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Robots in the ring

The Morris School robotics team showed off their skills last week at the kick-off for a fundraising campaign for their upcoming trip to an international competition. For the full story, see Pg. 15.

PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

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Evening of Elegance helps grads find their perfect outfit

By Lorne Stelmach

Members of this year's graduating class in Morden had an opportunity last week to find that special outfit for their celebration.

The Evening of Elegance Feb. 11 gave students and their families the chance to select from an array of donated gently used or new formal wear and accessories.

The organizers love being able to help create a memorable graduation experience for students from Morden Collegiate and the Morden Adult Education Centre, said guidance counsellor Tyler Sloan.

"Again, the local community really stepped up. We have lots of local businesses that continue to contribute to this great and wonderful day," he said.

The Evening of Elegance, now in its 14th year, is a co-operative effort in conjunction with the home school liai-

son worker, Morden Caring and Sharing, and Morden Youth for Christ, which offers the use of its space.

Sloan was grateful to have a few MCI staff and volunteers to help run the event. In addition, Janet Nedo-hin was on hand to offer her skills and keen eye for some required ad-justments on a few suits and dresses. Saban, Fringe Hair Salon, Shear Bliss, and Morden Caring and Sharing also supported the event with donations and contributions.

In the end, they were able to help 28 potential graduates and their families find something that will help them celebrate their academic accomplish-ments in June. There were 31 dresses and nine full suit sets handed out along with shirts, shoes, and accesso-ries to complete the graduation out-fits.

"We always have lots of kids come out to take advantage of some gen-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Julie Kalinowski, Jordan Monney, and Tyler Sloan at last week's Evening of Elegance event, which helped over two dozen local graduates find free formalwear to use for their graduation celebrations in June.

tly used garments that can help them look their best on their special day," said Sloan. "We're really happy with how things came together.

"Graduation is a huge event, and

it's a huge milestone in their lives ... and to help them, given the financial burden ... it's something we are super happy to be able to help out."

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



ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY

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SCAN HERE



Winkler Heritage Soc. has found its new home

Unused space at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre to house archives, museum

By Ashleigh Viveiros

After years of searching, the Winkler Heritage Society has finally found a new home for its museum and archives collections.

Winkler city council last week approved a \$52,000 grant and a bridge financing loan of \$24,000 to the society to aid in its renovation of unused space at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre on Park St.

The room, which is about the same size as the current main gallery and gift shop area, is in the rear of the building and has been undeveloped since the arts centre opened in the former water treatment plant nearly a decade ago.

The funds will allow the society to renovate a portion of the space—about 500 square feet—specifically for the Winkler Archives, which moved out of the Winkler Centennial Library last year.

A major fundraising campaign will then be launched to pay for renovations to the rest—about 2,000 square feet—for the museum, whose time in the Southland Mall is nearing an end.

“It’s really good that we have that space that was under-utilized and now we get to help a second organization be in a space that hopefully will meet their needs for quite a few years,” Mayor Henry Siemens said as council unanimously approved the financing, noting it “allows us to support a group that has really been looking for a solution.”

The future of both the archives and the museum have been up in the air for some time now, so it’s with no small measure of excitement that society president Ed Falk confirmed these plans last week.

“It is certainly a relief for an old tim-

er like me,” he said, laughing.

The society had spent several years on the hunt for a historical building to call home, but hadn’t had any luck finding one, nor in finding property within its financial means to build something on.

As the clock ran out on its time in both the library (which wanted the archives room for other programming; the collection of historical documents has been in storage since last fall as a result) and the mall (which is undergoing major renovations ahead of welcoming new retail stores to town), the city-owned art gallery building was suggested.

“We were looking for any kind of possibility, and this seemed to be something that was workable when the city offered to help us,” Falk said, noting it’s really a perfect spot, located as it is across from the pool, arenas, park, and campgrounds in the heart of the city. “It’s in an area that is quite accessible to the community.”

Sharing space with the art gallery also means both groups will benefit from perhaps a different demographic coming in to stop at one and then checking out the other, he noted.

For their part, Winkler Arts and Culture is excited to welcome them to the facility, said executive director Jered Hildebrand.

“We’re happy with this space being used for something that is as closely aligned with us as I think is possible in our city,” he said.

While the art gallery did, at one point, hope to turn that rear area into a second exhibition gallery some day, their focus in recent years has been on making the space they already have self-sustaining, especially in the wake of some difficult financial years through the pandemic.

“We definitely had dreams for that space, but at the same time we know the heritage society was really in need of a space,” Hildebrand said. “They’ve been struggling for a long time, and we didn’t want to get in the way of that.”

“We started looking as it’s not so much stopping us from growing but allowing us to change the way we thought we could serve the community,” he said. “We’re going to be working together in the same space; we’re growing as a different kind of destination now.”

With the heritage society moving in, the art gallery was also able to nego-

tiate a new 10-year lease with the city on their part of the building a year earlier than expected, providing them with greater stability for the foreseeable future.

“It’s a win-win, for sure,” Hildebrand said.

Falk said they’ll let the community know when the fundraising campaign is ready to launch, complete with firmer financial goals, but anyone who wants to support the project already can reach out to the society to do so (winklerheritagesociety.ca).



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Seedy Saturday comes to Winkler March 8

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Spring may feel lately like it's an eternity away, but it will be here before we know it, and local gardeners are being invited to start getting ready by taking part in a seed swap

next month.

Winkler's first Seedy Saturday event takes place at the Winkler Centennial Library meeting room on Saturday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is free, and all are welcome, says organizer Yolanda Friesen



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Yolanda Friesen of Prairie Harvest Flowers is heading up Winkler's first Seedy Saturday event, giving gardeners the chance to swap seeds and get informed about a variety of gardening practices.



of Prairie Harvest Flowers.

"Seedy Saturday is a seed exchange," she explains. "It was started by Seeds of Diversity, which is a Canadian organization."

Seeds of Diversity is dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of seed varieties to strengthen our nation's biodiversity. Seed exchanges are held in communities across the country every winter.

"Often if you buy a packet of seeds in the store, you may not use the whole thing," Friesen observes. "Or maybe you're saving your own seed from your garden, and then you get tons. So it's just a way to share what you have with others, and then also get together and learn from each other."

"Those of us who garden are just waiting to get going," she adds. "This is a chance to come together and talk about gardening and seeds."

For each packet of seeds you bring (make sure they're clearly labelled) you'll walk away with a swapped packet in turn.

"So they'll leave with as many seeds as they came with," Friesen says.

The day will also feature displays set up by local experts eager to chat with people about a variety of gardening topics.

"We're going to have a beekeeper there talking about pollinators and why they're important and how to attract more pollinators to your garden," Friesen says.

Other topics on the docket include winter sowing, soil blocking, no-till gardening, native plants, and natural dyeing methods.

There will also be several vendors on site, including those selling honey, yarn, and mini-garden terrariums. More vendors are welcome—it's \$5 for a table to help cover the costs of renting the meeting room.

"If anybody wants to set up a table, they can definitely let me know," Friesen says, encouraging people to connect with her through the Winkler Seedy Saturday Facebook page or by email to prairieharvestflowers@gmail.com.



International Women's Day Luncheon

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getinformed



ABOVE PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE; RIGHT PHOTO SUBMITTED

MFRC hosts I Love to Read Month Valentine's party



By Lorne Stelmach

It was a morning of family fun last Wednesday at the Morden Family Resource Centre (MFRC).

The organization based in the lower level of the Morden Alliance Church hosted an I Love To Read Month Valentine's Day party.

Fire Chief Andy Thiessen and Morden Police Service Cst. Jeff Forster were there to read from children's books, and Western School Division literacy coach Darlene Keith was there to answer questions from families about what their pre-school aged children can expect when they go to school.

Miami vintage sled races are March 8

By Becca Myskiw

The Miami Power Toboggan Club is once again hosting its vintage sled races on Saturday, March 8. Following a highly successful event in 2023, the local club is excited to bring the races back for 2025. Although they intended to host the races last year, a lack of snow prevented the event from happening. Club member Russ Suderman is eager to revive the races this year.

The Miami Power Toboggan Club organizes various events throughout the year, with only a few taking place in the winter. The club is responsible

"Most of the kids who come to our programs don't know how to read yet, but we're just kind of introducing early years literacy, learning how to write their name or even just recognizing letters and letter sounds," said Jen Froese, MFRC executive director.

"We have a lot of families coming to our programs on Mondays, Tuesdays

and Wednesdays and Thursdays," she said. "This is mostly just a great time with families. We had some

cookies for everyone and some crafts, and we also had little take home bags for the kids."

You name it, we'll tackle it"

A lifetime of experience in almost all things automotive led to Jeff Wiebe opening Wiebe Rod and Custom in Morden.

Wiebe started out about 40 years ago at a tire shop in Altona before moving for a time to Winnipeg. He eventually started his own shop in Letellier and operated it for about 18 years before recently resettling here.

"I will do pretty well any kind of automotive service and repair," said Wiebe. "I also have a background in racing, so I do a lot of fabrication, race car building, tuning, installing lift kits, nitrous systems ... anything high performance related."

He can also do any related custom welding work.

"We weld any kind of metal," Wiebe said. "We can fabricate just about anything: build custom headers, exhaust systems ... you name it, we'll tackle it."

Wiebe feels there is a good market for his specialities in this region.

"There's a lot of hot rods in the area," he suggested. "A lot of the guys do this stuff themselves, but when there's something they're not comfortable with, we can tackle just about anything."

He noted that he had race cars for years and was even a track champion in 2014 at Gimli.

"So I have a lot of experience, and I also have customers who have some pretty high end cars," said Wiebe. "I love building stuff and fabricating and hearing the race cars running ... that's my passion. The race car stuff, that's the fun part, but the regular repair and maintenance is important too."

Wiebe Rod and Custom is located at 333 Enterprise St. in Morden. You can connect Wiebe at 204-384-1734.



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Jeff Wiebe of Wiebe Rod and Custom in Morden.

Continued on page 8

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Democracy manifest

We are seeing a great deal of activity around our communities, our province, our country, and the world when it comes of governance and related opinions.

There is no doubt that no matter where you live, we live in interesting times, and by that I am referring to the old curse “May you live in interesting times.”

I don't know what any of us did to get to live in such times but here we are.

If you're like me (I'm sorry) you often find yourself in the hobby of complaining and critiquing things you may have no business critiquing in the first place. There are many who like to insert themselves into our whining to suggest we stop talking and leave whatever we're complaining about to the “professionals.”

Then of course there are the people we are complaining about. Whether we're not happy with decisions of Trudeau, potential decisions by Poilievre, our relevant mayor or the latest president in the U.S., we need to be reminded of one key thing: whatever the case, we are witnessing democracy manifest, as Australian Cecil

George Edwards would say (look him up on YouTube, you will not be disappointed).

Nearly everything we complain about has to do with the ongoing, usually legitimate operation of democracy as we, the people, and our ancestors, shaped over time to the Gordian knot of confusion and red tape we have today.

For instance, there is a certain president that many have been screaming about lately for his various actions. Legitimate or not, it has been pointed out by many (including notorious political gadfly Jon Stewart) that everything he is doing he promised to do in the lead up to the election,

Furthermore, he is acting within the bounds of the democratic structures set up by Americans over the past two-plus centuries. Of course, there will be legal challenges but this too rests within the democratic court structures that exist.

It is the same in Canada, Manitoba, Morden, and Winkler.

As I said, we are witnessing democracy manifest.

Now, we don't have to like it. We can, within our democratic structures,

even complain about it. In fact, we should complain regularly. But if we don't like a thing our best and most powerful tool to change it in a democracy is to vote.

Not only should you vote, but you need to vote for the kind of people who are going to steward the democracy you want.

Noted world-class complainer Plato was not a fan of democracy. There are a lot of reasons he proposed, but ultimately they boiled to his belief that the general public was too dumb to be given the freedoms that democracy required. This is what we would call an elitist view.

I get what he was saying, but I believe that, as the saying goes, democracy is the best of a whole host of flawed forms of government, so let's keep working on improving that.

In summary: keep complaining, but remember most of what we are complaining about is happening within a system that we have helped build and generally agree upon. Work to change the system through how you vote, protest, complain, and even, dare I say, run for office.



By Peter Cantelon

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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

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• DON'T MIND THE MESS

Surviving the Great Canadian Winter (barely)

Every year, around mid-February, I start questioning my life choices.

Specifically, why I continue to live in a country where winter lasts approximately 37 months. Okay, maybe that's an exaggeration, but if you've ever chipped ice off your windshield with a credit card because you lost your scraper (again) or just chose to spend the \$20 in gas to let the car run until it melts, you understand my pain.

And you know you're a true Canadian when you forget to unplug your block heater, and



By Lori Penner

your extension cord slithers behind you like a very angry, very orange snake of shame.

Winter in Canada is a rite of passage, a test of endurance, and a slow descent into madness. The first snowfall is magical, like a Hallmark movie. By January, it's more like a horror film where the villain is called "Wind Chill", and nobody survives. The novelty of "cozy sweater weather" wears off pretty fast when you're dressed to scale Mount Everest, and all you're doing is carrying the trash can to the curb.

Dressing for winter should be an Olympic sport. If you don't time your layering just right, you either arrive at your destination sweating like you've run a marathon or shivering because you didn't fully commit to the parka. And there isn't a toque in the world that will spare your hairstyle.

Don't even get me started on mittens versus gloves. Mittens are warm but useless for basic tasks like opening doors or using your phone. Gloves are functional but let the cold seep in just enough to remind you that you are, in fact, suffering.

Speaking of suffering, have you ever tried putting a snowsuit on a toddler? It's like wrestling an angry raccoon into a plastic bag. By the time you're done, they suddenly need to pee. Every. Single. Time.

And for your information: there is no such thing as a non-slip winter boot. Don't buy into that false advertising. At some point, you will make a complete fool of yourself on some hidden patch of ice, for all the world to see.

There comes a point when Canadians collectively hit a wall: the February Funk. We're tired of the snow, the treacherous driving conditions, and the fact that the sun disappears by 4 p.m. We start fantasizing about running away to Mexico, where the only ice is in margaritas.

By this time, even the strongest winter enthusiasts start to crack. The novelty of winter activities fades, and we enter full-on hibernation mode. This involves a lot of complaining about the roads, eating comfort food, and questioning why we ever thought living here was a good idea.

But then, just when you think you can't take another minute of this frozen wasteland, something miraculous happens. The sun feels a little warmer. The days get a tiny bit longer. A brave Canadian steps outside in a hoodie when it hits -5°C, declaring it "nice out."

We squeal with delight when the weather channel utters those longed-for words: Plus One.

And then one day, you hear it—that first, glorious sound of melting snow trickling down the gutters. It's a tiny, watery promise that spring is coming. Sure, we'll probably get one last blizzard or two or three just for good measure, but hope is on the horizon. And in Canada, that's all we need to get through the winter blahs - well, that and an extra-large double-double.

Stay strong, my frostbitten readers. This won't last forever.

Letters

A LETTER TO ACCESS CREDIT UNION

We are extremely disappointed that the board and management has decided to close the Lowe Farm Credit Union branch. If it wasn't for the "Lowe Farms" of this province, none of you would have jobs!

You are closing what is probably the first English-speaking credit union in Manitoba and don't even care enough to give it a decent burial!

No information meeting? What happened to democracy? You get your staff, some with tears in their eyes, to give us the dirty news. How can you sleep at night with such a lack of courage? You don't answer phone calls let alone make your numbers very public. If the credit union is gone from Lowe Farm what is next?

It is also our understanding you will only be selling the building on the condition that no other financial institution will do business there. If you don't have something viable in our community then what are you worried about? If you don't make any money here then stop paying our dividends that most people don't even know they get.

Our farm policy is to do as much local business locally as we can and not to jump ship to Winkler or Winnipeg because it's the best deal. We haven't needed to "shop" around when it comes to dealing with our finances because we are community-minded and up until you made this short-sighted decision we thought that Access was as well.

Your current actions do not fit with your brand and are contradictory to the cooperative principals which we have supported for so long. How many of you even know what they are?

We have gone so far as to take out substantial loans at Lowe Farm when we could have got much longer term loans through Farm Credit Canada, but we did it to support our community and local credit union, "Thank you very much."

Please reconsider your decision to close the Lowe Farm branch!

We look forward to an open public discussion at the Lowe Farm Community Centre to figure out how Access can continue to serve our community.

Wilfred "Butch" Harder
& Dean Harder,
Lowe Farm



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Winkler-Morden Habitat puts call out for family applications

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Over the past five years, the Winkler-Morden chapter of Habitat for Humanity Manitoba has helped six families achieve home ownership who might otherwise never have been able to make that dream a reality.

Now they're looking for family number seven.

"We have had a lot of people asking when are we taking applications again?," says chapter rep Christina Falk. "The answer's now."

The agency has put a call out for applications from families who meet Habitat's criteria, which includes:

- Having an annual family income between \$35,500 and \$90,500. "A lot of people think of us as working only with very lower income families, but we do work within a range," Falk says. "If your family is in that range, then you qualify."

- Employed in the Winkler-Morden area for at least two years. "We want to make sure that you are settled here and that you're able to keep your job here," Falk explains.

- Having Canadian citizenship or permanent residency status.

- Are currently renting their home.
- Have children under the age of 18.
- Are willing to put in 500 hours of "sweat equity" volunteering either in the community and/or with the build of their new home.

"Basically, if you're a family with kids that's currently renting, we probably would like to talk to you," Falk says.

The selected family will purchase an affordable home from Habitat with a



FILE PHOTO

Habitat for Humanity's Winkler-Morden chapter presented the keys to their last family in October—their sixth since getting started several years ago. Now the agency is hoping to find their next family for a build slated to start in 2026.

no down payment, no interest mortgage and monthly mortgage payments scaled to their income.

"The biggest thing for most people is because they're paying so much for rent, they struggle to save up a down payment for a house," Falk says. "So they're making their rent payments, but they just can't get that down payment together to buy a home."

The Habitat model, which relies on community donations and volunteers to help with the builds, gets those families into their own homes, with the resulting mortgage payments then helping the agency build homes

for other families.

"This is a proven model. It works," Falk stresses, noting the importance of building new homes during the ongoing housing crisis and alleviating some of the stress in the rental market by getting families out of it entirely. "We need rentals for sure, and we have a ton of rentals going up in the area ... but we really think home ownership should still be a part of the solution."

"The hurdle for us is always finding the money," she adds. "We have all the plans ready to go, and if we can get funding, we can build housing

"IF YOU'RE A FAMILY WITH KIDS THAT'S CURRENTLY RENTING, WE PROBABLY WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU."

here."

The agency is accepting family applications from now until March 31. If you've applied in the past, you do need to reapply to be considered.

The selection process is an extensive one; Falk estimates it will take upwards of six months for a family to be chosen, and the actual build won't start until spring of next year.

"We hope to start in May or June of 2026, but that's always dependent on our funding, how much we can fundraise," she says.

Where the house is going up hasn't been decided yet, though the last Habitat build was in Winkler so the chapter is really hoping to build the next in Morden. Falk urges families in both communities to apply, though, as the selected family might impact which community they opt to go with.

"We'd like to build equally in both communities, but it depends on where we get land—we don't have any land right now," she says.

For more information about applying to be a Habitat family, email families@wm.habitat.mb.ca.

> SLED RACES, FROM PG. 5

for an annual New Year's social, numerous fundraisers, town events, a women's ride in June, movie nights, an annual mud bog, a tractor pull, and much more.

A few years ago, Suderman and some club members decided to gather people with vintage sleds. They recognized that Miami had the perfect location—the fairgrounds, which feature a half-mile-long horse racing track. After testing the waters, they were pleasantly surprised by

the overwhelming response, both in terms of entries and spectators. The 2023 vintage sled races attracted over 60 vintage sleds and more than 500 spectators.

"We were expecting a minimal number of people," said Suderman. "We had such a great turnout. We sold out of the homemade chilli before lunch, at like 11 a.m."

With last year's success in mind, the Miami Power Toboggan Club is preparing for an even bigger event this year. Suderman noted that many people have inquired about the races

throughout the year, prompting the club to stock up on chili, soup, chili fries, hot chocolate, and coffee to accommodate the crowd.

Anyone with a sled from 1985 or earlier is eligible to enter the vintage sled races. Suderman himself will be racing a 244 Polaris Colt single-cylinder. Each sled will be classified based on its specifications, including modifications, and drivers will compete in three-lap heats around the Miami circle track.

Races will begin at 11 a.m. on March 8, but participants must arrive earli-

er to register, likely starting at 9 a.m. The morning heats will be followed by an intermission to organize the afternoon feature races, which will be determined by the heat results. The feature races will consist of five laps, with drivers starting in the order of their finish from the heats.

The top three finishers in each class will receive a payout, funded by the registration fees of \$10 per class. Suderman encourages anyone interested to participate, emphasizing that the racing is meant to be fun rather than highly competitive.

The **Voice**

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getinformed

Exploring expressive arts therapy

By Lorne Stelmach

Yael Fehr appreciates the healing power of art, so she is studying and practicing to help others discover and benefit from it as well.

Fehr, who already has a degree in applied counselling from Providence University, is currently studying expressive arts therapy through an institute based in St. Laurent, and she is doing both group and individual sessions in several locations in Morden-Winkler as part of her practicum in the lead up to graduating next winter.

Fehr had worked in the field of addictions with adolescents but had stepped back from it, and she got back into some of her own art practices, so that was the spark of the idea of what she wanted to do next.

"I kind of put a lot of those things aside once I became a mom," she shared. "And as I was using my art, I thought I need to find how to put this into my practice."

"I have faith in the talking process, but I have learned that trauma has a way of not making it all the way up to the higher part of the brain, so we don't often have words for trauma," Fehr suggested. "So how do we process something if we don't have words for it?"

Expressive arts therapy is a broader approach that incorporates multiple art forms, while art therapy focuses on a single art form. So expressive arts therapy may draw from a wide variety of art forms such as writing, psychodrama, dance, movement,

painting, drawing, sculpting, play and music or often a combination of them.

It can be used particularly to treat a range of conditions such as trauma, mental health issues, and neurocognitive disorders, but it can also just help anyone heal and grow.

"Right now, I'm focusing, just because of my own healing process, I'm focusing less on working with people in trauma and more with people who are in transition," Fehr noted.

"Art therapy is older ... expressive arts therapy is about a 50 year old practice," she said. "The biggest difference is that, in expressive arts therapy, we use everything. We don't just use visual art. We use music, movement, dance, puppetry, drama and visual art. We use whatever our clients come in comfortable using as expression."

"Right now, I'm learning how to do some wood burning because I work with some clients, some young men, who don't want to draw or do stuff the rest of the group is doing," Fehr explained. "We are not here for the product; we are here for the process. No art is seen as unuseful or unproductive. It's the process; it's the self expression that is the most important part of it."

"We believe art is the third person in the room. It's got something to tell us about what's going on for the person," she continued. "One of our favorite lines is expanding the range of play, so sometimes we just play ... and we also are very nature and land based, so we bring in or move to plac-

es where nature can be explored."

Fehr is working in both group settings and with individuals, and her group sessions range from one at the Morden Activity Centre to ones in local care home settings and at such places as Gateway Resources in Winkler.

In addition, she has a stitch group that meets regularly at the Pembina Hills Arts Centre in Morden. A recent invitation there was to create something on your square that represents a safe place for you. In her case, it involved water.

"We don't often get very far on the piece," said Fehr. "But it has worked out even better than because they often take it home and then they spend the whole week thinking about it ... then they come back and share what they've learned."

She again emphasized that they typically will move through a few different art forms until they find some-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE
Yael Fehr is tapping into the healing power of art with group and individual sessions in Morden and Winkler.

thing that especially connects with participants.

"We often hear oh, I'm not an artist ... I'm not creative," said Fehr. "Many of us believe that we are created by a creator ... and if we're created by a creator, then so are we in some way."

"You're expressing who you are, and you move forward from there."

Pickup truck, school bus collide

By Voice staff

On Feb. 12, at approximately 8:30 a.m., Pembina Valley RCMP received a report of a two-vehicle collision involving a school bus and pickup truck in the RM of Lorne.

When emergency crews arrived they found the bus on its passenger side in the southeast ditch at the intersection of Road 28N and Road 6W, along with a pickup truck. All 14 children on the bus had already been evacuated.

Officers determined that the truck

was travelling southbound when it collided with the rear driver's side of the eastbound bus

The 17-year-old male driver of the truck sustained minor injuries. He was treated at hospital and released.

The schoolchildren sustained minor injuries. All were transported to hospital as a precaution, with some transported to Winnipeg for further assessment.

Charges are pending for the driver of the pickup truck.

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arts & culture

Loreena McKinnett album up for a Juno Award

By Lorne Stelmach

An album that harkens back to the earliest days of Loreena McKinnett's career has been nominated for a 2024 Juno Award for Traditional Roots Album of the Year.

The Road Back Home was recorded during the summer of 2023 when she performed at four folk festivals in Southern Ontario. She was accompanied by cellist Caroline Lavelle and the Stratford-based Celtic band The Bookends, whose members include Errol Fischer, Miriam Fischer, Cait Watson, Pete Watson and Romano Di

Nillo on whistle, fiddle, tenor banjo, guitar, bodhran, keyboard, accordion with McKinnett on harp.

"It is always gratifying and most humbling to be recognized by one's industry," said McKinnett as the nominees were announced last week. "But I think I, like many other artists, am just pressing on with what I love to do and where I find meaning in my life. I'm so grateful music found me.

"It is nice at the same time to be recognized and with this nomination," she said. "What's nice about it to me is when I really look back on it because this recording, a live recording

that we did at four festivals ... it really brought me back to my roots in Manitoba and when I first got interested in Celtic music."

That thought led her to recall being part of a folk club that met on Sunday evenings in Winnipeg.

"It's nice to feel there's still an awareness of folk music and the role it can play in people's lives," she said.

This is the fourth Juno nomination for McKinnett, who also has multiple Grammy nominations and a pair of Juno wins under her belt. She's slated to be inducted into the Canadian Mu-

sic Hall of Fame next month.

The Road Back Home very much marked a return to her roots and includes many songs that date back to her earliest days on the folk circuit, some of which had remained unreCORDED until now.

The 10-song album was meant to be an homage to what feels like simpler times. The early songs, the local musicians, the bursts of energy and spontaneity in those folk performances are what inspired the album, which

Continued on page 11



Morden native Loreena McKinnett has been nominated for a Juno Award for her album *The Road Back Home*.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Winter learning at DNS

By Voice staff

It might be the dead of winter, but that doesn't mean there's not still plenty to learn at the Discovery Nature Sanctuary in Winkler.

The nature preserve welcomed about 50 Gr. 4 students from Winkler Elementary School a few weeks ago to learn about how plants and animals survive the winter.

DNS committee members Paul and Valorie Goossen walked the kids through some of the strategies our furry and feathered friends use to weather the cold, and also provided an overview of the food, shelter, and

clothing Canada's Indigenous people used to survive winter prior to European settlement.

Welcoming kids to DNS is an integral part of the site's educational mission, says Paul Goossen, who shares that just over 440 students visited in 2024.

"Learning about and being in nature provides children with the exciting opportunity to open their eyes to see animals and plants they have never encountered before," he says. "It is also a chance to move out of indoor classroom situations to an outdoor living environment."

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Discovery Nature Sanctuary's Paul Goossen with kids from Winkler Elementary School at an educational talk at the nature preserve last month.

> MCKINNETT, FROM PG. 10

she acknowledged was actually very much an afterthought.

"Performing together was the thing that called to us," said McKennitt. "But we quickly realized there's a special energy in those live performances, something that is hard to capture in the studio, plus the audiences were delightful. It was deeply moving to hear them joining us to sing 'Wild Mountain Thyme.'

"We didn't set out to make a record. We actually set out to just play at these festivals ... the musicians I work with most of the time mostly don't even live in Canada," she noted.

It was also special for her to connect with The Bookends and work together on a 60-minute live set.

"Once it got close to the performances ... I thought, well, why don't we record them as well because you never know," she said. "Maybe there will be some value in it."

McKennitt also values the different feel there is to a live recording.

"I think the other thing about live recordings versus studio recordings is there is that extra electricity and energy that's involved, that dynamic that works between an audience ... I can hear that in our performance," said McKennitt.

"There's a kind of vulnerability that doesn't exist in the studio, so you're a bit more on the edge ... also feeding off the energy of the audience."

The Juno Awards will be presented March 30 in Vancouver.



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The colour of music

By Ashleigh Viveiros

When you close your eyes and let the notes of a musical piece wash over you, it likely brings up images—perhaps memories of previous times listening to the tune or pictures your mind is inspired to create out of whole cloth based on the way the notes make you feel.

For Anna Schwartz, every note in a musical piece has a colour, one she can see as clearly as you or I would see something in the world around us.

Schwartz has synesthesia, a phenomenon where one's brain mixes up sensory information across different senses—giving colour to sounds or numbers, shapes to smells, or even tastes to certain words. It's estimated to affect just one to four per cent of the world's population.

For Schwartz it means listening to music conjures up a kaleidoscope of colours, and that palette is the inspiration for the art exhibition on display now at Winkler Arts and Culture.

Spectrum: The Colour of Music opened at the Park St. gallery earlier this month and will remain until March 22.

It's a multimedia collaboration between Schwartz and artist Shirley Elias meant to give others an insight into what it means to see the colours of a song, specifically Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* symphonic suite.

The pair met at Canadian Mennonite University, where Schwartz was studying music and Elias teaching piano.

Finding out her student could see colours in music was fascinating for Elias, an avid painter. It led to many long discussions and eventually inspired this exhibition, which includes a 17-foot painting representing a freeze frame of what Schwartz sees

as she listens to Rimsky-Korsakov's piece. It's broken up across four canvasses, one for each movement of music.

"As we got working, I had no idea what I was going to paint," shares Elias. "I thought, 'We'll have to get the notes down first, the colours down first' and I didn't know—maybe there would be 50 colours? So I said, 'Listen to the music and tell me what the colours are.'"

The final piece features 537 stripes of 271 colours, the width of each timed to the musical notes, changing on average every three to five seconds.

"Each one of those stripes is mathematically configured to the amount of time that they appear, so it's not just random," Elias explains.

"And the colours aren't a mood ring," she adds, stressing this isn't what the notes make Schwartz feel—blue meaning sad or red meaning angry, for example—but the colours she actually sees as the piece progresses. "It's a very structured and harmonic palette."

"That's my brain, basically," says Schwartz, gesturing to the giant painting. She acknowledges how hard it is to explain synesthesia to someone who's never experienced it before, like trying to describe what colours are to someone who's been blind since birth.

"My sense of synesthesia is kind of just a picture in my mind," she says. "So I will argue until the cows come home with someone over, like, what colour the number three is, for example. It's a colour in my mind."

"There are very distinct colours that go with different things, and textures as well ... for me, textures are often really dependent on the instruments that are involved."

"We had this massive spreadsheet of colours and then she said, 'Where do I put the textures?' and I went,



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Guests to the *Spectrum* opening reception this month check out the abstract pieces artist Shirley Elias created from the colour palette that synesthete Anna Schwartz shared with her while listening to the *Scheherazade* symphonic suite.

"There's textures too?" laughs Elias. So she did incorporate some of those textures into the paintings. "It's very basic because I have such a small space to work with. But when she said 'like a big palette knife', I tried to use the same. Or 'wavy' was a common one—small waves, big waves."

Elias also created four additional paintings, abstract impressions using Schwartz's palette from each movement.

"Those are my interpretations" of the colours Schwartz saw, melded with the story the music—a fairy tale adventure—is telling, she explains.

Visitors to the gallery can get an even better sense for the merging of music and colour by viewing the exhibition's "sound bytes," which break the larger piece down into smaller images and tie them to audio clips of conversations between Schwartz and Elias and of the musical suite itself. Bring along your phone and some headphones to get the full experience.

This project has been an eye-opening one for Elias and Schwartz alike.

"How many people get to see their brain in action, and across 17 feet of canvas?" Schwartz asks. "And in such intimate detail?"

"When I'm listening to music, I'm experiencing these colours, but I'm not actively thinking about it. I'm seeing them in my mind and they're happening, but it's not terribly hard to tune out if I want to."

"I have never thought so hard about the colours that are in my mind as when I was going through the score for *Scheherazade*," she adds, laughing. "To see it reflected on canvass, to be able to see my own process all at one time, is crazy."

"I don't think this is anything anyone's ever been able to experience before, so it's wild for me and so cool."

"This project was so fascinating for me, because I'm an artist and a musician, but they're separate worlds for me," Elias says. "With this, I got to stand on this bridge for a little while and look at both sides at the same time, which is where [Schwartz] lives."

"To look at something so traditional that we've been playing and writing about and talking about for 200 years, to look at it through completely different layers was so refreshing."

You can learn more about the *Spectrum* project online at shirleyelias.com/spectrum or stop by Winkler Arts and Culture.



Visitors are encouraged to bring along their cell phone and earphones so they can listen to the sounds that inspired the show's paintings.



Each colour represents a different musical note in the 43-minute symphony.

getinformed

“We’re an instrument to be used in a way that helps”

By Ashleigh Viveiros

When Harold Espinosa learned he was one of the recipients of the King Charles III Coronation Medal in honour of his years of community service, he was taken aback.

“I wasn’t quite sure if it was a prank,” he jokes of the notification from Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie, who presented the medals to constituents at a ceremony in Carman last weekend.

A quick call confirmed it was, in fact, real, and that realization was humbling, to say the least, says Espinosa.

“That’s such an honour. I’m completely blown away,” he says. “For me, it’s a shocker, but I’m thankful, very thankful.”

Speaking to the *Voice* at the campus of Sixteen13 Ministry, which Espinosa has been integral in building up over the past several years, the Winklerite reflected on what an award like this means—not just to him, but to everyone involved in Sixteen13’s mission to reach out to those in need across southern Manitoba.

“For me, it means that the work that is being done is making a difference in people’s lives, and people are noticing,” he says. “I’m just a tool, like everyone is, of Christ. We’re an instrument to be used in a way that helps ... the whole mission is to make an impact in people’s lives and in the community in a positive way.”

The ministry has its roots in a relief trip to Espinosa’s native Puerto Rico in 2020 following a devastating earthquake. When Espinosa and the others returned to Canada, they felt called to create an organization that would work in partnership with missionaries, like-minded organizations, and churches both locally and abroad to reach out to marginalized populations in the name of Christ.

Today they provide financial and spiritual support to programs in Kenya, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Mexico, and Kyrgyzstan, in addition to an ever-growing list of aid closer to home.

They have volunteers bringing fresh produce to Indigenous communities, collect furniture and other household donations to distribute to struggling or immigrant families to help them get on their feet, provide school supplies and Christmas gifts for kids in need, and deliver weekly food hampers to numerous local families struggling to make ends meet. Espinosa estimates they’re reaching out to over 400 families through these and other programs.

“We demonstrate Christ’s love. Period,” he says. “We want to make an impact in our community in a way that people feel treasured, feel valued, feel that people actually care.”

While the ministry is Espinosa’s latest passion, it’s by no means his first foray into public service.

He has also served as both a volunteer and staff member at The Bunker youth ministry and co-founded the Etherlan gaming event to bring youth together in a welcoming environment and raise funds for The Bunker’s sister ministry in Puerto Rico.

Getting involved was a way to give back to the community that welcomed him all those years ago, Espinosa says.

“I realized that I needed to do something in life that had an importance for myself. To get out there, you know, and really make this my home.”

His started with involvement in his church and ran with it from there to The Bunker and beyond.

“I like to mobilize people,” Espinosa says of efforts he spearheads, like the annual citywide spring clean-up or rounding up volunteers from his extensive network of people—including many who, having received help from the ministry, are looking for ways to pay it forward in turn—for events like the Harvest Festival or Children’s Camps International fundraisers. “I like to be involved in the trenches serving people.”

The reward, he says, is in seeing people “find hope, get excited about life, feel treasured.”

Espinosa is adamant about sharing this medal with the entire Sixteen13 Ministry team.

“It’s multiple people that are making a difference in people’s lives,” he stresses. “And my prayer is that this ministry continues to grow.”

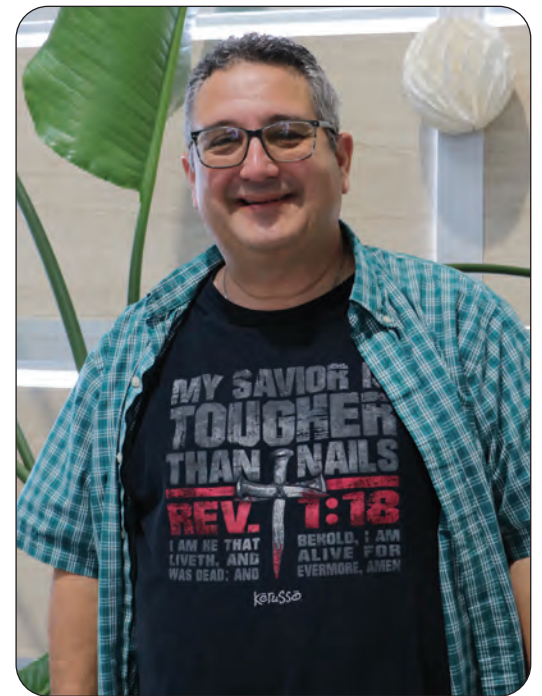


PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
Harold Espinosa has spent decades reaching out, supporting, and walking alongside people in the name of Christ.

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RPGA Planning District reflects on a year of growth and change

By Lori Penner

The RPGA Planning District experienced steady growth in 2024, with building permits gradually increasing and significant transitions in leadership and operational processes.

The district, which encompasses Rhineland, Plum Coulee, Gretna, and Altona, saw notable developments in planning, infrastructure, and administrative changes throughout the year.

Building permits issued in the RPGA continued to rise in 2024, reflecting a stable yet growing demand for development.

According to general manager Lucie Maynard, Rhineland saw an increase in permits compared to the previous year, while Altona experienced a slight decline.

"In Altona, the number of permits issued decreased by about 15 in 2024 compared to the previous year," she explained. "That shift is reflected in the valuation as well. Rhineland issued 87 permits worth \$35 million, while Altona had 49 permits valued at \$12 million."

Despite fluctuations in Altona, Maynard believes the town's permit values align with historical trends.

"2023 was an anomaly for Altona, with valuations hitting \$24.8 million," she said. "However, previous years saw \$14 million in 2022, \$9.2 million in 2021, and \$13.5 million in 2020. The 2024 numbers indicate a return to regular levels."

Statistics show that in Altona, residential permits accounted for \$8.4 million of the total valuation, with commercial developments at \$3.5 million. The town added 34 residential units and welcomed two new businesses. Meanwhile, Rhineland reported a total valuation of \$35 million, including \$6.2 million in commercial development. The municipality added 48 residential units and 11 new businesses.

Inflation rates remained stable in 2024, hovering at an annual rate of 1.088 per cent. Maynard noted that interest rates gradually declined throughout the year, encouraging development.

"The recovery from COVID, high inflation rates, and rising costs of living had slowed development, but as

interest rates began to stabilize, we saw increased activity starting in June 2024," she said. "However, the impact of tariffs remains uncertain."

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Last year was a year of transition within RPGA leadership. In July, Tanya Waddell stepped into the role of CFO for the Municipality of Rhineland after a year with RPGA. During her tenure, Waddell played a crucial role in staffing transitions and securing a contract with MSTW for inspection services.

Also in July, Maynard joined as general manager, bringing with her 24 years of municipal experience, including 11 years as CAO for the RM of Stuartburn. Passionate about planning and development, Maynard has been pursuing a certificate in Applied Land Use Planning through the University of Alberta, which she expects to complete by the end of 2025.

"Planning has always been a passion of mine," Maynard said. "Every municipality has different zoning by-laws, but I appreciate that Rhineland and Altona's by-laws are largely aligned. It makes it easier to provide clear answers to applicants."

Under Maynard's leadership, RPGA launched a significant initiative to revamp its development plan. A grant under the "From the Ground Up" program allowed RPGA to hire Landmark Planning and Design for this project, which is expected to take about a year to complete.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Among the key initiatives for RPGA in 2024 was updating the district's building by-law.

"We're using templates from neighboring municipalities that work with MSTW to refine our by-laws," Maynard said. "One of the major goals is to develop a fee and charges by-law separate from our building by-law. Currently, some of our fees, like the zoning amendment application fee, don't even cover basic costs such as advertising and administration. This review will ensure accuracy in our fee structure."



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

RPGA general manager Lucie Maynard points out Rhineland's highest percentages of single family dwellings in the planning district's latest report.

Maynard is also working on updating RPGA's permit guide brochure and website.

"We want to make it clearer when a permit is needed and what documentation is required," she said. "This will streamline the process for applicants and help avoid misunderstandings."

Additionally, RPGA is revising its penalties and fees for zoning by-law infractions.

"Each municipality has a Municipal By-law Enforcement Act, but we didn't have a standard penalty schedule for zoning infractions," Maynard explained. "We're now aligning Rhineland and Altona's penalties to ensure consistency and efficiency."

Looking ahead, Maynard is optimistic about the district's development.

"We started 2025 on a very positive note," she said. "At this time last year, we had issued four permits valued at \$65,000, and now we're already at five permits valued at \$1.4 million. This early activity suggests strong momentum for the year ahead."

RPGA made a significant operational shift in 2024 by transitioning from having an in-house building inspector to contracting MSTW for inspection services. While this change initially altered expense allocations,

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The Voice

Morris advanced robotics team to represent Manitoba at World Championship

By Siobhan Maas

Last Tuesday evening, in conjunction with a hockey game, the Pembina Valley Twisters supported the Morris School Advanced Robotics Team in their fundraiser drive kick-off as they prepare to raise \$16,000 to represent Manitoba at the VEX Robotics World Championships in Dallas, Texas in May.

“The students practiced their ability to pack and move [their entire VEX V5 field kit] to the Multiplex tonight,” said technology teacher JP Jamieson. “This kick-off event is really special because we get to showcase the students. They are perhaps nervous, but get to learn every step of the way—skills building, how to run a fundraiser, work with partners, and how to fix and build robots.”

Competitive robotics encompasses many aspects of STEAM, bringing together engineering design, problem-solving on the fly, strategy, teamwork, perseverance, and play.

“The game is incredibly chaotic on purpose, with strategy changing every single year, and more advanced robots emerging with new capabilities,” shared Jamieson to the crowd that gathered around the ring to watch a fast-paced round of Team Blue Bombur against Team Phillip. “The students learn best by watching other teams. Very few teams in the

world have robots that climb and put a ring on top of the ladder.”

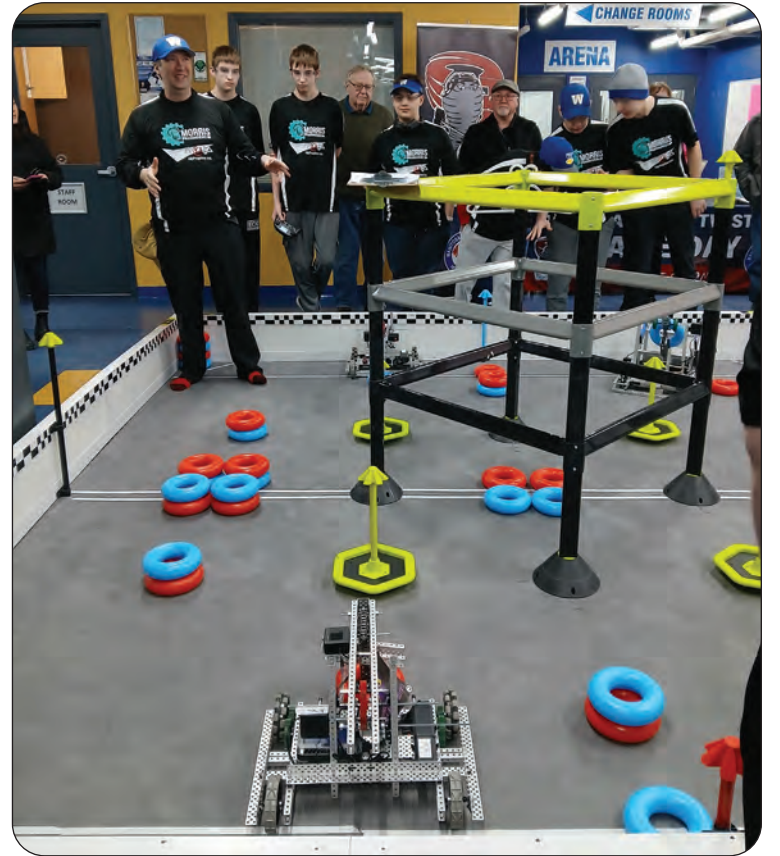
Jamieson hopes the students are able to witness the feat at a world-class event soon.

Both teams have been competing internationally with great success; highest rank achieved being 1,442 out of 12,788 teams in a recent competition. Since November, Blue Bombur has competed in three tournaments, bringing home threetrophies, including design and judges awards. In Blue Bombur’s most recent event, the Red River Valley VEX V5 Robotics Competition at the end of January in East Grand Forks, MN, the team placed 14th of 60. Team Phillip debuted at 18th of 60.

To represent Manitoba at the World Championships from May 6-8, the team has several monetary goals: to secure funding for travel, purchase new jerseys, and improvements to Blue Bombur robots for a more competitive edge.

“We are always looking at ways to improve the robots,” said Cody Dueck, a Gr. 9 and first-year robotics student. “We learn team work, coding, get hands-on with what works and fix weak robots for stronger, more consistent improvement. If a robot can’t do a task, it doesn’t compete well in competition.”

In order to continue to compete in high-level tournaments in the United States, \$7,000 will be needed to replace a lot of the team’s current equipment. The field kit ring and current robots are borrowed equipment through the Manitoba Association of Education Technology Leaders’ STEAM Library and will be returned for other schools to use at the end of the



PHOTOS BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

Robotics teacher JP Jamieson with his students, who are hoping to raise \$16,000 to cover costs associated with them competing at the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas in May. Below: The team with Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie.

school year.

“We are the typical underdog story,” said Andrew Hildebrandt, member of Blue Bombur. “We are beating teams even though we have little experience. We rebuild after every tournament and love crushing the competition.”

Jamieson believes in the power of robotics building leadership and experience.

“All of the students have gotten practice speaking in front of the school board, writing their engineering journal which is part of the award criteria, and have become known as the “cool Canadians” at the tournaments south of the border for their positive attitude.”

Organizations interested in sponsoring the team can contact Jamieson at jjamieson@rrvdsd.ca. Private donations, raffle monies, and the Twisters team contributing their 50/50 proceeds from Tuesday’s game raised \$866 for the campaign.



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Why do some people bully others?

In conversations about bullying, the focus is often on the experiences and viewpoints of the victims. However, finding solutions also requires an understanding of why bullies behave the way they do.

People who bully others tend to rationalize their behaviour. They feel like they have a reason for acting the way they do. Whether it's due to a lack of understanding or feeling insecure, they often target people they consider "different." Bullies also bank on the fact that bystanders won't stand up for the victim and might even join in or support them.

Most bullies expect their actions to give them certain advantages, like popularity or power. They may also believe that using violence is an effective way of asserting themselves or getting even.

Finally, it's important to recognize that underlying reasons can drive someone to bully or intimidate others. A bully might be dealing with issues at home, like abuse or neglect, or they might have been bullied themselves in the past. For example, a person living in poverty might feel envious and lash out at someone who is well-off. In short, each case is unique.

Are you or someone you know being bullied? Contact the resource agencies in your area as soon as possible.

3 reasons to wear pink on February 26

Recently, many countries have designated specific days to raise awareness and prevent bullying, whether at school or in the workplace. In Canada, Pink Shirt Day takes place on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. Here are three excellent reasons to join the movement by proudly wearing the event's emblematic colour:

1. Incite enriching conversations. Pink is a colour that doesn't go unnoticed! When you're out and about on February 26, you may meet or talk with other people who are passionate about the cause. You may even meet someone who doesn't know about the day, giving you the perfect chance to spread awareness. Who knows, maybe they'll wear pink next year, thanks to you!

2. Show solidarity. People who are bullied often feel alone and isolated. Seeing others wearing pink can help them feel supported and understood. Your gesture might even encourage them to open up to you or, even better, speak out against their aggressor.

3. Encourage others to act. Wearing pink can help encourage your family, colleagues and friends to join the cause. Inspired by your actions, some of your friends and family might feel motivated to stand up against bullying, attend events or spread awareness on social media.

On February 26, harness the power of kindness and inclusion by wearing a pink t-shirt or hoodie.

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"The work has been so good, so rewarding"

By Lorne Stelmach

At one point early on, Harry Siemens envisioned a life in farming, but his passion for agriculture steered him in another direction.

His decades of service as a farm journalist and advocate for the agricultural industry led to Siemens recently receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

"It's a passion for me. It's a service I've been able to work with," said Siemens.

"I started out as a farmer back in 1965 ... my father, I promised him in 1967 that I would farm forever because we bought some land together," he recalled.

"In 1971, I came back from university as a mature student ... [Dad] said, 'Harry there's a job application as a farm broadcaster in Altona.' I had never given it any thought," continued Siemens, who joked that perhaps his father was telling him he "probably wasn't the greatest farmer? But I've sure enjoyed being a farm journalist."

Siemens still remains actively involved and working, having recently been at a Manitoba swine seminar, which was the 37th annual event; he remembers being at the first one.

"I've probably served the industry longer than most of the producers who are alive," he said.

"What comes to mind is I've seen tremendous changes in all sectors," Siemens said, noting how much agriculture has diversified in the province. "I've seen the corn industry flourish. I've seen the soybean industry flourish and the edible bean industry flourish."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Harry Siemens received the King Charles III Coronation Medal for his years of agricultural journalism.

"Probably the biggest change though was the removal of the monopoly of the Canadian Wheat Board, which really opened up the industry," he said, noting as well the many changes and advancements in the technology and even the genetics.

Upon learning he was to receive the coronation medal for his work, Siemens said a few thoughts came to mind.

"The first thought that comes to mind is that I am very blessed thoroughly that I've been able to be a farm journalist for over 50 years," he said. "I've had the privilege of working with farmers ... it's been a real privilege, because I've always been an advocate for the farmer."

"Secondly, I've tried to be objective, and I've tried to be fair," he added. "Thirdly, which has been a real privilege, serving agriculture, serving the farmer, and I continue to do it today."

"For me, it has always been a passion, but it has

also been a service. I'm proud to have been a part of it," said Siemens. "Yes, there have been challenges, but the actual work has been so good, so rewarding."

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Your FARM



PVWD hosting farm support workshops



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Agricultural producers gathered at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum for a farm support workshop hosted by the Pembina Valley Watershed District. Additional workshops are scheduled for Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 in Boissevain and St. Jean.

By Lorne Stelmach

A series of farm support workshops that included a session earlier this month at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum highlighted a number of programs and resources that are available to help producers in the region.

Under the umbrella of the Pembina Valley Watershed District (PVWD), the workshop also involved the Prairie Watersheds Climate Program

(PWCP) and touched on the PVWD program called GROW (Growing Outcomes in Watersheds).

"We really need some greater form of outreach and education," said PWCP co-ordinator Kelsey Heppner, who suggested there are more supports and resources available to producers than they maybe realize.

"We are here to be a resource for farmers ... hopefully they will ask questions and make use of these resources and programs," she said. "That's one of the reasons I wanted to do these workshops ... often I get calls where people are saying they had no idea that these programs were available and where you can get financial support in some of these areas."

Presentations at the workshop including one on biological fertilizers with EcoTea and another on the benefits and practices around cover crops. PVWD representatives were also on hand to answer questions on programs for the 2025 growing season.

The presentation on cover crops highlighted the rotational, biological, nutritional, and economical benefits of the use of cover cropping in grain and livestock operations to reduce production and financial risk. It suggested one of the main ways to get on the road to renewing your soil's health is to incorporate cover crops into your crop rotation.



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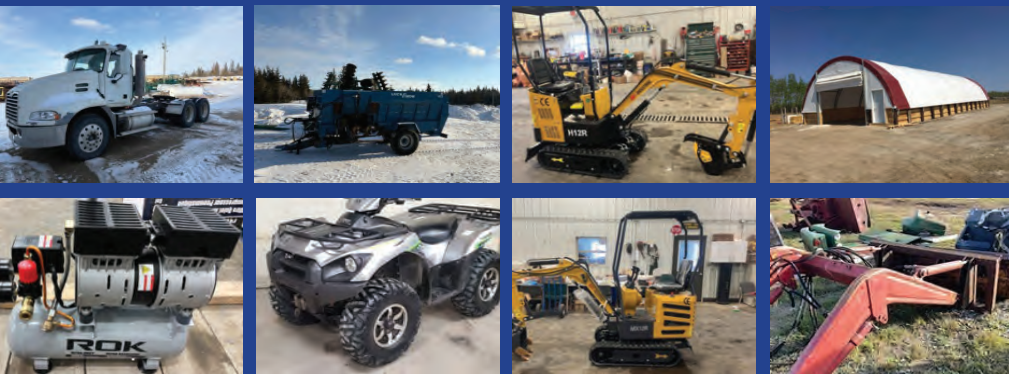


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Your FARM



The potential impacts of tariffs on canola farmers

By E Antonio

What does the announcement of tariffs on all products imported to the United States from Canada mean for Canadian farmers?

Rick White, present and CEO of the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA), addressed his concerns for Canadian canola farmers.

President Donald Trump initially announced a 25 percent tariff on all Canadian imports on Feb. 1, 2025.

"This would be the worst-case scenario in terms of tariffs with the United States as it would like to soften prices on this side of the border, ultimately lowering market rates," said White.

He explained that annually, Canada and the U.S. trade approximately \$6.3 billion worth of Canola Oil and an additional \$2 billion of other supplies.

"With that market amount, that is a whole lot of tariffs for somebody to pay."

On Feb. 13, President Trump announced the possibility of applying reciprocal tariffs to every country that deals with the U.S. trade markets.

"If India places a 2 percent tariff on imported products, the U.S. will replicate that amount and place a 2 percent tariff on products from India," explained White.

This is the best-case scenario for Canadian farmers, as Canada currently imposes zero tariffs on U.S. imports.

With all the risk and uncertainty in the trade markets, the

financial outlook for business owners, farmers, and industry workers is not hopeful.

Whether the tariffs will impact this year's growing season is still unclear.

"It is a matter of if and when these changes will be made. It is possible that it can affect the crops this year."

White is not quite sure how Canada will respond if the tariffs go into effect. Trades between the two countries may be discontinued, farm production may slow, or farmers may begin exploring trades with other farming markets.

Fortunately for Canola farmers, most of their demand comes from domestic markets, but international markets with U.S, China and Japan still have a significant impact.

As for supplies, most canola seeds are being grown and sourced in Canada.

The potential tariffs imposed on other tools and supplies will become a problem for Canadian growers.

"Canada is committed to reciprocal tariffs from all imports from the U.S." explained White.

"Phosphorus, nitrogen, farming imports, chemicals for prop protection, machinery and more could all be a part of the tariff



FILE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Canada and the U.S. trade approximately \$6.3 billion worth of canola annually.

package put forward."

He said that the canola farmers' prices ultimately depend on how the Government of Canada responds to the imposed tariffs.

White wants Canadian farmers to know that they are doing all they can to give their support and guidance.

"We are very active at trying to make

this work. We want to make sure that farmers' best interests are in mind for both the industry and economy."

CCGA is working hard to ensure that farmers' needs and concerns are addressed during this time of uncertainty.

"Their voices are being heard," said White.

The Voice
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arts & culture

W.C. Miller bringing *The Outsiders* to the stage

By Lori Penner

Here's your chance to see a 1960s classic story come to life, as W.C. Miller Collegiate in Altona presents *The Outsiders*, a coming-of-age drama based on S.E. Hinton's beloved novel.

The story follows Ponyboy Curtis, a teenager navigating life as part of the Greasers, a working-class gang in conflict with the wealthy Socs (short for Socials). When a violent encounter forces Ponyboy and his friend Johnny into hiding, tensions escalate, leading to tragic consequences. The story explores themes of friendship, class struggle, loyalty, and identity.

Director Sarah Gilbert says the production has been a unique challenge for the 28-student cast of Gr. 9-12 students.

"We've done a lot of musicals and comedies in the past, but this is our first serious drama. I wanted the students to fully embody their characters and really engage with the weight of the themes: gang violence, stereotypes, and the struggles of youth. At the same time, we worked in light-hearted moments to keep it engaging for all audiences."

Rehearsals began in October, allowing the students to deeply develop their roles. Gilbert notes that certain scenes were particularly difficult.

"There are tragic moments in the story that needed to be handled with care. We worked a lot with lighting and staging to create impact while staying within our budget. It was important to respect the characters and their emotions."

She adds that the experience has built a strong sense of community among the cast.

"It's been amazing to see Grade 12 students mentoring younger cast members. Drama is such a unique extracurricular—it brings together students from different backgrounds and interests. Whether they're athletes, science lovers, or just kids looking for a place to belong, they've formed an incredible bond."

Moses Neufeld, who plays Ponyboy, says the role has been his most serious and emotional to date.

"Ponyboy doesn't fit into either world. He's a Greaser, but he doesn't feel like he belongs anywhere. That's been a powerful thing to explore."

Gavin Anderson, playing Dallas "Dally" Winston, says balancing humour and intensity has been a challenge.

"Dally is the toughest Greaser, but he also has moments of comedy. Finding that balance has really pushed me as an actor."

Elliot Rempel, as Johnny Cade, agrees.

"Johnny's been hurt; he's from a broken home. I'm generally a happy person, so stepping into his world has been tough—but it's also been really rewarding."

Azeb Kauenhofen, playing Marcia, says her character brings a different energy to the story.

"She's a Soc, but she's really sassy and fun. I love playing with that contrast."

Mya Buhr, as Cherry Valance, says her first-ever role has been eye-open-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY KEVIN HILDEBRAND

The Greasers, from left: Sodapop Curtis (Jacob Friesen-Stoesz), Dallas Winston (Gavin Anderson), Ponyboy Curtis (Moses Neufeld), Johnny Cade (Elliot Rempel), Darry Curtis (Benjamin Rempel), and Two-Bit Mathews (Alejandro Thiessen).

ing.

"Cherry is kind and feisty at the same time. I've learned so much. I'd tell anyone thinking about drama to just go for it."

Liam Geirnaert, who plays Soc bully Bob Sheldon, says stepping into the role has been an exciting challenge.

"Bob is a total jerk, and that's so different from who I am. But once the costume goes on, you just embrace it. The whole cast has been amazing—we push each other to be better."

Gilbert encourages audiences to experience the production, recommending it for viewers Gr. 6 and up due to

its mature themes.

"This is a show that will make people think, but it's also a great night out. We've put a lot of work into the fight scenes, and, yes, we're even using a fog machine."

The Outsiders will be presented at W.C. Miller Collegiate at 7 p.m. nightly from March 5-8.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and children, and can be booked by calling 204-324-6416 or online at wcm.blsd.

"Don't miss this chance to see an unforgettable production," Gilbert says.

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Carman hosting airsoft competition this May

By Becca Myskiw

For the first time ever, an airsoft event is coming to Carman.

Mid-Canada Airsoft Events is bringing their expertise to the area and hosting the first event of its kind not only in Carman, but in Canada. The first annual Airsoft Reload Manitoba will be at the Carman Dufferin Arena on May 17-18.

The event will use both arenas in the space, utilizing one for tactical airsoft games and the other for speedsoft games. Eric Halvorsen runs Mid-Canada Airsoft Events with his partner, and he said no event in Canada has offered both game-playing options simultaneously — until now.

Mid-Canada Airsoft Events runs both outdoor and indoor matches, and they've been doing so since 2016. Halvorsen got into the sport around that time after moving to New Bothwell, where an airsoft field was close by. Now, he's sharing his love for the game with others and hoping to grow interest in it. That's part of the reason he and his partner are hosting this event in Carman — they've never done anything in the area before.

Airsoft in Canada (ASIC) estimates more than 60,000 people in Canada play airsoft, making the market worth more than \$100 million annually. The non-lethal shooting sport uses replica firearms loaded with plastic BBs to

shoot opponents in real-world environments.

Halvorsen said he wanted to have both forms of airsoft at the one event to bridge the gap between them. Tactical airsoft focuses on mission-driven combat using teamwork and skill, while speedsoft is fast, aggressive, and requires precision. He said the tactical arena will have various types of games for participants to take part in, including capture the flag, digital bomb games, and more.

"We know they're two separate entities when it comes to airsoft," said Halvorsen. "Speedsoft's been growing in popularity. It gives the chance to include everyone and opens people up to the form they maybe don't know as much about."

To register for the tournament, people just need to buy a ticket, which will get them into the arena for both days of the event. Tickets can be bought on Mid-Canada Airsoft Events' website at <https://mcae.ca/event/airsoft-reload-manitoba-2025/>. People can buy a weekend pass for \$60 or a day pass for \$40. Doors will open at 9 a.m. both days, closing at 8 p.m. Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday.

Halvorsen encourages anyone and everyone over 14 years old interested in airsoft to register for the tournament.

"The airsoft community is a very social community," he said. "It's a great



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The first airsoft event is coming to Carman this May.

place to meet new friends, it's a great activity to get exercise. It also teaches kids about gun safety and protection, and we feel those are big things to have that the airsoft community can provide to people."

The event will also have raffles and prizes, complete with an early bird draw for the first 100 people to buy tickets, a silent auction with airsoft gear to be won, and a grand prize worth over \$1,300.

Halvorsen said most of their events pull in up to 200 people, and they're expecting about the same numbers

for the Carman tournament, which is why he encourages everyone to buy tickets early. Participants come from across the province for Mid-Canada Airsoft Events, some making the trip from as far as Saskatchewan. For out-of-towners, the group has a block of rooms reserved at the Blue Crescent Hotel Carman at a discounted rate for the weekend of the event.

"We're planning a great weekend for people," said Halvorsen. "We're planning on this only being the start. We're planning on making it an annual event."

> FARM SUPPORT WORKSHOPS, FROM PG. 18

PWCP provides funding incentives to producers who implement any of three eligible beneficial management practices (BMPs) into their operations.

To qualify, BMPs must be a new practice or an expansion of an existing practice on to new acres. The three BMPs eligible for funding are cover cropping, nitrogen management and rotational grazing. There are various practices eligible for funding in each BMP category.

To assist producers with their adoption of new BMPs, the program offers producers resources to support implementation and provide design recommendations.

Producers may be eligible for up to \$75,000 to cover up to 85 per cent of implementation costs. Funding limits may vary in each watershed district.

BMPs have a wide range of benefits to a producer, to the local landscape and to the environment. These practices can make a farm more resilient to flooding and droughts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve soil health to name a few, and they can even help reduce costs on a farm.

In addition, there is the GROW program, which promotes conservation of natural areas of changes to land uses that provide ecological goods and services by helping farmers develop projects that maintain or improve local watershed health and work for their operations.

"We are just hoping to help producers with the 2025 growing season," said Heppner, who noted there may be some more questions and concerns this year around econom-

ic conditions and how the markets may be impacted.

They especially want to get out information on the variety of supports and resources that are available particularly around alternative farming practices and sustainable practices.

"There are sustainable farming practices that people can definitely take advantage of," she said. "One of them is we had a cover crop expert speaking as well as someone from EcoTea, which is a fertilizer substitute."

She is keen on the longer term potential of the PWCP program especially now that they know funding for the initiative will continue for the at least the next three years

"That was fantastic news ... we are very excited about it," said Heppner. "We don't have all of the pieces of the puzzle together yet ... but applications are going to be open in April

... and everything is available on our website. We've done a lot of work to make sure it is updated.

"We have had a lot of interest ... the funds are there and then gone fairly quick," said Heppner. "I would encourage people to check in with us to see how our program is going ... and we always want to hear what ideas people have because it may not fit in our programming, but we would be happy to find a fit for you or at least connect you with somebody."

If you missed the workshop at PTM, there's also one planned for this week Thursday, Feb. 20 at the Boissevain Legion Hall and on Thursday, Feb. 27 at the St. Jean Centennial Hall, both from 10 a.m. to noon. Register via email to programs@pvwd.ca.

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What's *Your* story?

sports & recreation

Male Hawks move up in standings

By Lorne Stelmach

Earning five of a possible six points this past week allowed the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks to move up slightly in the standings.

The Hawks earned a single point in a 5-4 shootout loss last Thursday to Eastman, but they then rebounded to beat Central Plains 4-1 Friday and then Eastman 5-3 Sunday.

Eastman jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the first period before Pembina Valley came back to briefly lead 4-3 early in the third. After a scoreless overtime, the Selects gained the extra point by scoring twice in the four-round shootout.

Tegan Fehr had a pair for the Hawks with singles from Carter Unger and Haiden Friesen. Ryler Gates made 25 saves as the Hawks held a 37-30 edge in shots on goal.

Pembina Valley bombarded Central Plains with 51 shots on goal, while Karsen Dyck was only called on to face 19 shots in net for the Hawks. Friesen, Unger, Cohen Pilkington, and Cole Secord scored for Pembina Valley.

Secord broke a 3-3 tie with the game-winning goal 14:09 into the third period against Eastman, and Ragnar Gillis then sealed the deal with an empty-net goal.



Carter Unger of the Pembina Valley Hawks tries to hold off the defensive effort of Central Plains' Gavin Davis in last Friday's 4-1 Hawks win.

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Also scoring for the Hawks were Carson Hiebert, Paxton White, and Friesen. Shots on goal were 41-38 in favour of the Selects, so Gates earned the win in net with 38 saves.

The victory improved Pembina Val-

ley's record to 20-17-5-3 for 48 points, which puts them seventh place, where they are even with Parkland but also just one ahead of Interlake and Eastman.

The Hawks close out the regular sea-

son schedule this week starting with hosting Kenora Friday and then visiting the Winnipeg Thrashers Saturday before hosting the Winnipeg Bruins on Sunday.

Winkler Flyers secure MJHL playoff seat

By Ashleigh Viveiros

In MJHL action this past week, the Winkler Flyers added three more to the win column and secured their spot in the playoffs.

On Feb. 11, the team headed into Winnipeg to take on the Freeze, and returned home with a 7-4 victory to their names.

Leif Ekblad made 19 saves in net as the Flyers massively outshot the Freeze 65-23.

Marcus Hughes had a two-goal

night while singles came courtesy of Jayce Legaarden, Jacob Michelson, Kam Thomas, Nicholas Mckee, and Mathys Blanchette, those last four all scoring in the final period to tie the game and then take the lead and cement the win.

Saturday night the Flyers welcomed the Waywayseecappo Wolverines to town.

The Winkler offensive gave up just two goals that night, while the defensive lines racked up six points, with Thomas drawing first blood in the

first five minutes, Niklas Gudmundson and Blake Matheson making it 3-2 in Winkler's favour after 40 minutes, and Legaarden, Gudmundson, and Will Brophy putting the final nails in the Wolverines' coffin in the third.

Liam Ernst made 15 saves in net in the 6-2 win as the Flyers outshot the Wolverines 35-17. The victory secured Winkler's spot in the MJHL playoffs.

The Flyers went on to crush to the Oil Capitals in Virden Monday afternoon. Andrew Morton had a third-period hat trick while additional goals

from Owen Wallace, Isaiah Peters, Brody Beauchemin, Gudmundson, and Mckee and an 18-save performance from Ernst in net contributed to the 8-2 win.

Winkler remains in first place in the East Division at 36-7-3-1 and 76 points, one ahead of the second-place Pistons and five up on the Terriers.

Winkler hosts the Winnipeg Blues Wednesday night and the Niverville Nighthawks Thursday. Over the weekend they play in Niverville on Sunday.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



Canadian Wrestling's Elite square off in Morden

CWE brought its "Rage in the Cage" 16th anniversary tour to the Access Event Centre in Morden Saturday. Clockwise from left: Hotshot Danny Duggan puts a choke hold on Robby Royce; Rene Dupree slams Rebel Bobby Collins; Ronnie Attitude tells 'Crude Oil' Cody Mac to smile for the camera during a cage match.

Twisters have another tough week in MMJHL action

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters junior hockey club continues to struggle to remain competitive in the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League (MMJHL) after suffering three losses this past week.

The Morris-based team now has a record of 3-35-2, placing them in last place in the league standings.

On Feb. 11, the Twisters lost 5-2 at home to the River East Royal Knights. The Twisters were never in contention after the Royal Knights scored early in the game. Ayden Lazarenko and Bailey Cousins scored the only goals for Pembina Valley, while Jordan Armstrong made 24 saves in goal for the loss.

A few nights later, on Feb. 14, the Twisters faced a rough Valentine's Day, being defeated 10-0 by the Transcona Railer Express in a game to forget. Darion Penner and Jordan Armstrong combined for 51 saves in this match. On Feb. 16, the Twisters lost again, this time falling 4-1 to the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club. Cohen Thomas scored the lone goal for Pembina Valley, while Jordan Armstrong stopped 38 shots in goal.

"Against the Raiders we actually led 1-0 after the first period and were playing some decent hockey," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "We just need to stay consistent for a full 60 minutes as when we get away from our game, teams take advantage and that's what you saw for the rest of the game."



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Branden Leslie, Member of Parliament for Portage-Lisgar (center), and Town of Morris Mayor Scott Crick (right) attended the Pembina Valley Twisters' "Drive for Dallas" fundraiser, which took place during their hockey game on February 11 in support of the Morris Robotics team.

The Twisters will return to action on February 21 with a road game against the Stonewall Jets at 8 p.m. They also have another road game scheduled

for February 23 against the St. Vital Jr. Victorias at 2:30 p.m.

arts&culture

Mr & Mrs Nobody at the Kenmor Feb. 28

By Lorne Stelmach

A theatre company based in south-eastern Manitoba is excited to bring its Canadian premiere of a West End and Broadway hit comedy production to Morden this month.

Looking Glass Theatre will be presenting *Mr & Mrs Nobody* one night only in Morden at the Kenmor Theatre Friday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.

Since its first run in London featuring Dame Judi Dench and husband Michael Williams, this hit has been charming audiences for decades, and Looking Glass representatives see a simple reason for its success.

"It's just really really genuinely funny. I think that's the biggest standout thing for me about the play," said co-artistic director Marc Moir. "It's that perfect British mixture of aridly dry humour, really quick wit, mixed in with a little bit of slapstick and goofiness, so there really is something for everybody in this show."

"I think it's about the two main character's relationship and how there are ups and downs in their relationship," said lead actor Chris Friesen. "But I think it seems to me that they really do love each other in their own unique way."

Based on the satirical Victorian novel *Diary of a Nobody*, this gentle domestic comedy serves up sharp wit

and laughs as it follows the social trials and triumphs of the lovable but vanity-stricken Charles Pooter and his wife Cari, as told to their respective diaries.

The Pooters are played by professional actors and real-life married couple Friesen and Esther Koepnick. The show also features Eve Ross Moore as Sarah, Carrie's maid.

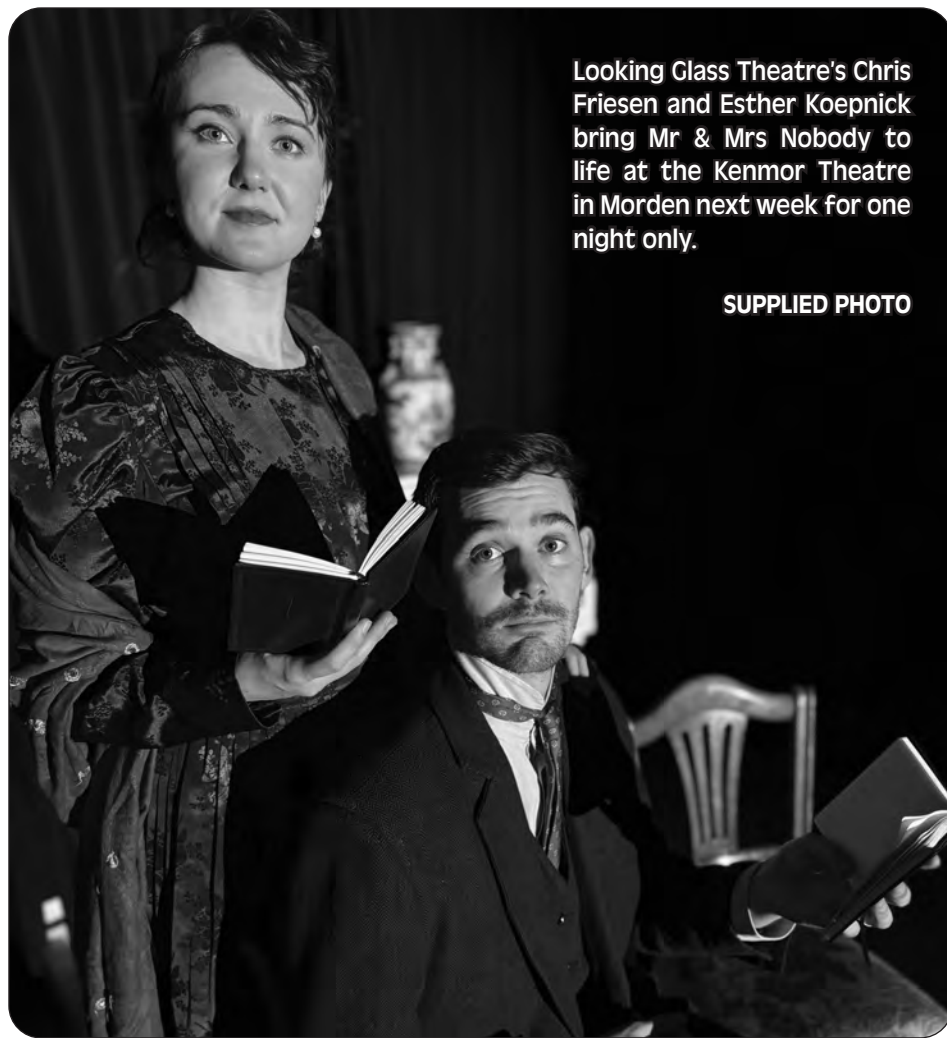
The play is directed by Moir and Laura Kathleen Turner, who are excited to have both gotten the production rights and also to be bringing the show to Morden following their two weekend run in Steinbach.

"There is a great theatre scene in Winkler and Morden," Moir said. "The community companies out there put on really, really high quality shows. It's a really good market, really good audiences."

"We're excited to bring something with perhaps a slightly different flavour," he said. "There's still a lot of people who don't come to the theatre, and they should absolutely come and check it out."

Both Moir and Friesen especially like doing comedies.

"I always enjoy doing comedy. I think with a dramatic play, there is an audience response. You can always kind of feel when the audience is responding, but with comedy, you get a really tangible reaction," said Friesen,



Looking Glass Theatre's Chris Friesen and Esther Koepnick bring *Mr & Mrs Nobody* to life at the Kenmor Theatre in Morden next week for one night only.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

who added this play has a good level of engagement with the crowd as "a lot of it is kind of almost monologue to the audience."

"The real funny comes when the characters don't think it's funny," suggested Moir, who likened it to how when you're a villain, you don't think of yourself as a bad guy, and with comedy, you kind of play it straight.

"When there is something for the characters that is something deadly

serious for them, that's actually where the humour comes from," he suggested. "They're so vanity stricken that the smallest little thing becomes just the end of the world and becomes really, really fun."

"And I really enjoy leading into sort of the clownishness of this play in particular," concluded Friesen.

Tickets are available at www.lookingglasstheatre.ca/nobodies and at the door.

SEMHL first-round playoffs wrap up this week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The first round of SEMHL playoffs are underway, and the three local teams are hanging in there.

The Red River Wild on Monday took game three 5-3 Monday afternoon to foil the Warren Mercs' hopes of a series sweep. The Mercs had previously taken game one 3-2 and game two 8-0. Game four is in Warren Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, the Winkler Royals and the Springfield Winterhawks are tied at a game each. Springfield took game one 5-1 last Thursday and then Winkler fought back with a 2-0 win Sunday. Game three was in Winkler Tuesday night. Results were not available at press time. Game four is in Winkler Friday.

The Morden Bombers needed a win in game three of their series against

the Notre Dame Hawks Tuesday night in order to stay in contention. The Bombers dropped the first two games 3-2 and 5-1. If they succeeded Tuesday night then game four will be in Notre Dame Thursday.

The league's other playoff series pit the Ste. Anne Aces against the Ile des Chenes Northstars. The Ace won it in three straight to advance to the next round.

With the regular season in the rear-view mirror, the league has been handing out some of its awards in recent weeks.

Thus far, Morden's Collin Shirley and Red River's Justin Baudry have been honoured.

Shirley received both the Most Valuable Player Award and the Rookie of the Year nod, while Baudry was named Defenceman of the Year.

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

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CAREERS



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PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES
MUNICIPALITY OF EMERSON-FRANKLIN

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **19th day of March, 2025**, at the hour of **1:00 PM**, at Municipality of Emerson-Franklin, 115 Waddell Ave East, Dominion City, MB, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
116800	LOT 7 BLOCK 31 PLAN 18410 WLTO IN N 1/2 OF SECTION 20-2-3 EPM - FRANKLIN ST, DOMINION CITY	L -\$3,100	\$4,886.18
137300	THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 15-2-4 EPM EXC FIRSTLY: ROAD, PLAN 7129 WLTO AND SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AND OTHER MATTERS AS SET FORTH IN THE CROWN LANDS ACT - 21060 9N, FRANKLIN	L -\$136,100 B -\$189,800	\$9,077.07
210600	ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SW 1/4 12-3-4 EPM CONTAINED WITHIN THE FOLLOWING LIMITS: COMMENCING AT THE SW CORNER OF SAID SECTION, THENCE NLY ALONG THE WESTERN LIMIT OF SAID SECTION TO THE CENTRE OF THE ROSEAU RIVER, THENCE ELY FOLLOWING THE SAID CENTRE OF THE ROSEAU RIVER UPSTREAM TO THE EASTERN LIMIT OF SAID QUARTER SECTION, THENCE SLY ALONG THE SAID EASTERN LIMIT TO THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SAID SECTION, THENCE WLY ALONG THE SAID SOUTHERN LIMIT TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT EXC PLAN 44897 WLTO - 23031 13N, FRANKLIN	L -\$102,400 B -\$273,000	\$15,200.11
341500	LOT 4 BLOCK 'F' PLAN 2 WLTO (MN DIV) EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT IN RL 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 AND 16 PARISH OF STE AGATHE - 4-F-2, EMERSON	L -\$7,000	\$4,571.79

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any unpaid municipal utilities and any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality **may** exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the MUNICIPALITY OF EMERSON-FRANKLIN as follows:
 - The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
 - If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
 - A fee in the amount \$500.85 (\$477 + GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 29th day of January, 2025.

Managed by:



Tracey French, Chief Administrative Officer
MUNICIPALITY OF EMERSON-FRANKLIN
Phone: (204) 427-2557 Fax: (204) 427-2224

FARMLAND TENDER

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER
MUNICIPALITY of RHINELAND

Title #	Legal Description	Total Acres
1755061/4	Lot 1, SP Plan 1840 MLTO in SE ¼ 24-1-1 WPM	25.50
1755062/4	Lot 2, SP Plan 1840 MLTO in SE ¼ 24-1-1 WPM	25.50
1415797/4	W ½ of NW ¼ 19-1-1 EPM	82.12

When submitting an offer, please note:

- The highest, or any, offer will not necessarily be accepted.
- Offers may be for any or all parcels.
- The date of closing and date of adjustments will be December 31, 2025 with respect to Title Nos. 1755061/4 & 1755062/4.
- The date of closing and date of adjustments will be January 1, 2026 with respect to Title No. 1415797/4.
- The successful bidder may have possession of the property for the purpose of completing fall work once the 2025 crop has been removed.
- You must provide a certified check or bank draft in the amount of \$10,000.00 payable to Cole & Mace Law Office. The cheques accompanying unsuccessful tenders will be returned.
- You must rely on your own research of the property.
- Tenders are binding upon acceptance and not subject to any conditions precedent.
- Tenders may only be submitted in the form provided by Cole & Mace Law Office; a form of tender may be requested from Cole & Mace Law Office in person at the address below, or by emailing: adam@colemacelaw.com.
- The Vendor will be responsible for the taxes on the property up to the date of adjustments.
- The Purchaser will be required to pay GST unless the Purchaser is registered for GST and agrees to self-assess.
- Title to the land will be transferred free and clear of all encumbrances and liens.

Signed and sealed Tenders will be received up to 4:00 p.m. on March 4, 2025 at:

Cole & Mace Law Office
26 Centre Ave. East, Box 2039, Altona, Manitoba, R0G 0B0
Attn: Adam Mace

take a break

> GAME

SUDOKU

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

Swan Lake First Nation, Box 368, Swan Lake, Mb, R0G 2S0

POSITION: Director of Finance

DEPT: Finance

Term: Full time

SALARY: TBD

Reports to: Chief and Council

Close Date: Open until filled

SUMMARY

The Director of Finance is responsible for the overall management, planning, directing, evaluating & monitoring of all financial activities of Swan Lake First Nation and its entities. These responsibilities include evaluating financial policies and finance staff, procedures, controls and reporting systems and collection and payroll functions. Ensure the legal & regulatory compliance for financial reporting for all programs within prescribed budgets.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain the day-to-day control of financial activities for Swan Lake First Nation in accordance with the Swan Lake First Nation Finance Policy
- Oversee the processing of revenue, expenditure, and position control documents, department budgets, general ledger account maintenance and data entry; assist departments with budget and variance reports.
- Prepare, review and analysis of financial statements (budget, variance analysis by program and cash flow forest)
- Guides financial decisions by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing policies and procedures.
- Protects Swan Lake First Nation assets by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing internal controls,
- Oversee the performance of GL account analysis and reconciliations,
- Initiate invoicing of funding organizations
- Prepares budgets by establishing schedules; collecting, analyzing, and consolidating financial data; recommending plans,
- Achieves budget objectives by scheduling expenditures; analyzing variances; initiating corrective actions; provides status of financial condition by collecting, interpreting, and reporting financial data,
- Monitors and confirms financial condition by conducting audits; providing information to external auditors,
- Prepare reports, develop and maintain timely and accurate financial statements reports that are appropriate and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP)
- Complies with Federal and provincial reporting requirements by studying existing and new legislation; anticipating future legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing financial reports; advising management on needed actions,
- Calculate salaries and benefits,
- Verify pay amounts, hours of work, deductions, etc.
- Verify coding and authorization signatures,
- Prepare and remit source deductions and payroll tax,
- Data enter of payroll information; distribute pay cheques,
- Prepare Records of Employment (ROE); process T-4 forms,
- Determines financial staffing requirements and assists in training of financial staff
- Maintains financial staff job results by coaching, counseling, and disciplining employees; planning and monitoring,
- Ensures operation of equipment by establishing preventive maintenance requirements and service contracts; maintaining equipment inventories; evaluating new equipment and techniques
- Maintains professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications and establishing personal networks,
- Protects operations by keeping financial information and plans confidential.
- Perform other duties as required

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES

- Be familiar with all budget, reporting and funding requirements of AANDC, FNIHB and other funding departments
- Comprehensive knowledge of financial practices and procedures (GAAP); legislation relevant to the organization (employment standards, occupation health and safety, human right, etc.) all regulations to ensure organization is compliant
- Knowledge of accounts payable, accounts receivable and maintaining general ledgers
- Knowledge of payroll functions and procedures; ability to maintain a high level of accuracy in preparing and entering financial and payroll information
- Demonstrate ability to analyze data make observations, and objectively evaluate program service
- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure, multi-tasks conflicting demands, meet deadlines and work independently
- Demonstrated ability to deal with sensitive situations with tact and diplomacy
- Must have proven ability to multi-task, set priorities effectively, excellent attention to details and problem solve
- Must be a team player be able to work independently and collaboratively
- Must exhibit good leadership skills and be able to handle sensitive information in a confidential manner
- Excellent conflict resolution skills
- Knowledgeable about protocols, litigation and legal framework of process
- Decision making skills
- Contract and negotiation skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Time management skills
- CPA designation preferred.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

- Access to reliable transportation to and from work as travel will be required.
- Clear Criminal Record and Vulnerable Persons check and Child Abuse Registry check.
- Must be willing to submit to random drug testing.

Deadline for submission: Open until filled.

Please submit resume, cover letter and references with position applying for in subject box to: Human Resources Manager - Swan Lake First Nation
 Email: careers@slfn293.ca

Tel: (204) 836-2101 Fax: (204) 836-2255

CAREERS



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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.

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CAREERS



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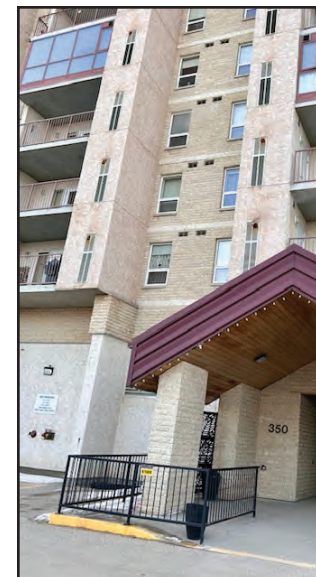


PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Rural Municipality of Stanley's 2023 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements are available for review in the office of the Rural Municipality of Stanley and may be viewed by any persons during regular business hours.

Terry Penner
Chief Administrative Officer
R.M. of Stanley

CONDOS FOR SALE



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PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Municipality of Rhineland
2025 Financial Plan Hearing
Wednesday, March 19, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers of the Municipality of Rhineland

In accordance with subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, Council will present the 2025 financial plan for the Municipality of Rhineland at 6:30 pm Wednesday, March 19, 2025 in the Council Chambers of the Municipality of Rhineland office.

The presentation will include the 2025 operating budget, the 2025 capital budget, and a five-year capital expenditure program. The presentation will be followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed financial plan will be available after March 12, 2025 upon request at the Municipality of Rhineland office, located at 109 3rd Avenue NE, Altona during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may be directed by letter or email at info@rhinelandmb.ca.

Michael Rempel, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Box 270
Altona, MB R0G0B0

PUBLIC NOTICE



Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors

You can make a difference for the future of the main tourism and cultural asset in Southern Manitoba: A call for nominations for our volunteer Board of Directors is now open

Please, submit expressions of interest along with resumes to:
ed@discoverfossils.com

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

Sudoku Answer

getinformed

École Parkside School kicks off annual coupon book fundraiser

By Lori Penner

Altona residents will be happy to hear that École Parkside School is once again selling its popular coupon books, packed with deals from local businesses.

This annual fundraiser not only provides savings for the community but also helps fund important school projects that benefit students.

The \$20 coupon book features 21 coupons for 12 area businesses, including restaurants, grocery stores, salons, a pharmacy, a flower shop, a hotel, and even a car dealership.

"For that price, the coupon book pays for itself by using just a few of them," said Parkside teacher Courtney Friesen. "And it's local. It supports the local economy while helping the school at the same time."

Last year, students raised an impressive \$6,540 through coupon book sales, which helped support the school's breakfast program and outdoor learning space development.

This year they are aiming to raise at least \$6,000 to help fund new sports team jerseys, an emerging e-sports program, and continued improvements to the outdoor learning space.

"Each year, the Parent Advisory Council asks the school where they can best support the students through fundraising," Friesen explained. "This year we are prioritizing new sports jerseys and contributions to



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

École Parkside School students Raena Sawatzky, Aliah Hoepfner, Rhyla Hildebrand, Wynne Klassen, Zandro Panday, Grayer Sawatzky, and Kaiden Unger wearing some of the aging jerseys they hope to replace with funds from the sales of this year's coupon books.

the e-sports team. The current jerseys are well-used and outdated, and our new e-sports program requires some initial equipment upgrades."

The students are excited to do their part in reaching this fundraising goal. "I'm excited about the jerseys," said Wynne Klassen. "They're pretty old,

and we really need new ones. I sold a bunch of coupon books last year, and I want to sell even more this year."

Rhyla Hildebrand agreed, adding, "Our jerseys are like 100 years old. The coupon book is probably one of the best fundraisers our school does. My family definitely used them last

year."

Zandro Panday echoed their enthusiasm.

"I think it's important for students to do things that support the school. I'm looking forward to seeing the new basketball jerseys."

Friesen emphasized that while some of these students may only use the jerseys for a year or two or may not be around to see the completion of the outdoor learning space, they are still working hard to raise funds for them.

"I think that's admirable," she said. "They're thinking of future students, as well."

The outdoor learning space has been in development for a number of years, evolving in phases as funds and grants become available.

"Middle school students still need spaces to go and ways to play," Friesen said. "We want to create something designed specifically for them."

Students will be selling the coupon books door-to-door from March 3-21. Alternatively, residents can visit École Parkside School or call 204-324-8206 to get their hands on one.

"The funds raised through the coupon book take some pressure off the parent council to find funding for other needs in the school," Friesen noted. "And the best part? The coupons are valid for an entire year, giving people plenty of time to take advantage of the deals."

> RPGA, FROM PG. 14

Maynard noted that costs ultimately balanced out.

"Our expenses for building inspec-

tion decreased, but contract costs with MSTW increased," she said. "In the end, it evened out."

In addition to ongoing permit and

by-law updates, RPGA is preparing for public consultations as part of the development plan review.

"We'll be hosting open houses to

gather input from stakeholders and landowners. We want to ensure our vision for future growth aligns with property owners and developers."

Maynard does not anticipate major changes to MSTW fees this year.

"If MSTW updates their fees, we incorporate them, but our development permit remains a flat \$75 fee unless the board decides to adjust it," she said. "Building permit fees are based on MSTW's rates, and we calculate them accordingly."

"As RPGA enters 2025, the district remains focused on continued growth, streamlined processes, and ensuring a sustainable and efficient planning framework for Rhineland, Plum Coulee, Gretna, and Altona."

The **Voice**
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