the project overall is \$4.6 million, with \$2.45 mil-

lion coming through the debenture and \$2.15 million funded through the Manitoba Water Services Board.

The city is also waiting for word on approval from the Manitoba Public Utilities Board, in which case the city's portion of the cost could come through utility rates. Otherwise, the debenture means there would be a special levy on local tax bills. For a property assessed at \$300,000, it will mean an extra cost of \$46.85.

Mayor Nancy Penner said she feels the extra amount on Mordenites' tax bills is reasonable given the importance of this project.

"I think our ratepayers have to realize that capital assets within our city have a value and come with a cost," she said. "We have to look at our capital assets and how do we fund those, how do we pay for their replacement and upgrade, not just the operating costs.

"We don't have the \$2.45 million in capital reserves, so we have to borrow that money through the debenture."

The standpipe is a key and crucial part of the water treatment plant and plays a couple vital roles, the mayor noted.

"And our existing standpipe is leaking ... it's leaking about half way up ... so it needs replacement," she said.

"It serves a couple of purposes. It provides external storage capacity, and it also helps with regulating the water pressure," she said. "Part of it will also help regulate our THMs ...

that's part of the technical aspects of water treatment and providing safe water for the community."

THMs are chemical by-products that form when chlorine is used to disinfect water. THMs are formed when chlorine reacts with natural organic matter in water, such as vegetation and dead leaves, and they are more common in surface water supplies like lakes and rivers.

Penner said this project is a good example of what the city and council need to be prepared for in their budgeting and planning process.

"A portion of our budget goes into the capital reserves to help pay for the infrastructure in our city to help pay for things like this then," said Penner.

"We're just finishing up our strategic plan that we will be presenting in March," she noted. "This all fits in with our priority areas ... municipal services and infrastructure needs and making sure they are in proper shape and that we do our upgrades in a timely manner."



VOICE FILE PHOTO

# Genesis House launches community survey

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Genesis House is looking for feedback on whether it's hitting the target on the work it does with the victims of domestic violence.

The regional shelter has put out a short, anonymous community survey and is encouraging everyone to weigh in with their knowledge of and experiences with the agency.

"The people with lived experience are always the hardest to reach, so I'm really hoping that because there's no identifying information, they can say whatever they want. They can share their truth and we'll use that information to manage our services as best we can," says Ang Braun, Genesis House executive director.

Alongside the shelter celebrating its 40 anniversary in 2024, they've been

reevaluating how they do things to ensure they're keeping up with the changing needs of the families and communities they serve.

"Part of that included strategic planning and looking at our core values," Braun says, listing those as "leading with compassion, creating psychological safety, and making each other stronger."

"We want to make sure that we are actually living true to those core values," she says, explaining that led them to apply for a grant to cover the costs of running and promoting the survey.

"We're reviewing all of our policies and procedures to make sure they're written through the lens of a trauma-informed organization," Braun says. "And that's also partly where

this survey will hopefully inform us. Where are we falling short? What could we be doing better?"

A lot has changed since the shelter first opened its doors in the 1980s.

"Demographics, who we're seeing in shelter, and the concerns that people are coming to us with today, compared to 40 years ago, it doesn't look the same," Braun says. "We want to make sure, are we hitting the right targets? Do people feel like they can call us? Do they even know we're here?"

There are actually multiple versions of the survey, based on how you an-

swer the first few questions. Those questions break respondents into those who have had personal experience with the shelter or its programs, those with personal experience with another shelter, past or present employees or volunteers with Genesis House or with another shelter, and community members, stakeholders, or other agencies.

"We're really looking at what people feel the barriers are," Braun says of the survey that's targeted to those who have suffered abuse at the hands of a domestic partner. "What were the barriers you faced trying to access shelter services?"

The stakeholder survey, meanwhile, asks whether people feel domestic violence is an issue prevalent in our communities.

"That will be an interesting response," Braun observes. "The people with lived experience will clearly believe that it's an issue, but I think there's still some skepticism from folks in some places, the idea that it doesn't really happen here."

The survey is available online at [genesishouseshelter.ca](http://genesishouseshelter.ca) for the next few weeks.

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# arts & culture

## Beau Dixon in area next week to mark Black History Month

By Lorne Stelmach

An award-winning actor, musician and playwright is coming to Morden next week in connection with Black History Month.

It is evident from much of his work that telling stories around the history and contributions of black people in Canada is very much a passion for Beau Dixon.

"A lot of the work that I create ... I stand on the shoulders of my ancestors, and I bring all of their history into the work that I do, whether it's theatre or music," said Dixon, who is of mixed race with a father who was black and a mother who was white. "Not only is it a passion of mine, but it's what I do for a living, sharing stories about my African Canadian heritage and also their untold stories.

"Working in the theatre industry, I'm always in search of great stories, and that's what these are ... they're great stories. They're not only stories about resilience, about hope, about perseverance, they're stories about our history, our Canadian history."

In addition to his many achievements as an actor, musician and writer, Dixon is the co-founder and artistic director for Firebrand Theatre, a Canadian educational theatre company, and an artistic associate for 4th Line Theatre in Millbrook, Ontario. Recently, he became the music director for Sheridan College, Lakefield College School, and the Stratford Festival.

Currently, Dixon is working on a variety of projects, including acting in film and TV roles, producing and writing plays, and composing and performing music for digital distribution, public live stream events, and corporate functions.

He is spending a few days in Morden next week, including going to local schools to read excerpts from a number of his plays.

One is *Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story*, which tells the story of an African Canadian coal miner who saved the lives of six other miners in the Spring Hill mining disaster in 1958. The musical recalls the events during the disaster, the effect it had on Ruddick's family, and the racial tensions in the

town of Springhill.

Another one is *Once a Flame*, which tells the harrowing story of the defiant black slave Marie Joseph Angélique who was executed for arson in Old Montreal in 1734 but was subsequently found to have been innocent.

"What's so astounding about that story is that it was the first documentation of a black slave because of the court transcripts. We have documented proof of Canadian enslavement in the early 18th century," noted Dixon.

He will also read from *Other People's Heaven*, which tells of Viola Desmond, a black beautician born in Halifax who ran her own beauty salon but was imprisoned because she sat in the white section of a movie theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. She has been referred to as a Canadian version of Rosa Parks.

Dixon will also be presenting a concert Tuesday, Feb. 11 at St. Paul's United Church that will focus on the spirit and legacy of black musicians such as Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Harry Belafonte, and others. The show starts at 7 p.m., with entry by donation.

"It's celebrating the spirit and legacy of black music and how black music has influenced the civil rights movement, politicians, and scholars," said Dixon. "It includes people like Martin Luther King Jr., Langston Hughes, James Baldwin ... so I'll be doing a broad sweep of the history of black music and the influence it has had on western civilization."

Dixon is especially interested in history and artists with a Canadian connection.

"We don't know about the Canadian slavery ... because it didn't have an international impact, we don't really read about it in the history books," he said. "By telling the story of Maurice Ruddick, we also learn about the lower class worker, the labourer, the poor labourer, the industrial worker who had to risk his life every day to work in the mine."

It is also especially important for him to connect with youth.

"I think the reason why I did this is I remember when I would be at a public school ... every time someone would come to a school to do as performance or to do



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Musician and playwright Beau Dixon will be sharing some of his stories in local schools and then performing at the St. Paul's United Church in Morden next week in honour of Black History Month.

public speaking, it inspired me," he said.

"It's proven that students learn a great deal more and they absorb more information if they are shown the history rather than just told the history.

"I started becoming a writer because I wanted to get my story out there; the story of my father's lineage, and I wanted to know more about my ancestors, so I started writing about my ancestors," he shared. "They were also fascinating stories ... they were stories that I felt students and educators could connect with as well.

"I would say it's my mission ... my mission is to bring Canadian stories to young audiences."

## Candlewick bringing 'Sabrina Fair' to the stage

By Lorne Stelmach

The Candlewick Players are putting on a modern day version of the Cinderella fable for their annual Valentine's Day show.

As always, the production will be part of a dinner theatre presentation Feb. 14-15 in Manitou followed by a non-dinner performance in Morden Feb. 21-23.

*Sabrina Fair* is billed as a heartwarming piece set on Long Island in the 1950s that deals with the Larabee family and their interactions with Sa-

brina, the daughter of their chauffeur.

"I know I say this a lot: we have a great community of artists in southern Manitoba and their hard work towards presenting wonderful live theatre is rewarding," said Richard Klassen, who is producing and directing the show. "And to put this into an older classic romantic comedy such as *Sabrina Fair* promises to be worthwhile for audiences."

The play exemplifies the contrast between a very wealthy family and their servant staff and illustrates how love can alter the status quo of the times.

The bright, well-educated young lady Sabrina, played by Jacinda Young, has just returned from a five-year stay in Paris.

The father of the Larabee family, portrayed by Eric Buhr, and his wife Maude, as performed by Tayah Vanstone, have two sons: Linus, played by Darren Kehler, and David, played by Ken Dueck.

Linus has assumed control of his father's shipping company and has taken a well-established business empire to even greater heights. David, the younger brother, has more carefree

ideals which clashes with his father's point of view but endears him to his mother.

Visiting with the Larabees is family friend Julia McKinlock, portrayed by Della Friesen. She plays the interested observer in the play and shares various witticisms, providing comedy relief.

As the show progresses, you learn that, while in Europe, Sabrina made the acquaintance of a Parisian gentleman played by Devon Littlejohn who

Continued on page 10

# A Valentine's Day 'Comedy Invasion'

By Lorne Stelmach

A trio of standup comics are hoping to offer a lighthearted evening of laughs in Morden-Winkler for Valentine's Day.

The Comedy Invasion: Valentine's Day Edition takes place next Friday, Feb. 14 at the Morden Legion, and it features a lineup of comedians who have appeared on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, and APTN and at such events as the Winnipeg Comedy Festival.

"Hopefully the audience can relate in some way to all of us," said Clayton Stewart, who shares the stage with fellow funny men Nelson Mayer and Kevin Dobbie.

"We all have different subjects that we may branch out on," he said. "Nelson has a pretty big family, so some of his material is about that ... I have some embarrassing stories, so some



Comedians Clayton Stewart (left), Nelson Mayer (right) and Kevin Dobbie perform at the Morden Legion Feb. 14.

SUPPLIED PHOTO



of my material may focus on that ... so you're going to see and hear three different comedians. If one of us isn't to your liking, I'm sure the other ones will be."

Currently on tour together on the west coast, Stewart and Mayer call themselves the bad apples of comedy. Stewart noted it is always enjoyable to come perform in smaller centres like Morden-Winkler.

"The travel is probably the hardest part, but thankfully we get it made up to us by having wonderful shows in wonderful communities like Morden," he said.

"We've travelled across Canada and

across the states doing comedy, and it's always wonderful to go to communities like this and meet people and just bring a really good time," he said, recalling having performed in the area once before on Corn and Apple Festival weekend.

"Some of these smaller shows can be even more fun because the locals are really out for a good laugh, out to have a good time ... and even on Valentine's Day, so that's a lot of fun in itself."

Stewart said they of course always come with prepared material, but there is always also an improvisational aspect that comes into play.

"Every crowd's different, and I love the crowd interaction, and I know Nelson especially loves interacting with the crowd," he said. "Sometimes, the audience can bring the funny just as much as us comedians on stage."

"All comedians who are worth their salt have to adjust on the fly sometimes," he added.

Tickets for the show are \$20. You can buy them online by looking for The Comedy Invasion Valentine's Day show on Eventbrite.

"It's going to be a great night and a perfect date night for Valentine's Day," said Stewart.

# Free entry into all provincial parks this month

By Voice staff

If you've never explored our provincial parks in the winter, this month is the time to do it.

The Manitoba government is once again offering free entry to all provincial parks through the entire month of

February.

"Manitoba's provincial parks offer an incredible variety of trails and activities for Manitobans of all ages," said Environment and Climate Change Minister Mike Moyes in a statement, noting they are waiving entry fees "to make it more affordable

for Manitoba families to get outdoors and enjoy all our beautiful provincial parks have to offer."

From groomed paths for cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, fat biking, snowshoeing and hiking, to exciting spaces like outdoor skating rinks, hockey arenas, and toboggan hills, there's something for everyone, the minister noted.

In addition to free park entry, Manitoba Winter Trails Day will be celebrated for the first time on Saturday, Feb. 8.

The day will occur annually moving forward on the second Saturday in February to showcase the province's winter trails and activities, celebrate the partners who create and maintain trails, and inspire Manitobans to embrace the season by enjoying outdoor

adventures with family and friends, said Moyes.

Manitobans can join park interpreters this Saturday for guided trail adventures in the Birds Hill and Spruce Woods parks. Details and registration information can be found at [www.manitobaparks.com](http://www.manitobaparks.com). Manitobans are also encouraged to check this website for trail conditions before visiting the parks.

Trail users are reminded to only use trails for designated activities and never walk on groomed ski tracks, keep dogs on leash, and practice the principles of Leave No Trace by removing everything that is brought in.

Vehicle permits are not required in provincial parks in February, but Sno-passes are still required for snowmobiles using designated trails.

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## > CANDLEWICK, FROM PG. 09

is quite enamored with her, and his surprise visit to Long Island creates more than a few laughs. The play presents twists and comical situations right to the very end.

Klassen noted there has been a lot of work going into building a set that depicts the wealth and grandeur of the residents on Long Island Sound.

The production opens at the historic

Manitou Opera House next weekend featuring a full course dinner theatre complete with cast interaction between acts.

The following weekend will see the set move to Morden's Kenmor Theatre for three shows in a theatre-only format.

Tickets are available by visiting [www.candlewick.ca](http://www.candlewick.ca) or calling 204-822-7469.

# Clarity Vision cuts the ribbon on its new home

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Clarity Vision Centre in Winkler celebrated the grand opening of its spacious new location last week.

The optometrist office cut the ribbon on its building at 880 15th St. Jan. 30, officially marking a new era for the business.

"When we first moved [to Winkler] in 2013, our plan was to stay in the old location ... we figured it would last us two to three years," shared Dr. Andrew Aiken.

As the practice grew, so too did the need for a larger space, but it took some time to find the right piece of land and get construction underway. Last November, they were finally able to move into the new building, which is almost four times the size of their old space on Main St.

With all the extra room, they've been able to up their examination rooms from two to seven and have on display hundreds more eyeglass frames than ever before.

"Around 1,600 to 1,800 pieces," shares Aiken. "It's a pretty substantial inventory and quite a substantial in-

crease from the old spot."

The building also features towering windows for lots of natural light, high ceilings, a second-floor mezzanine with room for offices and a staff room, a wheelchair-friendly entrance and a dedicated accessible examination room.

Aiken hopes the impressive facility will help them recruit additional optometrists to the practice. He's currently the only full-time eye doctor on staff, though they also have an ophthalmologist coming out from Winnipeg every month to administer injections for various eye diseases. The goal is to have them administering upwards of 140 such injections a month.

"These people are macular degeneration patients, diabetes patients," Aiken says, explaining these treatments are usually done on a monthly basis. Offering this service locally saves area patients hundreds of trips into Winnipeg every year. "We figured out, ballpark, about \$450,000 in lost wages, gas money, food expenses, all that kind of stuff. So it's a pretty



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

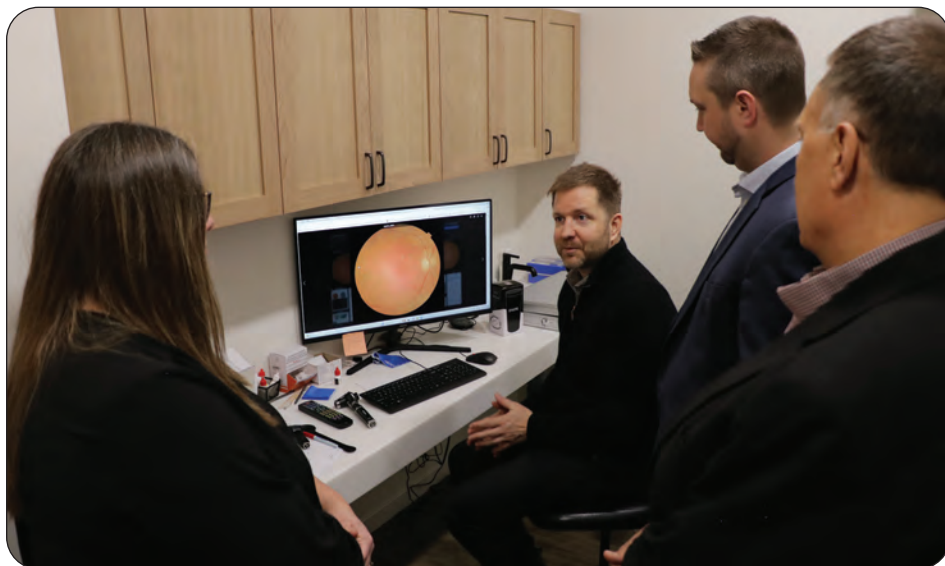
Local dignitaries helped Dr. Andrew Aiken and his staff cut the ribbon on Clarity Vision Centre's spacious new building last week.

substantial savings."

Clarity Vision Centre also has a state-of-the-art computer program that allows them to send patient ocular scans to out-of-town specialists for their opinion, furthering saving people from having to leave the area for a diagnosis.

Aiken invites everyone to come check the new space out and see what they all have to offer.

"Hopefully they see us as a really forward-thinking clinic that is willing to adapt all the new technology to expand scope and services, reduce the barrier to care, and someone that really has the community in mind right from the start," he says. "The community has been very good to me, and I always want to pay that back in any way I can."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Dr. Andrew Aiken discusses some of the technology at his disposal with Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert, Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens, and Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie. Right: The new location is nearly four times the size of the old.



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A few of the snow creations on display in Altona Centennial Park built by students from École Parkside School last week.

PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/  
VOICE



# Parkside students fill Altona Park with snow sculptures

By Lori Penner

Visitors to Altona Centennial Park are in for a visual treat as students from École Parkside School have turned the space into a winter wonderland with their stunning snow sculptures.

Under the guidance of physical education teacher Jesse Heppner, the students have combined creativity, teamwork, and physical effort to produce an array of intricate designs as part of their winter activities curriculum.

Using large wooden box forms, the students created compacted snow blocks as the foundation for their sculptures.

"The wooden box forms allowed us to produce about seven blocks per hour," Heppner explained. "This year, with enrollment up to 195 stu-

dents, we produced around 70 blocks over two and a half days, plus a few extras for solo projects or a potential sculpture club."

Before beginning their projects, students participated in a class where they reviewed past sculptures, learned essential snow sculpting techniques, and developed a game plan for their own creations.

Once in their teams, they collaborated to bring their ideas to life, sometimes adapting to unexpected challenges.

"A lot of our sculptors had to pivot and create something different from their original plan," Heppner noted. "That's part of the learning experience—problem-solving and working with what you have."

The sculptures, lined up along the main park trail, take visitors past the

stage and water park area, showcasing a diverse range of artistic interpretations. Students sculpted everything from lifelike animals and vehicles to mythical creatures, cartoon characters, and even food items.

"We teach them how to expand the snow to make sculptures appear larger than the four-foot blocks they start with," said Heppner.

Beyond the artistic aspect, the project instills valuable life lessons.

"They learn hard work, teamwork, and how to execute a vision," Heppner emphasized. "Each team must coordinate ideas and techniques to complete their sculpture, which requires compromise and communication. They get so engrossed in their work that they don't even realize the physical benefits—they're moving, lifting, and sculpting, all the while

staying active."

The sculpting process took place over several phases. After planning their designs and gathering tools, students spent their regular gym class periods working on their creations. With three one-hour sessions per week, they had ample time to refine their work. Teachers across the school also supported the initiative, offering additional time for students to perfect their sculptures. The goal was to have all pieces completed by Jan. 31, ensuring a full display for the community to enjoy.

For those who didn't get a chance to participate initially, a few extra blocks near the playground remain available for additional sculpting.

"It's always great to see more kids give it a try," Heppner said.

## Notice of Environment Act Proposal

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

### **CENTRA GAS MANITOBA INC. – DOMINION CITY TO ALTONA GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINE PROJECT – FILE: 6247.00**

Centra Gas Manitoba Inc. proposes to build a 38.7-kilometre long and 8-inch diameter natural gas transmission pipeline that will originate near Dominion City and end north of Altona. The proposed route passes through the municipalities of Emerson-Franklin, Montcalm and Rhineland. If approved, construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2026 and will take approximately one year to complete.

**Anyone likely to be affected by the proposal and who wishes to comment, should contact Bryce Wood, Environment Officer, in writing or by email at [Bryce.Wood@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Bryce.Wood@gov.mb.ca) no later than March 10, 2025. Further information is available from the Public Registry: [www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries](http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries)**

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

**Environmental Approvals Branch  
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## Altona/Rhineland selected for new immigration program

By Lori Penner

The Altona/Rhineland region has been chosen to participate in a second federal pilot program aimed at connecting businesses with skilled newcomers, helping to address ongoing labour shortages.

Following the successful five-year Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) program, which concluded in August after facilitating over 140 successful job placements, the region will now take part in the new Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP). This three-year initiative provides a pathway to permanent residence for newcomers filling key job vacancies and looking to settle long-term in smaller communities.

The RCIP is one of two federal pilot programs announced in March 2024 as an interim measure while the government works to make RNIP a permanent program. The second initiative, the Francophone Community Immigration Pilot (FCIP), focuses on bolstering immigration

in French-speaking communities.

"Rural and Francophone communities are vital to Canada's growth and cultural diversity, and we value the unique contributions that newcomers make in these places," said Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marc Miller. "By welcoming skilled immigrants to these areas, we are addressing labour shortages and economic needs while promoting the benefits of living in a smaller town or city."

"Our commitment to supporting these regions reflects our belief that each one matters. That is why we will make the RNIP a permanent program and why we are introducing these two new pilots. We'll continue to work closely with these communities to connect businesses with the skilled workers they need to thrive."

In addition to Altona/Rhineland, the Manitoba communities of Steinbach and Brandon have also been selected for the RCIP. Meanwhile, St. Pierre-Jolys will participate in the Francophone

Continued on page 13

# New director and new building serving Morris Early Learning Centre well

By Siobhan Maas

Natural light streams into all rooms of the Morris Early Learning Centres' new main building on the southeast side of Morris. One of only a few new childcare facilities with 104 childcare spaces built across the province in the last couple years, the build brings much opportunity to the staff, the children, and the town.

"We are not on top of each anymore," said executive director Kaleigh Schwark of the November opening. "Children can explore more in the larger space and the centre has opportunity to grow staff and programming."

The RTM build, a cookie-cutter model funded by the provincial government, allowed for some personalized selection of colour schemes with artwork inspired by Indigenous star blankets along the hallways, but otherwise the building's layout is similar, if not identical, to other daycare buildings across the province.

"All rooms have names inspired by trees native to Manitoba, which goes along with the logo of our daycare—a tree," shared Beth Glass program supervisor. "Black Spruce, Jack Pine, Cottonwood, Wild Plum—the children are proud of the room they occupy and find a sense of belonging knowing they progress to a different room when they are old enough."

"We have the capacity to operate eight rooms and have three individual fenced, outdoor play spaces," noted Schwark. "I will have been in my role as executive director for one

year in February. It's been a challenging year, but we have made a strong team. We've brought in a few more staff and would love to see our team grow more this year."

Morris Early Learning Centre continues to operate in two spaces: 40 infant to Kindergarten-aged children in the new building and 15 Gr. 1-6 spaces in the after-school program run out of the Baptist Church. Renovations should begin soon at the former Busy Nest space on Main Street in the hopes of expanding and permanently caring for 30 school-aged children there. The church would then no longer be used.

"The big hurdle we are experiencing right now is that we need more trained staff," Schwark said, noting that although the centre operates with 15 full-time staff, only three are Early Childhood Educators (ECEs). Two are in training to become ECEs and the others hold their Child Care Assistant (CCA) designation, the lowest accreditation necessary to work with children in a daycare facility.

Regulations state that a 66 per cent ECE staff ratio must be maintained.

"As a whole, 66 per cent is hard to achieve, all daycare centres have the same hurdle and we would love for rural areas to have some leeway" in this mandate, explained Schwark. "We currently share staff between both locations and are excited that some CCAs have decided to become ECEs."

The daycare continues to recruit staff, including ECEs and staff for summer programming, with some



PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

Morris Early Learning Centre executive director Kaleigh Schwark with shelves of interactive games. The centre's new main building, which opened in November, has been serving them well. Right: Large windows in all the rooms let in sunshine throughout the day



support from the Manitoba Government's Education and Early Childhood Learning department, but "the onus falls mostly on individual daycares."

There are numerous opportunities to train as a CCA or ECE through various campuses around the province, including one program that includes remote learning two days per week.

If you are unsure whether a childcare career is for you, a great way to experience the daycare environment would be to read the children a book. I Love to Read Month happens this month, where volunteers visit schools and daycares to interact with children

and encourage literacy.

"We offer a supportive management team and flexibility," said Schwark. "And we would love to be more involved with the community."

Schwark can be reached at 204-746-2285 or [bnkoc2019@outlook.com](mailto:bnkoc2019@outlook.com) by individuals interested in reading this month or for more information about working at the centre.

## > IMMIGRATION, FROM PG. 12

Community Immigration Pilot (FCIP).

Local officials are excited about the opportunities this new program presents.

Municipality of Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe expressed his enthusiasm, noting the effectiveness of the previous program.

"The previous pilot project was very successful. It was employer-driven. Businesses were looking for particular areas of expertise, and that wasn't available. This really fills those gaps and allows that economic activity to move forward. It's encouraging that the program demonstrated success, and now we're looking forward to continuing with that."

Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder shared similar excitement.

"The federal government put out applications for this new program. The last one ended last spring, so we applied for the new program, and we're very excited to partner with the federal government on this again. The last program was very successful in the area, so at this point, we're thrilled that we got accepted."

Schroeder highlighted the broader impact on the community, emphasizing how the program supports businesses and contributes to population growth.

"Not only are we filling jobs and supporting businesses, but our population grows as well. When they move here, their whole family comes too, and that brings the numbers up. Last year, about 300 new people came to the area, which is good growth. It gives employers and businesses the opportunity to find workers with specific skill sets. It's been a win-win for everybody."

Stephanie Harris, economic development officer for the Town of Altona and a member of the program's advisory council, emphasized the significance of this new initiative.

"We are thrilled to have been selected once again to partner with the federal government on an immigration pilot program and build off the success of the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot program. Connecting businesses and employers with skilled newcomers not only helps address immediate labour needs but also contributes to long-term growth and sustainability."

Harris also provided insight into the next steps

for the program's implementation.

"We have begun training with the IRCC and will provide details and timelines on when employers and prospective permanent residence candidates can expect to have a chance to apply. I want to encourage those interested to visit the IRCC's website for updates."

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IN MORRIS

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## MITT Open House lets you experience programs and college life first-hand



Finding the right post-secondary institution requires effort, which is well spent as your time in college allows you to develop skills and relationships that will set you up for your future career.

While you can learn a lot about a college online, nothing compares to experiencing the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (MITT) firsthand. MITT's Open House on February 20 at the college's Henlow, Pembina, and Fultz campuses in south Winnipeg is your chance to get to know MITT, its programs, faculty, staff, and what student life is like.

Here are a few elements of MITT you can experience at the Open House:

- **Location:** MITT's south Winnipeg campuses are easily accessible from the perimeter, making MITT an ideal choice for those attending from surrounding communities.

- **A welcoming environment:** Small campuses and class sizes make students comfortable quickly, while supportive faculty and staff create a welcoming culture with opportunities for personalized support and learning.

- **Hands-on learning:** Programs are taught by industry-experienced instructors through hands-on training in modern simulation labs, ensuring you gain the in-demand skills you need for your career.



- **Real-world work environments:** Instructors incorporate real-world scenarios into their teaching, and 70 per cent of programs include a work practicum with a local employer.

- **Industry-driven, student-focused programs:** MITT's programs are designed in collaboration with industry leaders. This ensures you get the skills needed to find employment, as shown by the 89 per cent of graduates who have found a job within five months of graduation.

- **Career and employment services:** On top of teaching in-demand skills, MITT offers career support as part of the curriculum in every program. Ad-

ditional one-on-one support from a nationally recognized Career and Employment Services team will help you get hired. Meet this team and start your career conversations at Open House.

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To register for Open House and learn more about the event, visit [MITT.ca/openhouse](http://MITT.ca/openhouse).

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# BRANDON UNIVERSITY

January 2025

## Brandon University helps students get a great start

BRANDON, Man. – Beginning your post-secondary education is a big step, and that's why Brandon University is committed to helping you get off to a great start.

Brandon University has a 125-year history of high-quality academic programs, combined with a constantly growing support system that helps today's students put their best foot forward as soon as they step on campus. A friendly and welcoming group of student leaders greet new students when they arrive for orientation, and the helpful faculty and staff are with them every step of the way, including academic assistance, career counselling, Student Accessibility Services, personal counselling and cultural resources such as the Indigenous Peoples' Centre. A recent addition to BU's supports is the Al and Bee Wagner Indigenous Student Transition Program, which helps students adjust to university life through mentorship,

academic check-ins and guidance from Knowledge Keepers.

"We're a smaller university than many, but we prefer to look at it as being the right size for many new students, who want to step up to post-secondary education without being overwhelmed," said Leanne Barcellona, Director of Recruitment and Retention at BU. "The students can really get to know each other and their professors. Many stay with us right through until completing their undergraduate degree, and some are with us even longer as they advance to one of our graduate programs."

Located on a compact but full-service campus at the heart of Manitoba's second-largest city, BU offers its 3,500 students a wide range of options to prepare for their future careers. Students can choose from 19 undergraduate programs, six graduate programs and four certificate programs in the Faculties of Arts, Education, Health Studies, Science

and the School of Music. Additionally, many established professionals further their careers by studying offerings such as the Master of Education and Master of Psychiatric Nursing programs, which they can pursue part-time while they work. For those looking for something else, there are 19 available pre-professional programs, where students can start at BU before moving seamlessly into their specialized program at another university.

Aiding in career preparation are built-in practicums in Education and Health Studies, as well as the Co-op program, which allows students to earn while they learn by mixing in paid work experience between academic terms.

Enoch Ouskun, who was a Co-op Business student and participant in the Indigenous Student Transition program, began an articling position with an accounting firm following his graduation last year, and he credited the people of

BU with helping him reach his goals.

"The professors and staff were all wonderful people, and whenever I need help with anything, be it understanding a concept, getting office time to go over questions, or anything to do with deadlines," he said. "They were always helpful and understanding."

Brandon University also has robust research programs, allowing students to gain real-world experience working on meaningful projects, even at the undergraduate level. Right now, undergraduate BU students are working on projects such as cancer detection and treatment, environmental stewardship, quantum computing and green energy production.

To learn more about BU, take a virtual tour, or set up an in-person visit at [BrandonU.ca/Future-Students](https://BrandonU.ca/Future-Students).

# BRANDON UNIVERSITY

**let's start!**

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS



## Journey for Sight raises \$7K

A group of ten local snowmobile riders ventured out recently to take part in the Journey For Sight, an annual snowmobile fundraising event in support of the Lions Foundation eye bank. Started in Birtle in 1983, the ride has changed over the years but has traditionally had northern and southern groups of riders meet up in Brandon. Among those taking part was Shannon Dueck, who is a Lions Club district governor, along with her husband and fellow Lion David Dueck. "It means the world to us that regular citizens would take time out of their day to raise awareness and funds for this worthy cause," she said, estimating the local group brought in perhaps \$7,000 for the cause.



## Borderland MLA calls on gov't to make Emerson health care centres a priority

By Lorne Stelmach

Borderland MLA Josh Guenter last week raised concerns about the Manitoba NDP government failing to prioritize more staffing and resources for the Emerson health centre and personal care home.

He questioned the lack of action by Health Minister Uzoma Asagwara amid growing concerns over vacant suites, staffing shortages, and the facility's future.

The lack of any commitment to fill the staffing vacancies and the empty suites is one more example of a more widespread problem in the health care system, he added.

"There is a broader challenge in Southern Health, and it's been exacerbated by NDP cuts ... in the meantime, you have the NDP saying that they've hired 873 new health care workers and yet there's no sign of those workers at all.

"I've heard from numerous families who are desperately trying to secure personal care for their loved ones only to be told there are no vacancies," said

Guenter, who noted there were job postings for six care aides and five registered nurses in Emerson.

"There are actually eight vacant suites at the Emerson personal care home, but these families are also being told these rooms can't be used because of staffing challenges."

It is an absolutely vital facility in a community the size of Emerson, Guenter stressed.

"These individuals who would like to move in there and be closer to their families, they're being held in the Altona and Morris hospitals, where there aren't the meal programs and the activities," he noted. "Clearly hospitals aren't built to be personal care homes, but that's where these people are being held.

"There's even interest in the community from individuals who would like to work at that facility and yet they're not being hired," he added. "So I'm

very concerned about what the NDP government intends to do with the Emerson facility.

"With all these supposed new workers, why isn't the health minister filling the vacancies in Emerson and allowing families to access local care

for their loved ones?" Guenter asked. "This facility was once a fully functioning hospital with an emergency room. Gary Doer's NDP closed the emergency room in 2002 and now it seems Wab Kinew's NDP wants to close the facility entirely. That's unacceptable."

A comment from the office of Asagwara fired back that these concerns were worsened by the previous Conservative government.

"The MLA had years to ask his fellow PCs to stop cutting beds in longterm care, to build up staffing in the rural Manitoba, and to follow through on building personal care

homes in the province," the minister wrote. "The PCs made cuts across the health care system and pushed nurses out of the public system, forcing rural areas to rely on private for-profit nursing agencies. We've said enough is enough."

Asagwara went on to highlight the progress made by the NDP government today.

"We've hired over 290 net new health care aides and 300 net new nurses in the public system and have created more flexibility for nurses through the newly expanded provincial travel nurse team.

"While it will take time to reverse the previous government's damage, we are putting in the work to build capacity in personal care homes across the province," Asagwara wrote. "We've re-opened 104 previously closed staffed personal care home beds across the province and are building new personal care home beds. Progress continues, and we are putting in the work."

**"WHY ISN'T THE HEALTH MINISTER FILLING THE VACANCIES?"**

## IIU investigating Winkler police officer for theft

By Voice staff

A Winkler police officer has been placed on administrative leave as Manitoba's Independent Investigation Unit investigates them for allegations of theft.

On Jan. 28, the Winkler Police Ser-

vice notified the IIU of an incident that occurred on Jan. 18.

The department had received a report on Jan. 22 from a convenience store located on First Street. An adult male, later identified as an off-duty officer, is alleged to have exited the store without paying for an item.

As a result, Winkler Police referred the matter to the IIU. The civilian director has determined that it is in the public interest for the unit to assume conduct of the investigation.

Winkler Police Chief Ryan Hunt said the department "is fully cooperating with the Independent Investigation

Unit, and we are confident they will conduct a thorough investigation."

Witnesses or individuals who have information or video footage that may assist the investigation are asked to contact the IIU toll-free at 1-844-667-6060.



# sports & recreation

## Bombers best Royals

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The rival Morden and Winkler teams went head-to-head in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action last week, and it was the Bombers who came out on top.

The Tuesday night game in Winkler was a high-scoring affair, with both teams lighting up the net in all three periods.

Winkler was up 3-1 after 20 minutes thanks to goals from Justin Augert and Aaron Lewadniuk. Collin Shirley scored for Morden.

Goals from Logan Christensen, Tyler Peers, Shirley, and Jay Fehr swung things the other way, giving the Bombers a 5-3 lead in the second. Phil Letkeman sandwiched in Winkler's third goal midway through the period.

Augert scored the Royals' last goal of the night early in the third, making it 5-4. Winkler yanked their goalie in the final minutes in a bid to close the gap, but it backfired, allowing Morden to add two more, courtesy of Logan Christensen and Keane Boucher, to take the game 7-4.

Reed Peters turned away 39 shots on net for Morden while Jayme Janzen denied 38 between the posts for the Royals.

Morden went on to defeat the Ile Des Chenes Northstars Friday night on the road 4-3. Colin Hildebrand, Derek Wiebe, Peers, and Christensen scored. Peters made 32 saves in net.

The Royals, meanwhile, got a win



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Morden Bombers goalie Reed Peters gets just enough of the puck to steer the Winkler Royals Brett Bergman's shot wide of the net in last Tuesday's game, which the Bombers won 7-4.

against the Islanders in Portage Sunday.

Lewadniuk had a two-goal night while Mitch Dyck and Marcus Neufeld contributed singles in the 4-2 victory. Matthew Thiessen was in net this game and made 41 saves.

In other local SEMHL action, the Red River Wild downed Carman 3-2 Wednesday and then fell to the first-place Ste. Anne Aces 2-1 Friday.

The Carman game was tied 2-2 after 40 minutes thanks to Wild goals from

Tyler Anderson and TJ Matuszewski. Justin Baudry got what proved to be the game winner 15 minutes into the third. Carter Lemay made 32 saves in net for Red River that night.

Two nights later, Geordie Keane got the Wild's lone goal, scored between two from the Aces in the second period. Jayden Catellier made 47 saves in goal for the Wild.

Red River stands tall in second place in the standings with a record of 11-5-1 and 23 points, trailing the Aces in

first by seven points.

Morden is in fourth place at 10-5 for 20 points, while Winkler is in seventh at 8-7-1-1 for 18.

The final games of the regular season take place this week, with Morden hosting Notre Dame Thursday and then playing in Ste. Anne Saturday, Red River at Springfield Friday, and Winkler in Springfield Saturday night.

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PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley's Hayden Arkle battles with two Brandon players for puck control in Friday's game against the Wheat Kings, which the Hawks lost 2-1..

## Hawks slip into sixth place as season's end nears

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks slipped into sixth place after dropping a pair of games to Brandon last weekend.

A 2-1 loss Friday followed by a 2-0 defeat Saturday allowed the Wheat Kings to leap past the Hawks in the standings.

Brandon improved to 13-16 with two overtime losses for 28 points, and the Hawks slipped to 13-17 with one overtime loss.

The Hawks gave up a pair of goals in the second period Friday but couldn't quite recover in the third, with only one goal coming from Abigail Brigg just 16 seconds in.

Shots on goal were 39-24 in favour of Pembina Valley. Kasia Rakowski took

the loss in net with 22 saves.

Brandon goaltender Danica Averill then earned a 45-save shutout Saturday as the Wheat Kings eked out another narrow victory. Pembina Valley outshot Brandon 45-30.

The Hawks will close out their regular season schedule this weekend starting with a visit to Stonewall Saturday to take on Interlake followed by a trip to Winnipeg to face off against the Avros Sunday.

If the Hawks end the season in sixth place after this weekend, their quarter-final opponent will be the third place Winnipeg Ice. The Hawks and Ice split their four regular season games, with Pembina Valley dropping the first two before edging Winnipeg for a pair of 3-2 wins.

## Winkler Flyers topple Neepawa Titans 3-2

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers remain on top in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's East Division after narrowly defeating the visiting Neepawa Titans 3-2 last weekend.

The Titans took a 2-0 lead in the first period, and it took Winkler until the very end of the second to respond

with a goal from Nicholas Mckee, working off assists from Charles-M Bernier and Trevor Dalton, with 2:15 left on the clock.

Winkler's offensive lines got it together in the third, with Brady Craik tying things up midway through and then Kam Thomas firing home the winning goal in the last minute.

Liam Ernst made 10 saves in net

for Winkler as the Flyers outshot the Titans 35-12. Across the rink, Neepawa's goalie, KC Couckuyt, had a 32-save night.

Winkler has 31 wins, six losses, and three overtime losses to their names for the season thus far, good for 65 points—two points ahead of the Portage Terriers in second place and the Steinbach Pistons in third, with three

games in hand over both those teams as of Monday.

This week the Flyers host the Winnipeg Blues Tuesday (results were not available at press time) and the Winnipeg Freeze Friday. They then head to Steinbach to play the Pistons on Saturday before returning home to host the Dauphin Kings on Sunday.

## Male U18 Hawks 1-2 in weekend games

By Lorne Stelmach

It was another weekend of mixed results for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

A busy schedule of three games on consecutive days saw the Hawks get blanked 6-0 by the Winnipeg Thrashers Friday then rebound for a 5-2 win over Kenora Saturday before being outscored 9-6 by Brandon Sunday.

Pembina Valley was completely stymied by Thrashers goaltender Tate Barnaby, who earned a 46-save shut-

out, while Mason Mykichuk scored four goals for Winnipeg, which had 32 shots on Hawks' netminder Ryler Gates. The Thrashers were also powered by three powerplay goals.

It was a pretty wide open affair with Kenora as the shots on goal were 59-41 in favour of the Pembina Valley, which took period leads of 2-1 and 4-1.

Haideen Friesen had a pair of goals and three points with Cade McCallum, Adrien McIntosh, and Ragnar Gillis also connecting for the Hawks,

while Karsen Dyck got the win in net with 39 saves.

The floodgates then really opened Sunday with the Wheat Kings leading 5-4 after 40 minutes after the first period had been tied at two apiece.

Friesen and Cole Secord both had a pair of goals for the Hawks with singles from Tegan Fehr and Parker Henderson. Shots on goal were 43-31 in favour of Brandon.

Dyck started in goal for the Hawks, stopping 24 of 30 shots before being replaced after the sixth Brandon goal

by Gates, who stopped 10 of 12 shots before the Wheat Kings sealed the deal with an empty net marker.

The Hawks remain locked in ninth place at 17-17-4-2 for 40 points, which is 11 ahead of Norman and just one back of Eastman and Interlake and three behind Parkland.

Pembina Valley has a pair of home games this weekend against Central Plains on Friday and the Thrashers on Sunday.

The **Voice**

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# Winkler player makes Manitoba Brick team

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A Winkler youth will represent Manitoba at the prestigious Brick Invitational Hockey tournament in Edmonton this July.

Winkler Minor Hockey player Beckett Fehr made the cut for the Manitoba Junior Ice Brick team after extensive tryouts late last year. He joins players from all over Manitoba on the team, including Pilot Mound goalie Booker Ramage.

"We're competing against the highest level of play from all over North America," shares mom Jordana Fehr, who is serving as one of the team's managers. "We're pretty proud of him and looking forward to seeing what the season brings. It should be a great group of kids."

The Brick tournament has welcomed the best nine- and 10-year-old players from across North America for over 30 years, several of whom have grown up to play professional hockey.

Beckett, who turns 10 next month, is no stranger to high-level play—he's made the top teams in his age group the last several seasons, giving him the chance to play in tournaments in

Boston, Chicago, Tampa, and Saint Louis, among others.

"I've made it the last few years," Beckett says with a grin.

"This one's just a little bit harder, because there's more draw to be on the team," adds Fehr. "It pulls kids who may have been playing in a lot of different areas or organizations will come and try out for this one."

Beckett has been on the ice since he was two, eventually starting out in organized hockey with the local Timbits team.

Last year, at age 8, he played as a double minor on the Winkler U11 Gold team. He's back on the team this year as a minor and is leading them in points with 48 goals and 14 assists and counting. Beckett plays forward, often centre but sometimes right-wing.

Playing with older kids comes with its challenges, but also plenty of benefits.

"Some of them might be faster, and they're bigger and stronger," acknowledges Beckett. The flip side is it pushes him to do his best. So does practicing with his older brother, Tegan Fehr (a Pembina Valley Hawks U18 AAA



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Beckett Fehr will play with the Manitoba Brick team at the Brick Invitational Tournament at the Edmonton Mall in July.



player who was auto-protected by the Winkler Flyers last spring), who has shown him a few tricks.

"He showed me a move that usually works on a goalie when I do it," Beckett says.

What it really all comes down to is a love of the game.

"You get to have fun with your friends and compete," Beckett says of the sport, adding he hopes one day to play for his favourite team, the Edmonton Oilers.

In addition to the Brick tournament, the Manitoba team will also play several tournaments in Winnipeg over

the next few months, including the North American Hockey Classic Early Bird, the Spring Shootout, and the Super Elite, in addition to heading to Toronto in April for the Hockey Hall of Fame Legends Cup.

Fehr notes the team is looking for business sponsorships to help cover the cost of ice time and travel expenses to the out-of-province competitions. If you're interested in supporting the kids, contact Fehr at Jordana.schultz@gmail.com or 204-997-8463 or fellow manager Dan Keeping at danokeep@hotmail.com or 204-803-2569.

# Pembina Valley Twisters in the cellar of MMJHL standings

By Ty Dilello

The long and depressing 2024-25 campaign for the Pembina Valley Twisters junior hockey club season is almost ending after the club dropped another pair of games this past week. The Morris-based MMJHL team is now 3-31-2, which is good for last place in the league standings.

On Jan. 31, the Twisters were spanked 8-1 by the Charleswood

Hawks. Josh Guilford had the lone goal for Pembina Valley, while Darion Penner and Jordan Armstrong combined for 34 shots in net for the loss.

The next night on Feb. 1, the Twisters were again embarrassed, this time at home to the Fort Garry/Fort Rouge Twins by an 8-0 scoreline. Jordan Armstrong did what he could as he stopped 34 shots in the loss.

"There are lots of positives to take from this year with the younger guys

excelling every game, as we see it in spurts every game that we can compete with any team," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "We just need to find the consistency in a full 60 minutes. Sometimes, it takes years like this to truly understand the time, effort and commitment it takes to be a winning team. I like the group that we have now, so we hope to grow a little stronger before the season ends to catch fire for next year."

The Twisters return to action on Feb. 7 with a home game against the St. Boniface Riels. The puck drops at 8:00 p.m.

The 2024-25 MMJHL All-Star Game will be held on Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Terry Sawchuk Arena in Winnipeg. Austin Spicer, Darby Olson and Josh Guilford were named from the Twisters to participate in the upcoming All-Star Game.

# U13 AAA Hawks having steller inaugural season

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley U13AA Female Hawks are in fifth place in the Hockey Winnipeg U13AA female league with a 10-9 record. The team is battling for position as it gets closer to the playoffs and has played some really good hockey over the last few months.

One highlight for the team was winning gold at the Grand Forks B-Dubs

Shootout Tournament at the end of November. It was a great team bonding experience, and the players had some hard-fought games to earn the gold.

The Hawks also took part in Notre Dame's Hawkey Days 2025 by playing an exhibition game against the Central Plains Capitals in Notre Dame. The Hawks pulled out a decisive 5-0 win and had a great time

playing in Notre Dame in front of a huge crowd.

"It was awesome to see the arena full in support of five players from Notre Dame and the rest of the team," said Pembina Valley Hawks coach Keith Pitura. "Having been an opposing coach in the Notre Dame Arena many times, it was really nice to hear the goal horn go off for the team I am coaching rather than vice versa."

The Pembina Valley Hawks will now participate in the Brandon Tournament of Champions in mid-February before finishing up the regular season and competing in the Hockey Winnipeg U13AA playoffs.

"A big thanks to all our fans who have already made this season a memorable experience for the players," said Pitura.

# Portage hosting 100th edition of provincial men's curling championships

By Ty Dilello

Thirty-two teams across Manitoba will compete at the 2025 Viterra Championships this week, Feb. 4-9, in Portage la Prairie at Stride Place.

It's going to be a historic week. This is the 100th anniversary of the provincial men's curling championships, and there will be several celebrations throughout the event.

To wish them good luck and re-live their glory days, about 45 past Manitoba champions will attend the opening banquet on Tuesday night as part of a CurlManitoba Reunion of Champions. These "alumni champions" represent all four of Manitoba curling's men's championship sponsorship eras. In addition, many of them will return for the evening draws during the week, during which they will be recognized during the pre-game team introductions.

The "alumni champions" will include over a dozen Canadian champions as well as nine World champions: Don Duguid (1970, 1971), Dave Romano (1972), Kerry Burtnyk, Jeff Ryan, Rob Meakin, Keith Fenton (1995), Ken Tresoor (1996), Reid Carruthers, Garth Smith (2011)

Eight British Consols-era champions, led by the legendary two-time world champion Don Duguid, who won his first Manitoba championship in 1957 (68 years ago) playing second for Howard Wood Jr., will be on hand to greet this year's competitors at the opening banquet. Most will return to participate in the Wednesday evening championship opening ceremony.

Seventeen Labatt Tankard era champions, seventeen Safeway Select/Championship era, and six past Viterra champions will be at the Reunion of Champion banquet. Those numbers include four champions who won two different championship trophies (John Usackis and Dave Roma-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Marcus Titchkovsky's rink out of the Morden Curling Club, who will be one of 32 teams competing this week at the 2025 Viterra Championships in Portage.

no - British Consols and Labatt Tankard, Kerry Burtnyk and Ken Tresoor - Labatt Tankard and Safeway Select, Reid Carruthers and Derek Samagalski - Safeway and Viterra Championships).

The Labatt Tankard champions will also participate in the Thursday evening pre-game ceremony, while the Safeway and Viterra past champions have been invited to the Friday evening pre-game acknowledgements.

Unfortunately, curling legend and eleven-time Manitoba champion Jeff Stoughton has a schedule conflict for the Tuesday banquet but will be among the Safeway champions attending the Friday evening draw in Portage.

This year's Reunion of Champions and Viterra Championship celebrations will also include the announcement of the 2025 Manitoba Curling Hall of Fame induction class. With the support of the Portage Host Committee, Stride Place will host the unveiling of a new mobile Manitoba Curling Hall of Fame display which incorpo-

rates all 250+ individuals and teams who have been inducted to date. There will also be a museum display, including many unique items from the Manitoba Curling Museum, available for curling fans to view at the championship.

The modified double-knock-out Viterra Championships

gets underway on Wednesday morning and runs until Sunday afternoon.

As always, there is a sprinkling of local teams in the mix, including Ryan Thomson and Marcus Titchkovsky of Morden, Jeremy Sundell of Holland, and the host Ryan Hyde team out of Portage.

Tickets for the 2025 Viterra Championship, Manitoba's 100th Men's Curling Championship, are available online at <https://specialevents.strideplace.com/>.

The winning rink at this week's provincials will represent Manitoba at the 2025 Montana's Brier in Kelowna, British Columbia. Team Matt Dunstone of Winnipeg is already qualified

as one of the Wild Card teams.

The first-round matchups for the 2025 Viterra Championships are as follows:

- (15) Thomas McGillivray, St. Vital - (18) Daniel Birchard, Pembina
- (2) Jordon McDonald, Assiniboine Memorial - (31) Grant Brown, Thompson
- (7) Steve Irwin, Brandon - (26) Travis Gregory, Hamiota
- (10) Devon Wiebe, Charleswood - (23) Ryan Thomson, Morden
- (11) Sean Grassie, Deer Lodge - (22) Marcus Titchkovsky, Morden
- (6) Riley Smith, East St. Paul - (27) Ed Barr, Carberry
- (3) Braden Calvert, Fort Rouge - (30) Robin Nelson, Granite
- (14) Hayden Forrester, Fort Rouge - (19) Cale Dunbar, Brandon
- (13) Justin Richter, Beausejour - (20) Greg Todoruk, Dauphin
- (4) Jacques Gauthier, West St. Paul - (29) Mike Mahon, Granite
- (5) Brett Walter, Assiniboine Memorial - (28) Stefan Gudmundson, Steinbach
- (12) Jace Freeman, Virден - (21) Dean Dunstone, Granite
- (16) Ryan Ostrowsky, Granite - (17) Kelly Marnoch, Carberry
- (1) Reid Carruthers, Granite - (32) Sean Boyle, Neepawa
- (8) Jordan Peters, Fort Rouge - (25) Jeremy Sundell, Holland
- (9) Jeff Stewart, Gladstone - (24) Ryan Hyde, Portage.

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**FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER**

**WIDMER et al. V SCOTT et al.**

Court of King's Bench File No. CI18-11-00476 & CI23-01-42312

**FARMLAND AND OTHER REAL PROPERTY FOR SALE BY TENDER**

TAKE NOTICE that the Manitoba Court of King's Bench has ordered the sale of lands of sufficient value described below by written tender to satisfy Certificate of Judgment 1272190/4 for all amounts owing pursuant to Court File No. CI18-11-00476 and CI23-01-42312. All acreage indicated is approximate size according to a Province of Manitoba Property Assessment Report.

**Status of Title No. 2119883/4 (Sizes vary by lot) PARCEL I:**

LOT 24 BLOCK 1;  
LOTS 1 TO 7, LOTS 18, 19, AND LOTS 21 TO 24 BLOCK 2;  
LOTS 7 TO 15 BLOCK 3; AND  
LOTS 2 TO 8 BLOCK 4  
PLAN 142 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM

**PARCEL II:**

LOTS 1 TO 13, AND LOTS 15 TO 23 BLOCK 1;  
LOTS 8 TO 11, AND LOTS 13 AND 14 BLOCK 2;  
LOTS 4, 5, 6 AND LOT 16 BLOCK 3; AND  
LOT 1 BLOCK 4  
PLAN 142 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM

**PARCEL III:**

ALL THAT PORTION OF BLOCK E PLAN 142 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A POINT IN THE PRODUCTION SLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE OF THE ELY LIMIT OF COTTON STREET, WHICH POINT IS DISTANT NLY 172 FEET FROM THE SLY LIMIT OF SAID BLOCK E; THENCE SLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO THE SLY LIMIT OF BLOCK E; THENCE ELY ALONG SAID SLY LIMIT 350 FEET; THENCE NLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE AND PARALLEL WITH THE WLY LIMIT, 326 FEET; THENCE SOUTH WLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT

**PARCEL IV:**

EXCEPTING - ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT  
PARCEL IV:  
LOT 12 BLOCK 2 PLAN 142 MLTO  
IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM  
EXCEPTING - ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 43189 MLTO

**PARCEL V:**

LOT 20 BLOCK 2 PLAN 142 MLTO  
IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM  
EXCEPTING - ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 48315 MLTO;  
**Status of Title No. 2182590/4 (75 feet)**  
LOTS 11, 12, AND 13 BLOCK 4 PLAN 4 PLAN 59 (RL DIV) IN NE ¼ 24-2-12 WPM;

**Status of Title No. 2560904/4 (0.13 acres)**  
ALL THAT PORTION OF BLOCK "E" PLAN 142 MLTO REQUIRED FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A SPUR LINE OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTH EAST ANGLE OF BLOCK "E"; THENCE WLY ALONG THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE SAID BLOCK "E" 269.7 FEET; THENCE SOUTH ELY ON A CURVE TO THE RIGHT OF 715 FEET

RADIUS TO WHICH THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE IS A TANGENT, 93.5 FEET; THENCE SOUTH ELY ON A CURVE OF 478.3 FEET RADIUS COMPOUNDED WITH THE LAST DESCRIBED CURVE TO THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SAID BLOCK; THENCE NLY ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE SAID BLOCK TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN TRANSFER 110361 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM;

**Status of Title No. 2589819/4 (13.25 acres) BLOCK "E" PLAN 142 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM**

EXCEPTING:  
FIRSTLY - RAILWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY PLAN 205 MLTO  
SECONDLY - ALL THAT PORTION LYING AND BEING TO THE WEST OF THE PRODUCTION SLY OF THE ELY LIMIT OF COTTON STREET AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN 142 MLTO;  
THIRDLY - ALL THAT PORTION DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF SAID PRODUCTION WITH THE SLY LIMIT OF SAID BLOCK "E"; THENCE ELY AND ALONG THE SLY LIMIT 350 FEET; THENCE NLY AND PARALLEL WITH SAID PRODUCTION 326 FEET; THENCE SOUTH WLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO A POINT IN THE SAID PRODUCTION DISTANT NLY THEREON, 172 FEET FROM SAID SLY LIMIT; THENCE SLY AND ALONG SAID PRODUCTION TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT

**FOURTHLY - ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT;**

**Status of Title No. 2589820/4 (1 acre) ALL THAT PORTION OF BLOCK E PLAN 142 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM WHICH LIES WEST OF THE PRODUCTION SLY OF THE ELY LIMIT OF COTTON STREET AS SHOWN IN SAID PLAN**

EXCEPTING - ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT;

**Status of Title No. 2726654/4 (80 acres) W ½ 4-1-8 WPM**

EXCEPTING - OUT OF SW ¼ - THE SLY 1320 FEET;

**Status of Title No. 2726664/4 (28 acres) BLOCKS B, C AND F PLAN 142 MLTO**

EXC OUT OF BLOCKS B AND C: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 42079 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM;

**Status of Title No. 2726666/4 (2 acres) ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 4-1-8 WPM WHICH LIES SOUTH AND WEST OF ALL THAT PORTION TAKEN FOR THE SPUR LINE OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY PLAN 205 MLTO**

EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT;

**Status of Title No. 2726668/4 (80 acres) THE W ½ OF SW ¼ 17-1-8 WPM ;**

**Status of Title No. 2726670/4 (320 acres total) W ½ 9-1-8 WPM;**

**Status of Title No. 2726673/4 (160 acres) THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 5-1-8 WPM; EXC ALL THAT PORTION TAKEN FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE MANITOBA SOUTH WESTERN COLONIZATION RAILWAY PLAN 143 MLTO;**

**Status of Title No. 2748017/4 (160 acres) ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 5-1-8 WPM TAKEN FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE MANITOBA SOUTH WESTERN COLONIZATION RAILWAY PLAN 143 MLTO**

**Status of Title No. 2748021/4 (160 acres) THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 17-1-8 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN;**

**Status of Title No. 2748048/4 (80 acres) THE E ½ OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 18-1-8 WPM;**

**Status of Title No. 2748067/4 (2 acres) ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 5-1-8 WPM DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST ANGLE OF SAID QUARTER SECTION; THENCE NLY ALONG THE EASTERN LIMIT THEREOF 609 FEET; THENCE WLY PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTHERN LIMIT THEREOF 142.5 FEET; THENCE SLY AND PARALLEL WITH THE EASTERN LIMIT TO THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SAID QUARTER SECTION; THENCE ELY ALONG THE SAID SOUTHERN LIMIT TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT;**

**Status of Title No. 2762923/4 (160 acres) THE NE ¼ OF SECTION 6-1-8 WPM;**

**Status of Title No. 2847224/4 (160.80 feet) LOTS 15, 16 AND 17 BLOCK 2 PLAN 142 MLTO; EXCEPTING - ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM;**

**Status of Title No. 2847225/4 (13.90 acres) ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM TAKEN FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND STATION GROUNDS OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY PLAN 142 MLTO EXC FIRSTLY: ALL THAT PORTION OF SAID STATION GROUNDS WHICH LIES BETWEEN TWO LINES DRAWN PERP TO THE CENTRE LINE OF SAID RAILWAY ON SAID PLAN, THROUGH POINTS THEREIN DISTANT ELY THEREON 1100 FEET AND 1650 FEET RESPECTIVELY FROM THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF SAID QUARTER SECTION AND SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFERS 110361 MLTO AND 42079 MLTO;**

**Status of Title No. 2847226/4 (4.92 acres) BLOCK "D" PLAN 142 MLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN TRANSFER 43190 MLTO IN SW ¼ 4-1-8 WPM; (collectively referred to as the "Lands")**

**Tenders will be received on any one or combination of the titles making up the Lands.**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF TENDER AND SALE**

1. No party shall advance a bidding amount less than the most recent assessed taxable value of the title in question.
2. No party shall be allowed to retract a bid.
3. The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

4. Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque in an amount equal to 10% of the proposed purchase price, payable to Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP, IN TRUST for the Applicants of Court of King's Bench File CI23-01-42312. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
5. The purchaser shall, at the time of sale, pay the balance of the purchase price on completion of the sale. On payment of the balance, the purchaser shall be entitled to receive and take possession of any of the Lands purchased.
6. Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the Lands, its true condition, possible liabilities, and the title thereto and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of any other party.
7. Any purchase and sale is subject to approval of an Associate Judge of the Court of King's Bench pursuant to a Report and Order on Sale. If required, the purchaser shall have the transfer(s) prepared at the purchaser's own expense and tender it to the party having carriage of the sale for execution.
8. If possession of the Lands is wrongfully withheld from the purchaser following the transfer of title to the Lands, or any combination of them, the purchaser shall be entitled to apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for an order of possession, or similar order, and shall do so at its own expense. For greater certainty, the judgment creditor pursuant to Certificate of Judgment 1272190/4 and their solicitors shall bear no cost or responsibility for providing vacant possession to the purchaser of the Lands on the date of possession.
9. Where the purchaser fails to comply with any of these conditions, the deposit and all other payments made shall be forfeited to the applicants and the Lands may be resold. Any deficiency on the resale, together with all expenses incurred on the resale or caused by the default, shall be paid by the defaulting purchaser.
10. The successful purchaser, if any, will within seven (7) days of being advised that he or she is the successful bidder, sign a standard Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP agreement of purchase and sale for the property which will include the terms and condition of the sale.
11. Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing March 14, 2024, or as otherwise directed by the Court.
12. Possession date will be 9:00 a.m. on March 14, 2025, or as otherwise directed by the Court.
13. Tenders are binding upon acceptance and should not be subject to any conditions precedent.
14. The Lands or any portion of them thereof will be sold "as is" and the purchaser is solely responsible to determine the value and condition of said Lands, its quality, environmental condition, and any other information pertaining to the Lands.
15. Tenders must be received on or before 4:00 p.m. on February 28, 2025, or as otherwise directed by the Court.

**Please send sealed Tenders to purchase any of the Lands to:**

Antoine F. Hacault / Andrew D. Warkentin  
Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP  
1700 - 242 Hargrave Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V1  
Email: afh@tdslaw.com / adw@tdslaw.com  
Fax: 204-934-0530

CAREERS



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

We are hiring!

### Instructor, Practical Nursing

School of Nursing

2x Full-Time, Term (Aug 18/25 to May 28/27)

Part-Time & casual (Aug 18/25 to May 28/27)

Steinbach, MB

Comp #72-24/25

Salary: \$63,431 to \$97,078 annually (\$33.65 to \$51.50 hourly)

(Educational Supplement: Masters \$1.52/hour; PhD \$3.03/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.

**\*We are open to secondment opportunities\***

**How to Apply:**

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



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

### Shift Power Engineer

Facilities

Full-Time, Regular

Brandon, MB

Comp #69-24/25

Salary: \$69,108.99 to \$83,824 annually

(\$33.23 to \$40.30 hourly)

Classification: O2E Power Engineer 2nd Class Plant

(3rd class certificate)

The Shift Power Engineer will operate and maintain a Steam Plant at Assiniboine College in compliance with the Power Engineer Act, Provincial Codes and acceptable best trade practices, as well as Workplace Health and Safety regulations. In the absence of the Chief Power Engineer and/or Facility Manager, the incumbent may be responsible for the entire physical plant operation. The Shift Power Engineer may be the initial contact in service requests under the guidance of the Chief Power Engineer and/or Facility Manager.

**How to Apply:**

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

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NOTICES

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2025-001 and By-law No. 2335-25, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2335-25, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

**268 Albert St, legally described as Lot 4, Plan 46139 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. 2335-25 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 25, 2025

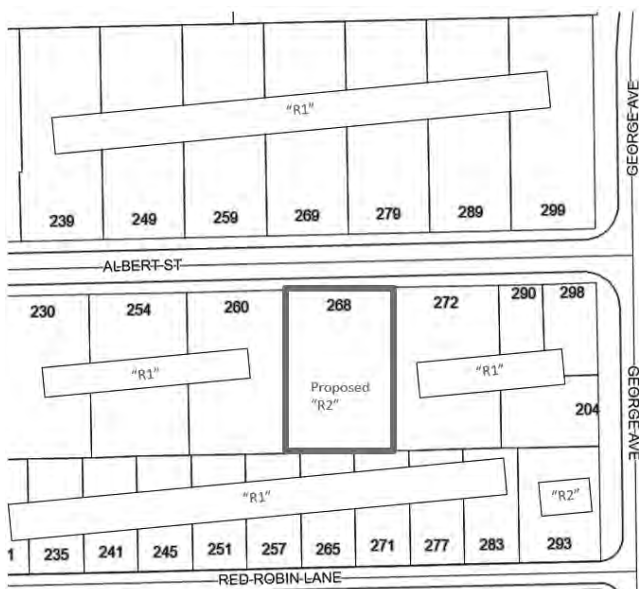
**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.

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

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025.

Designated Officer, City of Winkler

Schedule "A"



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

[WWW.WINKLER.CA](http://WWW.WINKLER.CA)

CAREERS

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

### SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



SEASONAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**TERM:** early May – end of August 2025 (40 hours per week)

• **PROGRAM ASSISTANT**

**DUTIES:** The position requires water testing, computer work for watershed planning, project monitoring and compliance checks, shelterbelt maintenance, trail maintenance, participating in educational events and tours, newspaper article writing and assisting with water and soil projects within the district, and other duties as assigned. **This position is based out of Manitou, MB, but involves travel throughout the entire district.** A district vehicle will be provided and/or mileage will be reimbursed.

• **TECHNICIAN ASSISTANT**

**DUTIES:** Assisting with water and soil projects within the district; including surveying, construction, hauling supplies and materials to job sites, water testing, computer work for watershed planning, shelterbelt maintenance, trail maintenance, participating in educational events and tours. This position requires you to work in wooded areas, swampy lands, and inclement weather. You will likely encounter insects, snakes and other outdoor rodents, so you must be comfortable working independently in this setting. **This position is based out of Manitou, MB, but involves travel throughout the entire district.** A district vehicle will be provided.

*Applicants must meet the requirements of the Canada Summer Jobs and Green Team eligibility criteria (be between the ages of 16 – 29), have a valid drivers license, be physically fit and able to work outdoors in all weather, be self-motivated, have the ability to work independently, experience with operation of quad, various mowers, trimmers an asset and good oral communication skills. The successful candidate must provide their own transportation to and from the office each day.*

Please submit resumes with 3 references and cover letter to:  
Pembina Valley Watershed District, Attn: Lexine LeBlanc  
Box 659, 261 Main Street, Manitou, MB R0G 1G0  
Phone: 204-242-3267 Fax: 204-242-3281  
E-mail: [administrator@pvwd.ca](mailto:administrator@pvwd.ca)

**Application Deadline: Wednesday February 19, 2025**

PVWD would like to thank all applicants, however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

EMPLOYMENT

## Aubin Nurseries Ltd.

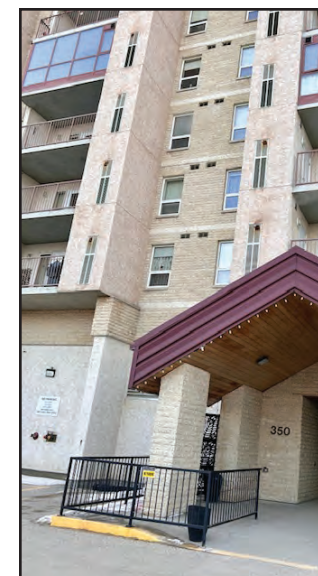
### Class 5 Delivery Driver

Full-Time, Seasonal or Year Round  
Must be available Saturdays in April & May. Must be able to lift min 80lbs

Please email resume to

[Kristina@aubinnurseries.ca](mailto:Kristina@aubinnurseries.ca)

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Borderland PC Association AGM and DSM on February 27th 2025**  
5:30pm Rhineland Pioneer Centre  
227 10 Ave NW, Altona MB

**FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION**  
with an **EMPLOYMENT/ CAREERS AD** in *The Winkler Morden* **Voice**  
**467-5836**

**COMING EVENTS**

Candewick Players Present the Romantic Comedy *Sabrina Fair*  
By Samuel Taylor



Valentine's Dinner Theatre

Manitou Opera House  
Friday, Feb 14 - 6:30 PM  
Saturday, Feb 15 - 6:30 PM

Valentine's Theatre

Kenmor Theatre, Morden  
Friday, Feb 21 - 7 PM  
Saturday, Feb 22 - 7 PM  
Sunday, Feb 23 - 3 PM

[www.candlewick.ca](http://www.candlewick.ca) // 204-822-7469

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

**Mr. John Buhler**  
The family of the late Mr. John Buhler invites you to join in a **Celebration of Life** honoring his remarkable legacy.  
**Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm**  
**Canadian Museum for Human Rights**  
(85 Israel Asper Way), Buhler Hall  
Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/john-buhler-celebration-of-life-tickets-1219679296609?aff=oddtcreator>  
(As we have limited space, we are kindly asking for people to register using the link provided prior to February 13th, 2025)  
As well a livestream of the event will be made available at <https://www.youtube.com/live/kJY6PYCij70> for those unable to attend in person  
**Reception Immediately to Follow**  
Please join us as we gather to celebrate a life well-lived and remember the profound impact John had on his family, friends and community  
In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a charity of your choice. John was a larger-than-life philanthropist who would be delighted to know that, in his memory, charities continue to benefit from acts of kindness.

**Online McSherry Auctions**

Estate & Moving  
Feb 12th @ 7PM

Firearms & Ammo  
Feb 13th @ 7PM

Estate & Moving  
Feb 19th @ 7:00PM

McSherryAuction.com  
204-467-1858  
or 204-886-7027  
mcsherryltd@gmail.com

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**CAREERS**



**MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT**

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

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

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
  - Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
  - Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
  - Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience
- This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

Starting Wages:

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

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

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

# Puzzle Palooza raises funds for AAFRC programming

By Lori Penner

The Altona & Area Family Resource Centre (AAFRC) hosted its third annual Puzzle Palooza on Friday, Jan. 24, following a one-week delay due to a winter storm.

This year's challenge featured a 1,000-piece Cobble Hill puzzle, depicting a nostalgic fishing store by a picturesque lake. AAFRC coordinator Nina Edbom-Kehler said the participants loved all the detail in this puzzle.

"We get a lot of returning teams because of the quality of the puzzles."

Ten teams competed for the title of Puzzle Palooza Champion, with Stacey Loepky, Ashley Wolfe, Kris Fehr, and Mackenzie Street from the Winkler/Morden area claiming victory after an intense 90-minute effort.

The returning champions finished just eight minutes later, while seven other teams completed the puzzle within the 2.5 hour time limit.

"This event is always electric," said Edbom-Kehler. "It's incredible to see the focus and excitement in the room. And the winners really love that there's a trophy with their names on it."

With donations and entry fees, the event raised about \$800 for AAFRC's early child-

hood education programming.

"Our mission is thriving children, empowered families, and strong communities," Edbom-Kehler said. "Events like this bring joy while spreading our message."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

# Altona council exploring public transportation solutions

By Lori Penner

Altona town council is taking steps to address the community's public transportation needs by engaging the services of Eco-West Canada, a national non-profit organization based in Winnipeg.

Eco-West specializes in promoting sustainable economic development in rural municipalities. They will conduct a public transportation and fleet optimization study for Altona.

Mayor Harv Schroeder emphasized that public transportation has been a recurring topic in Altona.

"We've been talking about it for years. We want to know what that would look like," he said. "Eco-West has been doing a large study on the east side of the Red River, so we invited them to sit down to see if we could also be a part of a study."

This study will assess not only public transportation options but also the town's fleet for its public works de-

partment and other municipal utilities.

The data collected will support the town's efforts to secure funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for a potential public transportation project.

"We're very interested in working with Eco-West because they have the funding models and connections to get something going," Schroeder explained. "The perfect model would provide individuals without access to a vehicle with a way to get to things like events or appointments or go shopping."

Community organizations will also play a role in shaping transportation solutions.

"We know there are people in the community who don't have access to transportation. We've been talking to some of the organizations in town that need that," the mayor noted. "We have a transportation group connecting with all the different organiza-

tions in town, such as C.A.R.E. and Blue Sky Opportunities, just to see what's available, what might work, and what wouldn't work. We want to find ways to streamline this."

In addition to town council's initiative, The Community Exchange (TCE) has also launched a program to assess local transportation needs.

"We've been having conversations with the town, exploring different ideas," shared executive director Paul Peters. "Hopefully, we can connect with them to assess what the needs are. The Eco-West study is one part of this, and hopefully, we'll work with the town as well."

TCE has already taken action by using a donated vehicle to help residents with transportation challenges.

"We have access to a vehicle, so how might we use that to better understand the needs in our community? The town can then continue to explore the best ways to address some of the barriers to transportation," Peters

said. "From our perspective, we've been hearing about the need to get to medical appointments, legal consultations, Service Canada appointments, or even access to larger stores out of town. Our donated vehicle has given us the space to help somebody out. Maybe in the next while, we can find something a little more official."

Peters acknowledged that their initiative is still in its early stages but sees it as an essential service for the community.

"It's in a very exploratory phase, but definitely something that we as an organization see as a need for people who are coming to The Exchange, and a need in the community at large," he said. "How do I get from point A to point B? How do you do that when you don't have access to a vehicle, you're new to the area, or finances are a struggle? Our hope is to be in good relationship with the town and find out what some of those needs are in our community."

The **Voice**

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