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VOLUME 5
EDITION 7

The *Altona Rhineland • Morris* Voice

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026
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Prairie Sky performs

PHOTO BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL/VOICE

The Southern Manitoba Concerts series continued Sunday in Altona with a performance from the Prairie Sky Quartet featuring violinists Elation Pauls and Chris Anstey, violist Elise Lavalee, and cellist Grace An. The group played a selection of classical music, original arrangements, and popular contemporary songs. The SMC season—which has also included music from The Nonsuch Ensemble and the Barra MacNeils—wraps up April 19 in Winkler with the Valley Arts Concert featuring performers from across the region.

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Light Up the Streets 2026 saw a hardy crew of supporters—participating as part of a team or on their own—brave the cold and set out from Winkler's Central Station Community Centre Saturday night for a three kilometre walk though town to raise funds for programming that supports those struggling with poverty and homelessness in the community. At press time, the online donation tracker had hit \$81,477 in pledges. Walkers ended the night back at the community centre for a hot supper and prize raffles. "Thank you guys so much for being part of this event. For walking, for fundraising, and for supporting Central Station in the work that we do," executive director Anita Wiebe (left) told the walkers just before they began the trek. "Through targeted initiatives and programs, targeted at housing stability, financial stability, and mental well being, we know that we can make a difference, and you guys are part of it."





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RRTVA Amazing Race shows off local programs

By Lorne Stelmach

Provincial representatives joined some of the region's educational leaders recently in getting a firsthand glimpse of the area's vocational training opportunities.

The Red River Technical Vocational Area (RRTVA) held a one-day tour of its programs throughout the region under the banner of the RRTVA Amazing Race, and a provincial cabinet minister came away from it impressed with what she saw.

"It absolutely exceeded my expectations," said Renee Cable, minister of advanced education and training. "We had a great day ... got to meet lots of fascinating individuals and just see the hard work that is put into this very successful program."

The RRTVA is a partnership of five southern Manitoba school divisions—Border Land, Garden Valley, Red River Valley, Western, and Morris—dedicated to providing high-quality technology education and vocational training to high school students.

The partnership came into being in the early 1970s and has grown into the largest consortium of its type in Manitoba. This cooperative model allows for a wider variety of specialized

technical programming than any one of the partnering divisions could offer on their own, and that is something that certainly stood out to Cable.

"This takes an immense amount of co-operation and co-ordination," she said, emphasizing the importance of all students having equal opportunities. "I think everybody should know that trades are for everyone."

"I think there used to be a thought about who is best suited to trades, and the reality is that it's everybody. It requires math, it requires good social skills, great hand-eye coordination ... and the professional level of training that folks are receiving makes them ready to either advance to post-secondary education or go right into the workplace."

"Those are the kind of opportunities that I want to know exist for my kids and for other kids," she said. "We're looking for more opportunities to bridge students from K-12 into post-secondary or into employment, and I am always looking for answers in the system to ensure that the system works better together, and this is a great example here of sharing resources, of really maximizing what

Continued on page 6



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The RRTVA Amazing Race took guests on a tour of its programs across the region, including the carpentry course in Altona (above) and the Morden welding shop (below).



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Emerado Centennial students give back in a big way

By Lorne Stelmach

Students at Emerado Centennial School in Winkler had a big impact on the community through their support of a worthwhile cause.

Students last week presented the Winkler and District Christmas Cheer Board with a donation of \$3,712 towards their annual hamper campaign for families in need.

"We're really lucky in our school community for all of the work that was done ... there was lots of work that happened," said principal Jacqui Kusnick.

She noted how the students took charge of it all and spearheaded the fundraising efforts, which were boosted by a \$500 donation from the Winkler Community Foundation.

"One of our Grade 6 students raised \$90 all on his own," she said. "The grade sixes did a special fundraiser in the school to raise money."

She shared that there were a lot of exciting events the kids hosted, such as a bracelet fundraiser.

"That is thanks to this group here who organized all of the activities," Kusnick said in addressing the stu-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Winkler Cheerboard rep Trisha Gerbrandt, Emerado Centennial School students Janessa Brungardt and Grace Xia, Cheerboard rep Sabrina Neufeld and Bev Wiebe from the Winkler Community Foundation with the funds the kids raised for the Cheerboard's hamper campaign.

dents.

"When you come together and you put your mind to something, you're dedicated to something that's philanthropic ... it's giving of ourselves to

support people who may not have what we have, giving our time and our effort.

Winkler Police budget supports two new officers, pushes body cameras to 2027

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Police Service is pushing pause, for now, on rolling out body-worn cameras.

After a trial run a few years ago, the department had originally been looking at introducing them in 2026 at a cost of approximately \$81,000 annually. They've now opted to defer equipping officers with the technology until possibly next year.

Chief Ryan Hunt explained the police service is still getting a handle on the new provincial digital evidence management system. The updated system modernizes and streamlines how officers submit their evidence to the courts, but there is a learning curve to using it.

"It's a pretty big change to the way that we've been doing things for so many years ... it required some operational changes and I just felt to add another thing into the mix would be too much," he shared, stressing, however, that body cameras are still something they very much want to add to their arsenal of evidence-gathering tools. "It's definitely something we still want to do, and we do see the value in it for sure.

"I think every police service is going to be on board with body cameras at

"The work that you guys did is going to make a difference in our community."

Student Grace Xia shared that it all started from a simple idea that came up in their art class.

"That's amazing ... it started with an idea in the art room and it grew so big ... we're just helping the community."

Fellow student Jenessa Brungardt noted how so many students wanted to do their part to help out.

"Each class grabbed money from their piggy banks or their stockings, and they brought it."

Cheerboard rep Tricia Gerbrandt heralded the commitment of the students to help out.

"Just to hear how excited and passionate these kids are ... we're just building future leaders, little philanthropists who have so much passion, and it's so cool to see.

"They make a huge difference, and you can see that," Gerbrandt said. "Their passion overflowed into all of the other grades ... it was just an incredible snowball."



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some point and we want to be right there doing it as well ... our goal now is 2027."

While cameras won't be in their 2026 budget, the department will be dipping into the police reserve fund to replace an aging police cruiser with a new one, at a cost of \$90,000.

They've also earmarked funds to hire two new constables. It costs about \$100,000 to train and outfit a new member, not including their salaries.

"We have a couple of retirements that are kind of right near on the horizon here," Hunt said. "So if we can get a couple more officers hired now that will help us out a lot with [maintaining] our number of officers that we have on the streets."

The department currently has 22 officers, including the chief and deputy chief.

Hunt said they hope to complete the extensive hiring process this spring and summer so the selected candidates can enter the police academy in fall.

"The training is roughly nine months—four months in Winnipeg, four months out here doing field training, and then back to Winnipeg

Continued on page 7



PHOTOS BY
ASHLEIGH
VIVEIROS/
VOICE

Planning for planting



Seedy Saturday filled the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre with green thumbs Saturday. Participants got the chance to take part in a seed exchange (above, left), chat with gardening vendors from across the region (above), check out educational displays, and hear from a series of guest speakers throughout the day, including botanist Laura Reeves (left) speaking about native plant gardening.

Access CU closing, consolidating six branches

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Access Credit Union is closing six branches across its service network in 2026.

The financial institution announced last week that on June 19 the Moosehorn, Sanford, and 850 Regent Ave. Winnipeg branches will close and consolidate with the Ashern, the new Kenaston Crossing location opening later this year, and the 1300 Plessis Rd. Winnipeg location, respectively.

Then, on Oct. 21, the Plum Coulee branch will close and consolidate with the Winkler branch, the Emerson branch will close and consolidate with Altona, and the 720 St. Anne's Rd. Winnipeg branch will close and consolidate with the 515 St. Anne's branch.

The number of in-branch transactions has decreased significantly in recent years as new technologies have made it easier for people to do the majority of their banking remotely, said Access CU CEO and president Myrna Wiebe, noting 94.93 per cent of all their transactions are done electronically these days.

"Looking at how many transactions are being completed electronically or outside of the branch—either at another branch or through the ATM ... we've monitored this over a number of years," she said in explaining some of the factors behind the decision when it came to these six branches. "Within that time frame, there's certainly different steps and things we've tried, whether it was moving staff around or trying to make sure that the branch was being used and remaining very relevant."

But as they looked to optimize their operations, it became clear that these locations were no longer sustainable, Wiebe said, noting limited hours of operation in some of the branches due to consistent low traffic volumes as well as their proximity to other branches were also factors in the decision.

The closures will affect nearly 10,600 members. Access has over 208,000 members across the province.

Eleven employees work at the four rural branches affected by these closures, all of whom will have the opportunity to move to another branch. A few corporate employees will also be relocated.

Wiebe expects they will get some pushback on these closures, as some of these branches have served their communities for many years.

"Certainly we have definitely heard from some members and some municipalities as well," she said. "What we're doing is we're just trying to inform them as best we can, explain the business case as best we can, and let them know that they're being supported through this, whether it's teaching people how to use online banking or the telephone banking, those kinds of things, and then making sure that they're aware of all of the availability of the branches—not just the branches closest to them right now, but it's anywhere they're going. Any one of our branches across our Manitoba footprint is where they can go to use a physical branch."

Members can also access their accounts through the mobile banking app and ATMs at any credit union in Manitoba. Access CU also

offers online appointments with its lenders or financial planners.

Wiebe stressed that Access closing these branches does not mean they will not still be a part of the communities affected.

"Our priorities are tied to the communities that we have across Manitoba, and we do not take lightly the responsibility that we have that comes with the history that brought us where we are today," she said. "We don't underestimate and it's not lost on us the impact the changes to local branches can have on the community. But I also need members to understand that we will still be in those communities."

"They are still within our footprint ... the sponsorships, at the events, whether there's a new project being done by communities—we're still going to be there."

As to whether future closures and consolidations are in the works, Wiebe noted they will continue to assess their network efficiencies as needed, both in rural Manitoba and Winnipeg.

"We're always going to look at our branch footprint," she said. "We would be remiss not to."

The **Voice**

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letters



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

While reading Peter Cantelon's column in the Feb. 12 edition [*Who Will They Meet?* Pg. 6], I was overwhelmed by the desire to defend my community and my faith.

Having been born and raised in Winkler, where we still attend church, and being a Christian, I felt personally attacked by his deceptive use of statistics, and mockery of our Lord.

But having taken some time to process my thoughts and pray, I've come to realize that likely much of Cantelon's intention was to incite an emotional response, as seems to be a strategy behind much of the rhetoric coming from the group he is defending.

> RRTVA, FROM PG. 3

we have available to ensure that as many people as possible are served in a good way.

"I thought it was really fascinating to see that the students were part of building homes [through the carpentry program in Altona] and to think of myself in that position how cool that would be to see the fruits of my labour and to see that I was able to do something that had a real-world impact from something I learned at school," Cable added.

The RRTVA programs include auto body in Morris, automotive technology at Garden Valley Collegiate (GVC) in Winkler and Roseau Valley School in Dominion City, baking and pastry arts at Northlands Parkway Collegiate (NPC) in Winkler, carpentry at W.C. Miller Collegiate in Altona, culinary arts at NPC and W.C. Miller, electrical technology at NPC, aesthetics at

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

I also recognized this: the Truth needs no defence to continue to exist. No amount of lying, deception, or belief in those lies can have any affect on the fact that absolute Truth still exists. And I suppose that is why people who prefer to live like there is no such Truth fear it so much, and attempt by all means to sway others into also believing this is possible.

To my fellow believers in our communities: let us not be provoked into emotional responses, but let us rather be provoked into a spiritual response. As Christians we know where absolute Truth comes from. And we know that Jesus is the source and embodiment of that Truth. We can read and understand that his love for us all compelled him to express that Truth

to all people, and he sent all believers to do the same.

So with that in mind, I am not sending this letter as a form of defence against the attacks made, but rather I would like to encourage the people of Winkler to pray for the community and for those who wish to influence us and others, that we could all come to the realization of the Truth, and that we all would love others the way Jesus and his apostles did, by praying for them, by presenting the Truth, and by standing firm on it.

Kendall Klassen,
RM of Rhineland

NPC, hairstyling at NPC, heavy duty equipment technology at GVC TEC, piping trades at Morden Collegiate, and welding technology at Morden Collegiate and Morris School.

"Each of the local school divisions work with their neighbouring school divisions to provide a variety of training, learning, and lifelong skills

through a shared partnership," said RRTVA director Lane Curry, who noted last week's tour showed "first-hand how our principals, instructors, students, transportation coordinators and administration from various communities work together for these learning opportunities."

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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The Voice is published Thursdays and distributed as a free publication to 21,141 households. Republishing in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Printed in Canada by Prolific Printing. The Voice received financial support from the Government of Canada in 2021.

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Dr. Joss Reimer named Canada's chief public health officer

By Voice staff

A doctor who grew up in Winkler and has gone on to serve in a number of top positions in Manitoba has been named the new Chief Public Health Officer by the Government of Canada.

Reimer, who became the face of Manitoba's efforts to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, will begin a three-year term April 1, and she welcomes the opportunity.

"Public health is about uniting efforts to protect and promote the well-being of people in Canada, especially those who are most vulnerable," Reimer said in a statement. "I look forward to collaborating with colleagues and partners domestically and internationally, and with communities across the country toward this important goal."

Reimer is a past president of the Canadian Medical Association and chief medical officer for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. She was the medical lead and spokesperson for Manitoba's COVID-19 vaccine

task force and spent nine years as undergraduate director of population health at the University of Manitoba.

She has public health expertise in health communications, health equity, sexually transmitted and blood borne infections and immunizations, and she has contributed to numerous scientific publications and presentations in both official languages.

Voted Humanitarian of the Year by Doctors Manitoba, she was lauded for her passion for physician wellness and public health.

Reimer completed medical training at the University of Manitoba and McMaster University, training several years in obstetrics and gynecology before finishing a public health specialty.

She completed a master's in public health degree with a project focused on health communication in Kenya, and her research areas have focused on sexually transmitted infections and drug related harms with projects in Canada and Colombia.

Reimer has received several ad-

ditional awards including the King Charles III Coronation Medal, the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal, University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumni award, and the St. John Ambulance Pandemic Medalion.

Minister of Health Marjorie Michel said Reimer comes into the role at a critical time as the country continues to face a resurgence of vaccine preventable diseases such as measles, the threats posed by avian influenza A (H5N1), HIV, and tuberculosis as well as the ongoing impacts of the illegal drug crisis and the negative impacts of false health information.

"I am pleased to welcome Dr. Reimer to the role of Canada's Chief Public Health Officer. I look forward to working alongside Dr. Reimer to address pressing and complex public health challenges."

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Joss Reimer to the Public Health Agency of Canada. At a time when strong, science-driven leadership has never been more important, I am confident



CMA.CA

Winkler native Dr. Joss Reimer has been named Canada's new chief public health officer.

that her vision and dedication will help advance the public health and well-being of Canadians. I look forward to working together to drive meaningful progress and deliver lasting impact for Canadians," said Nancy Hamzawi, president of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

GVSD piloting full-day, every other day Kindergarten in Plum Coulee

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley School Division is rolling out a pilot project this fall to try out the idea of a Kindergarten program that is all day, every other day.

Plum Coulee School will be testing the waters on this idea for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years, stepping away from its traditional half-a-day, every day Kindergarten programming.

It will give the division the data it needs to decide whether the every-other-day schedule should continue and possibly even be expanded to other Winkler area schools, said superintendent Dan Ward.

"We've been hearing for the last few years that a number of our parents are finding it challenging to pick Kindergarten children up at lunch or to drop them off at lunch, depending on the program," he said. GVSD elementary schools have Kindergartners attend class either all morning or all afternoon. "Many of our students have both parents working, and they don't always have someone like a grandparent or other relative able to pick the children up if they're not able to."

In some cases, families were opting not to enrol their children in Kindergarten as a result (Kindergarten is not compulsory in Manitoba). Or, if enrolled, some students were missing classes certain days of the week when

families couldn't arrange for half-day childcare or transportation.

This new schedule should make it much easier for families, as out-of-town Kindergartners will be able to take the bus to and from school, while in-town students can walk or get dropped off at the same time as their siblings at a time potentially more in line with their parents' workdays.

Full-day Kindergarten is commonplace in many other school divisions, so Ward said they're not anticipating any major problems with rolling this out. Nonetheless, they thought it best to start with a smaller school.

"Plum Coulee was a natural fit," he said, noting the school has many families where the parents do not work in town, complicating student pick-up and drop-off.

"We will work with the families when the children need a little bit more time to adjust [to full-day learning]," Ward noted. "That's part of the plan, and that's why we want to start in one school and learn from that ourselves firsthand, rather than just starting this in all our Kindergarten programs across the school division." Plum Coulee School principal Mary Eberling-Penner shared that staff are excited to be leading this pilot project, and eager to see the impact it has on students and families.

Kindergarten gives children a great headstart on their primary educa-

tions, she noted, equipping them early with foundational literacy, numeracy, and social skills.

"It's really important," she said. "When we talk about what a Kindergarten will learn, by the time they finish their year in June they are reading books with two or three or four lines of text on every page. So they're not just learning letters—it's actually the first stages of reading."

"If they don't do that in Kindergarten it has to be caught up in Grade 1, and that makes it more challenging for the child to feel like they're at the same place as other kids."

A full day of instruction will also allow for a bit more breathing room in the Kindergartners' school day, Eberling-Penner noted.

"It can be a very fast-paced half day," she noted. "That's one of the ad-

vantages to this is we have them for a more sustained block of time."

Feedback from Plum Coulee parents has thus far been overwhelmingly positive, Eberling-Penner shared, but they'll be consulting with families throughout to ensure the change is working the way they hope it will.

"They've given us a two-year pilot, which is excellent," she said. "It means that when we have to make the decision in two years we will have a full year from start to finish and then we'll be partway through the second year when the division is asking us for our feedback."

"So we'll have enough time to actually look at how it went the full year and see what the families felt and see what the difference in the children's academics was."

> WINKLER POLICE, FROM PG. 4

for a short stint," he said, before they return to the community as rookie police officers.

They're looking for people who want a career serving their community, Hunt said.

"We're looking for somebody that's of good character, hardworking, and perhaps has some life experience," he said. "That being said,

we have also hired in the past pretty young constables that have turned out to be fantastic officers.

"Really, just good, upstanding people that want to work at helping keep the community safe."

The detailed application form, including the physical requirements, are available online at winklerpolice.ca.

Youth athletes off to the MB Winter Games

By Lorne Stelmach

Young athletes from across the region will be on their way up north next week to compete in the Manitoba Winter Games.

The 2026 Games powered by Manitoba Hydro take places March 1-7 in Thompson, involving more than 1,500 athletes, 300 coaches and managers, 100 officials, and upwards of 750 volunteers from across the province.

It is the third time Thompson has hosted the Games, and the week will feature a dozen sports ranging from curling, skiing, and skating to gymnastics, hockey, and wrestling.

There are a number of athletes taking part as representatives of the south central region, such as Winkler's Emily Bueckert who is involved in gymnastics through the Morden Magics club.

The 12-year-old has been involved in gymnastics for four years now. She recalls being inspired to take it up after seeing a gymnast cousin do the splits.

"It means so much to me," she said of having the opportunity to participate in the Games. "I'm really excited to represent my team and my club."

A lot of time put into the sport has paid off for Bueckert.

"It's lots of hours of training and practice," she said.

"She loves the sport of gymnastics a lot, so she wishes she could be at the gym a lot more hours than she can be," noted her mother Tracy. "She loves to train, loves to learn new skills, and she is definitely very dedicated."

"I think she definitely deserves to go for sure," she added, pointing out this could perhaps be a once in a lifetime experience. "She has worked very hard at it."

Meanwhile, in the skating events, Carys Jenner of Morden will be competing at the pre-novice level as a result of getting a wild card spot on Team East.

"I am very excited to have the experience competing at the Manitoba Winter Games with friends," said Jenner. "I love being part of a team, and I'm eager to continue challenging myself going into this competition."

Tessa Dyck will be competing in pre-novice skating.

"I am very honored to be representing Team South and excited to have this opportunity to go to the Games," said Dyck, a 14-year-old from Miami who skates with the Morden Figure Skating Club. "I am really looking forward to this experience and hope

that I can skate my best to represent my region well."

Jacy Butler, who is from Elm Creek but also performs with the Morden club, will also be part of Team South in skating.

"I am honoured to be able to represent a part of our region in a provincial event, especially given the fact that qualifying for this event meant everyone in my own immediate family has been able to attend some form of Manitoba Games," Butler noted.

"To be able to not only compete in these Games but to go at the Level 1 AM (pre novice) is quite special to me, as the past years after the pandemic were quite hard for me, sports wise, in the sense of finding a club to train at and to re-develop a majority of my elements due to a growth spurt," she added. "I had an entire competitive season off, and the fact I have been able to come back stronger than before is a very dear fact to me."

"Although I am not the best in Manitoba, for my level at least, I have confidence in myself, and beside placing top three, my main goal is to beat my own record and enjoy my time at the games."

Coming from the Morden Curling Club, Annabelle Lanthier and Alexandre Bitton are also part of Team South in mixed doubles curling.

"I will gain skills and knowledge. I will meet new people and I will be able to cheer on my friends who are in other disciplines," said Bitton. "It will be a good experience, and I am fortunate to be able to go. Hoping to win, of course, but also just being out there and having fun."

"For myself, I am looking forward to going to the Games as an athlete. I was able to go to the Summer Games last year as an official, but it's such a different experience to compete. This will also be my last chance to play in the Manitoba Games, and I'm going to make the best of it," said Lanthier.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people and having a good time. It's also a good trek for us with the games being in Thompson, and that just makes it all the more exciting."

Lanthier also offered thanks to their coach, Gerald Graham.

"He has been coaching in Morden's junior curling program since long before I was born and has been coaching both of us since we were like seven years old," she noted. "When we asked him to come to Thompson with us, he agreed with no hesitation and didn't expect anything in return. We truly can't thank



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Gymnast Emily Bueckert is one of several local athletes headed to the Manitoba Winter Games in Thompson next week.

him enough for everything he has done for us."

Kierra Penner, who is another Morden member of the figure skating club, will be competing in star 6 and 7 at the games.

"It's an honor to be competing at the games. I'm excited for the opportunity to compete with a team and can't wait to go have fun," said Penner.

The Manitoba Winter Games last took place in 2018 and follow the Olympic cycle, taking place every two years, alternating between summer and winter events and preceding the Canada Games by one year.

The program is administered by Sport Manitoba and implemented by the Manitoba Games Council along with the governing provincial sport organizations managing the coordination of their specific sport.

To follow how the local kids are doing, head online to mbgames.ca.



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Evening of Elegance outfits 15 graduates

By Lorne Stelmach

Members of the Morden class of 2026 had an opportunity to find that special outfit for their graduation celebrations.

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

Organizers love being able to help create a memorable graduation experience for successful grads from Morden Collegiate as well as the Morden Adult Education Centre.

"I think it turned out really great ... definitely a worthwhile event," said lead organizer Tyler Sloan, who is a guidance counsellor at the high school.

This year's event—the 17th—took

place in a new location at the Access Event Centre.

"We were able to outfit 15 graduates with a dress or suit for graduation as well as accessories," said Sloan. "We were a little bit down from last year, but I think last year we had an overwhelming response."

"Over the last five or six years that I've run this now, it kind of seems to ebb and flow," he suggested. "It really depends on the student group and who's wanting to come out or has a need."

Sloan said the support of the community has been fantastic for the project every year.

"We had a great response from the community. Saban has been a great sponsor ... they donate a bunch of stuff to us as well," he said, noting



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Donated formal wear filled a room at the Access Event Centre earlier this month to give 2026 graduates the chance to pick out what they want to wear to their celebrations in June.



as well that Shear Bliss donated a gift bag while volunteers from Morden Caring and Sharing helped provide some snacks and also aided with some of the alterations to the outfits. As well, the City of Morden donated use of the space of the evening.

Sloan noted it is always especially nice each year when graduates perhaps from the previous year donate their outfits back in support of the event.

"We have a big thank you to some of our local graduates ... some donate their dress-

ings or suits back," he noted. "It's always great to see the dress bags and the suit bags show up in the office ... knowing they're going to be going to a graduate to help celebrate that special day."

Province begins ice-jam mitigation program

By Voice staff

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is reminding river users to follow posted warning signs and stay clear of equipment as the annual ice cutting program gets underway on the Red River to reduce the potential impacts of ice-jam related flooding.

Crews were out starting Feb. 17 and are expected to be done their work by March 10.

The ice-jam mitigation program involves cutting and breaking river ice to reduce the risk of flooding caused by jams on the lower Red River and other rivers.

Remote-controlled ice-cutting units and three Amphibex icebreakers are used each year to cut and break approximately 28 kilometres of ice on the Red River from Netley Marsh to Selkirk over a width of approximately 100 metres. Ice-cutting and breaking operations are frequently undertaken on the Icelandic River at Riverton and

at the outlet of the Portage Diversion.

Currently, ice-cutting operations are planned for Riverton but are not expected to be required at the Portage Diversion. The province will continue to monitor ice conditions at the diversion until break-up occurs.

Safety notices will be posted in areas where the Amphibex machines will be working. River users, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts are advised to stay off the ice where notices are posted or where evidence of recent ice cutting is apparent.

Ice fishers are also reminded to remove huts or other materials in the areas where the ice-jam mitigation program is taking place. Notices to remove ice fishing shacks will be posted in zones at least two weeks before the remove-by date.

For more information and updates on Manitoba's water conditions and forecasts, visit <https://gov.mb.ca/mti/floodinfo/index.html>.



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getinformed

Foundation puts call out for Citizen of Distinction nominations

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Area Foundation is again looking to honour someone for outstanding service to the community.

The foundation is calling for nominations for its annual Citizen of Distinction Award. The

deadline is March 31.

It's a great chance to recognize a person who has a strong commitment to making Morden a better place to live, visit, and play through their long-term commitment and efforts, suggested foundation board chair Brad Ritchie.

"Basically, it's someone who has contributed

to the community through philanthropy, business, volunteering, or through their workplace in a significant positive way," he explained. "They're often the people who don't do it for the attention. They do it behind the scenes sometimes, and they do it in different ways.

"We think it really ties in well with who are as an organization ... honouring people who have made a major impact in the community," added Ritchie, who noted that the honour is decided in part by past recipients of the award.

"What I've found too is maybe what is an unexpected but an actual byproduct of it is that it's motivating to others to say you know, I too can make a difference," he suggested. "I can get involved more. I can use my skills and my talents and my experience to make a positive impact. So the recipients end up being mentors and role models in a way they could never imagine just through their recognition."

While the award—which stretches back to when the local Kinsmen started it in 1946—initially recognized exemplary contributions based solely on volunteerism, the foundation board decided in 2018 that there are many outstanding citizens making impactful contributions to the city in many other ways, and so they expanded the nomination criteria.

This year's winner will be announced sometime in spring ahead of a celebration to present the award in May.

Nomination forms are available online at mordenfoundation.ca or connect with the foundation at info@mordenfoundation.ca, by calling 204-822-5614 or 431-349-1138, or stopping in at 13 – 379 Stephen St.

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VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden Area Foundation's Citizen of Distinction Award honours community members making a difference. Last year's honoree, shown here with past winners, was Shelly Voth (front, centre).

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Manitoba adds CMV to newborn screening program

By Lana Meier

Manitoba families will now receive earlier answers about a little-known infection that can quietly affect a child's development after the province expanded its newborn screening program to include congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV).

The province launched universal screening in December 2025, and more than 1,500 newborns have already been tested.

"When you bring a baby into the world, you have to trust the health-care system is doing everything possible to protect your child from day one," Premier Wab Kinew said during the announcement. "Families are receiving answers sooner, clinicians have critical information earlier, and there are more opportunities to intervene when that intervention can mean all the difference."

Congenital CMV is a common virus passed from mother to baby during pregnancy. It affects roughly one in 200 births and is among the leading infectious causes of permanent hearing loss and developmental disability in children.

Health officials say pregnant people can lower the risk of CMV infection through simple hygiene precautions, including washing hands after contact with young children's saliva or diapers, avoiding sharing food or utensils, and not kissing toddlers on the lips. The virus commonly spreads through contact with bodily fluids

from young children, who often show no symptoms.

"Without screening, families may not know something is wrong until months or even years later, when hearing loss or developmental delays appear," Health Minister Uzoma Asagwara said. "Universal screening closes a gap that has existed for far too long."

The test is performed using the same heel-prick blood sample already collected from newborns and analyzed at Cadham Provincial Laboratory.

"If we can identify babies early, we can treat them early, and that leads to better outcomes. That's why screening at birth matters — it can change a child's future," said Rob Tétrault, president and co-founder of the Canadian CMV Foundation.

"There is no risk to the child whatsoever — just a few drops of blood," Tétrault added.

Tétrault began advocating for screening nearly 18 years ago after his son Alex was born with CMV and diagnosed only because of an unrelated prenatal concern.

"Had that random occurrence not happened, I hate to think what would have happened," he said. "I meet families all the time whose outcomes aren't as positive. We knew we had to change this."

Early treatment must happen quickly, he added.

"You have a very small window — usually the first month of life — where antiviral treatment can dramatically



MANITOBA GOVERNMENT YOUTUBE LIVESTREAM
Rob Tétrault alongside his son Alex and Health Minister Uzoma Asagwara during the announcement of Manitoba's expanded newborn CMV screening program.

reduce hearing loss and cognitive impacts," Tétrault said.

He called Manitoba's adoption of universal screening a milestone after years of advocacy.

"I sent my first advocacy emails about 10 years ago," he said. "To finally see this in place means kids will have better outcomes, and parents will have less uncertainty. That brings me a lot of joy."

Alex Tétrault, now a young adult, said he's glad other children will benefit.

"I'm very happy more children are going to get treated," he said.

The province estimates the program costs about \$1.3 million and says it plans to continue tracking outcomes and ensuring families have access to follow-up care and supports. Officials say the goal is simple — identify infections early rather than after permanent complications develop.

"This comes from listening to parents, advocates and clinicians," Asagwara said. "Earlier answers really do change outcomes."

The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Garrison Doll ©



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Parkside School launches coupon folder fundraiser

By Holly Thorne-Wiebe

Students at École Parkside School are once again hitting the streets with coupon folders in hand, raising money to support music, visual arts, and other initiatives not covered by the regular school budget.

The annual fundraiser, organized by the school's parent advisory council (PAC), officially kicks off the week of March 2 and will run for three weeks.

Coupon folders sell for \$20 and include deals at numerous local businesses. Buyers will also have the opportunity to win a 2026 seasonal family swim pass.

Grade 8 students Emma Friesen, Serena Janz, Venice Velasco, and Jace Abrams are among those participating in the campaign.

"We sell coupon folders for \$20 to anyone, and then all the money is for things we need at school like band instruments," Friesen explained. "Last year was sports jerseys."

This year, funds will focus primarily on the music and visual arts programs. Some money has already been used to purchase new library chairs and a yearbook camera, and remaining funds may also support sports equipment or outdoor learning projects.

Janz, who plays clarinet and helps with lighting and sound for drama productions, said the fundraiser will make a meaningful difference.

"I'm pretty sure the drama wants a new sound system, and the band wants some new instruments," she said.

Velasco, who plays both flute and alto saxophone, said some instruments are in need of repair or replacement.

"Some instruments are a little bit broken, and I think they need an upgrade," she said.

Abrams, a trumpet player, added that additional percussion equipment has also been discussed.

Instruments and equipment can be costly, particularly for families new to band programs.

Justina Unger, who leads the coupon folder initiative for the PAC, said rental fees for instruments can exceed \$200 per year, often requiring trips to Winkler or Winnipeg. "If we can have some equipment and instruments in-house, the accessibility part is a little bit easier," she said. "Students still have to rent from the school, but it removes some of the barriers."

Needs for the school are identified through collaboration between staff and the PAC. Teachers submit wish lists and quotes, and the PAC determines where funds can have the greatest impact.

"We realize that not everybody is into sports, not everybody is into band, not everybody is into the visual arts," Unger said. "We want to make sure that we're not just targeting one group."

Last year's fundraiser focused on athletics with the purchase of new jerseys. This year's shift reflects a desire to support students involved in creative programming.

Unger said participation in band or



PHOTO BY HOLLY THORNE-WIEBE/VOICE

École Parkside School students Jace Abrams, Serena Janz, Emma Friesen, and Venice Velasco are excited to begin selling coupon books in support of arts programming.

drama builds more than artistic skill.

"This impacts them more than just being part of a band program or drama," she said. "This is building character."

She shared that she has seen confidence grow significantly in students who have stepped outside their comfort zones through performances and concerts.

Each student signs up to sell will receive an initial package of five folders. Once those are sold, students receive a small incentive (a bag of chips) and are entered into a weekly draw for a \$50 Chamber Bucks prize. Students may then sign out additional packages if supplies remain.

While students will primarily sell

directly to family and friends, community members may also contact the school office to purchase a folder while supplies last.

Unger acknowledged that response from the business community was slightly lower this year compared to previous campaigns, but said that the folder still provides strong value for the buyers while supporting a good cause.

"We're investing in our kids," she said. "We're investing in dreams."

Residents interested in purchasing a coupon folder can connect with any École Parkside student or call the school for more information at 204-324-8206.

Altona chamber puts call out for business award nominations

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Altona and District Chamber of Commerce is looking to celebrate the

best in local business this spring.

The nomination deadline for the chamber's annual awards is coming up fast—March 6 is the last day to put a worthy candidate forward to be honoured.

"We find it very important to celebrate the success of the businesses, the entrepreneurs, as well as the not-for-profit organizations that make such a difference in our community," said chamber executive director Stephanie Peters. The chamber

has four honours it hands out each year.

Two are Business Excellence awards, one for companies with 11 employees or more and one for those with 10 employees or less.

"We're looking for a business that deserves to be recognized for their business goals and growth, exceptional customer service, and overall positive impact on the community," Peters explained.

Then there's the Entrepreneur of the Year award, given to someone who has been in business for at least three years and has demonstrated excellence in staffing and employee quality growth, quality control, marketing strategies, expansions/innovative ideas, overall contribution, and impact on the community.

Finally, there's the Non-Profit of the

Year award, presented to an organization that is fulfilling its mission in the community and making contributions to its well-being.

"We have a lot of chamber members who are not-for-profit organizations and we felt that it was important to have that category," Peters said. "We've got so many great non-for-profit organizations in the community that are contributing socially, culturally, economically to the community."

Peters shared they've already received numerous nominations since they opened earlier this year, but they're hoping to see a few more come in through the final weeks of the nomination period.

The nomination form is available online at altonachamber.com. It's a

Continued on page 13

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PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCENAL

Town of Altona staff were hard at work digging the community out of all the snow that fell as a Montana low swept through the region Feb. 17-19.

Three charged in MFNPS bust on Roseau River First Nation

By Voice staff

Three Roseau River residents are facing charges after a police operation last week.

On Feb. 16, members of the Manitoba First Nations Police Service (MFNPS) Roseau River detachment, with the assistance from the MFNPS Crime

Reduction Enforcement Unit (CREU) and the RCMP Emergency Response Team (ERT), executed a search warrant on a residence on the Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation based on information received indicating that there were unauthorized firearms being stored there.

During the initial execution of the

search warrant, four individuals were arrested without incident. At that time, officers did not locate unauthorized firearms, but they did observe drug paraphernalia in plain view. The scene was held while the MFNPS applied for and received a controlled drugs and substances search warrant.

Approximately 32 grams of sus-

pected methamphetamine with an estimated street value of \$3,000 along with scales, mobile devices, and packaging materials were seized.

Two men and one woman were arrested and now face drug trafficking charges.

Kenmor Theatre launches 'Take a Seat' series

By Lorne Stelmach

An upcoming show and other events this spring will be helping to further refurbish the Kenmor Theatre in Morden.

Local bands The Bare Yogis and Brian Jacob's Band will perform March 6-7 in support of the historic downtown venue. Tickets are \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door.

Candlewick Productions executive director Richard Klassen explained in an e-mail to supporters that the thought of drawing on the community for fundraising came from hearing about the fondness and good memories people have of the Kenmor.

"During our Valentine's production of *Meet Me in St. Louis*, we had a number of patrons come and tell us stories of how they met their spouse at the theatre or memories of their youth or how much they appreciated seeing our youth have the opportunity to perform on stage," he said. "And

we would like to see these memories made for many others in years to come."

Klassen said there has been a lot of work done on the theatre in recent years, but there is still more that needs to be addressed.

"Over the last decade, we have had a number of big projects at the Kenmor including roof repairs, air conditioning improvements, new carpeting, painting projects, plumbing refurbishments, new curtains for the stage, flooring projects, and so much more.

"We have now come to our most

significant project, which is the refurbishment of our auditorium—primarily our seating. To that end, we are offering some great events this coming spring which we really hope we can sell out each event to create some needed fundraising revenue."

Another upcoming show is the April 17-19 Candlewick Players performance of the Neil Simon play *Fools*.

"The play explores themes of folly versus wisdom, the impact of education and the role of love in breaking free from ignorance," said Klassen. "Fools is a whimsical fable that has

been performed in various regional and international revivals for its family-friendly appeal."

Further down the road, on June 12 will be a show featuring comedian Matt Falk.

Tickets are available for individual shows. You can also get a season pass to all three online at candlewick.ca/take-a-seat-fundraising-events or by calling the box office at 204-822-7469.

"We would really like to fill-the-seats for each of these events to help raise the funds for this new project," Klassen said.

> CHAMBER AWARDS, FROM PG. 12

simple form to fill out—nominators are asked to list three ways their candidates have made a positive impact on the area and why they think they should receive the selected award. You can opt to have your nomination remain anonymous, if you wish.

"And if people feel more comfortable, they can come into our office and we can help them fill out the form," Peters said.

The awards will be presented at a gala slated to take place on Thursday, April 23.

"It's a really good opportunity for the community to get together for a fun evening to celebrate those who are so deserving of recognition," Peters said, adding that other entertainment for the night and ticket information is expected to be released soon.

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

sports & recreation

Golden Boy tourney champs

By Lorne Stelmach

A local soccer team and program has been steadily building momentum over the last two and a half years, and it recently had success at a major competition in Winnipeg.

The Morden Eagles went undefeated Feb. 13-16 to become the U13 Premier 1 Golden Boy tournament champions.

The team took down the Thunder Bay Chill 5-0 and then defeated the Football Club North West 3-1 followed by a 2-1 win against Winnipeg South End United to take them to the final when they faced Westman and clinched the team's first title with a 2-1 victory.

Coach Samuel Jerema noted the Morden Minor Soccer Association began an affiliation with the Manitoba Soccer Association, and opportunities like this have started to come about after the Morden program secured their QSP (Quality Soccer Provider) certification.

The team now competes in the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association's "one season" league which is the highest level of competition for U13 and U14 players in the province.

Five Morden soccer teams entered

the tournament, including U14 girls, U17 girls, U14 boys, and a U17/U18 boys recreation team.

The Joga Bonito collaborative U17/U18 boys rec team also clinched their division title after defeating Kelvin High School 4-2.

"We started offering year-round programming for our players so that they could start to progress more and compete at a higher level than just the local grassroots options," said Jerema, who noted the Meridian Exhibition Centre provides a good option for year-round play.

"We've been in a number of tournaments, and we've been slowly building over the last couple of years," he said. "The boys are playing really well now; they're very strong ... they've developed a lot of skill and understanding of the game."

"They showed a lot of maturity and intensity as they competed for the title," he added.

Being able to train and play year-round makes "such a big difference," said Jerema.

"When we first entered the league, we had some skilled players, but to play against teams that had been training together year-round was an-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Morden Eagles were undefeated in the U13 Premier 1 Golden Boy soccer tournament last week.

other level of competition ... going to the next level takes that kind of competition," he said.

"I've seen the boys progress and play more disciplined soccer, play with more high quality passing and supporting each other, covering and moving across the pitch together as a unit ... all of those qualities have been developing," he continued.

"They competed against some of the top teams in Winnipeg, and they were undefeated, so that is a major accom-

plishment in our journey as a team."

Jerema suggested their success also speaks to the strength of the minor soccer program here.

"It shows the passion that our players have for the sport. We have a lot of diversity in our sport in Morden, and that's infusing a lot of energy into our program," he said. "It definitely speaks to the quality of the programming that Morden Minor Soccer has been able to offer here."

Male Hawks end regular season on a high note

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By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks closed out their regular season this past weekend by sweeping a two game set with the Norman Northstars.

The end result was Pembina Valley finishing in seventh place at 27-19-1-1 for 56 points, and it leaves the Hawks with the tough task of likely facing the second-place Winnipeg Wild in the first round of the playoffs. At press time, game one was tentatively set for Saturday in Winnipeg.

Pembina Valley began their final week of the regular season with a crazy 10-7 loss Feb. 17 to the Interlake Lightning in Teulon.

Interlake held period leads of 2-1 and 6-2 at the intermissions. That lead grew to 7-2 early in the third pe-

Continued on page 16

Morris hosts junior curling championships

By Siobhan Maas

Curlers from across the province gathered at the Asham International Curling Development Centre in Morris for the Co-ops of Manitoba Provincial Junior Curling Championships Feb. 18-22.

History was made during the opening ceremonies when the event's first rock was thrown by a robot for the first time.

"The Morris Curling Club has Canada's only robotic rock thrower and we took advantage of that for this event," said club manager Steph Bérard. "We also had local youth as flag bearers for the teams as they were pipped onto the ice."

Twenty teams took part in the competition, with 12 women's and eight men's teams representing elite U20 curlers from across Manitoba.

Team Hayward from the Carman Curling Club won the Junior Women's Championship on Sunday night for the third consecutive year, beating

Team Dundas from the Heather Curling Club 6-5 in a tight game.

"We are excited to represent Manitoba again in Sudbury next month," said skip Shaela Hayward following the team's acceptance of their trophies and winners jackets.

On the men's side, Team Boutet from the Heather Curling Club won 7-4 against Team Sugden from the Morden Curling Club. Both teams advance to the 2026 Canadian Junior Curling Championships in Sudbury, Ontario beginning March 28, with Team Sugden attending as the wildcard team.

"It's been a while since the Morris Curling Club hosted a Curl Manitoba event," noted Cheryl Demarke, club vice-president in reflecting on the weekend. "They've been fantastic to work with and the committee is thankful for the multiple hours put in by the volunteers to ensure this event was as successful as it was."



PHOTOS BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

Above, from left: Carman's Shaela Hayward, India Young, Keira Krahn, Dayna Wall, and coach Ron Westcott won the Junior Women's Curling Championship in Morris on Sunday. Below: Coming in second in the men's event was Morden's Nash Sugden, Tyler Fehr, Tanner Treichel, Ryan Thiessen, and coach Lorne Hamblin.



Mature living

How can couples prepare for the transition to retirement?

Are you and your partner approaching the long-awaited moment of retirement? This major life change calls for careful planning so you can avoid misunderstandings and disappointment. Here's an overview of the best steps to take now to ensure a smooth transition for both of you.

REFLECTION

Have you or your partner been experiencing any frustrations or imbalances that have placed a strain on your relationship in recent years? Now's the time to address them. Take a moment to reflect on your own to identify bad habits you can improve before retirement. If your relationship is struggling, you might consider going together for counseling.

DISCUSSION

An essential step in good planning is to sit down with your significant other and have a frank conversation about what each of you expects from retirement. Do you want to stay active, getting up at dawn to go jogging, or would you rather sleep in? Would you like to have a part-time job or do volunteer work to keep busy? Are you hoping to travel? Gaining clarity about these matters can help you avoid unpleasant surprises.

PLANNING

Retirement involves significant financial changes, especially in your sources of income. To stay on track and avoid regrets, start planning as early as possible. Whether you hope to achieve certain goals or simply want to maintain your desired

standard of living, meet with a professional like a financial advisor for guidance on creating a realistic budget and savings strategy.

Start the conversation about retirement today so you and your partner can enjoy a smooth, rewarding and fulfilling retirement together.

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> HAWKS, FROM PG. 14

riod, but then a five-minute penalty for head contact proved costly to the Lightning as the Hawks rattled off four straight power play goals. That was as close as Pembina Valley could get from there.

Ocean Fehr had a hat trick while Tyson Pethybridge chipped in with a pair of goals for the Hawks, who

also got markers from Carson Hiebert and Mason Leite. Shots on goal were 63-45 in favour of the Hawks, who fired off 38 shots in the third period alone.

Game one with Norman Saturday saw the Hawks breeze to period leads of 4-0 and 8-1 on their way to the 8-2 victory.

Hiebert had a hat trick while Cole Secord added two. Singles came from Leite, Caden McMahon, and Ragnar Gillis.

The Hawks outshot the Northstars 46-37, with Koen Bleznuk earning the win in net with 35 saves.

Gillis led the Hawks in game two Sunday with a hat trick as Pembina Valley took period leads of 1-0 and 3-1 on their way to the 5-1 win. Fehr also

scored along with a goal from Logan Delichte. Brody Peters made 28 saves with Pembina Valley holding a 38-29 edge in shots on goal.

The Hawks were relatively competitive with the Wild through the regular season with two of the four matchups being one-goal games, though Winnipeg won three of the four.



Credit card debt can trap you in a cycle of financial stress as high interest rates compound your balance, making repayment challenging. Paying it off demands financial discipline and smart planning. Here are 9 ways to tackle credit card debt.

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gardless of the interest rates. This can help you build momentum and motivation as you see your debts disappear one by one.

3. **Use the debt avalanche method.** This method involves paying off your debts with the highest interest rates first, regardless of the balance size. This can save you money in the long run, as you'll pay less interest overall.
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rary zero per cent or low introductory rate and transfer your balances to that card, allowing you to make significant headway during the interest-free period.

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6. **Negotiate lower interest rates.** Negotiate lower interest rates with your credit card companies. A history of punctual payments and a good credit score can strengthen your position in these discussions.
7. **Avoid new charges.** Temporarily stop using your credit cards until your existing debt is under control. Adding to your outstanding balance will only make matters worse.

8. **Supplement your income.** Explore ways to increase your income, such as taking up a part-time job, freelancing or selling items you no longer need. Dedicate the extra funds to debt repayment.

9. **Get professional help.** Working with a debt professional, like a financial advisor or credit counsellor can help you develop a debt reduction strategy that works best for you. They may even be able to reach out to your creditors to negotiate a better deal for you.

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Royals one win away after reclaiming series lead

By Annaliese Meier

The Winkler Royals are one win away from advancing after taking a 2-1 lead over the Notre Dame Hawks in their best-of-five South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League quarterfinal series.

Winkler opened the series with a 3-1 victory on home ice Feb. 15 before Notre Dame responded with a 2-1 overtime win Feb. 19. The Royals regained control Saturday, Feb. 21 with a 4-3 decision in Game 3.

Prior to puck drop in Game 3, the league recognized Aaron Lewadniuk, who was presented with the SEMHL West End Tire Top Scorer Award. The honour marked the sixth time in his career he has led the league in scoring, setting a new league record.

In the opener, Winkler struck twice late in the first period and never looked back.

Adam Henry opened the scoring at 14:51 with a shorthanded marker, assisted by Justin Augert. Just over three minutes later, Augert scored what stood as the game-winner at 18:05, finishing a play set up by Lewadniuk and Braden Hildebrand.

Notre Dame cut the lead to 2-1 early in the second period on a goal by Gavin Rondeau, assisted by Dawson Lytle, but Winkler restored its two-goal cushion at 11:57 of the third when TJ Matuszewski converted a feed from Lewadniuk and Marcus Neufeld.

Matthew Thiessen turned aside 32 shots for the win, while Christopher Lesage made 32 saves in the loss. Both teams went 0-for-1 on the power play.

Game 2 shifted to Notre Dame, where the Hawks evened the series with a 2-1 overtime victory Feb. 19.

Lucas Ens opened the scoring at 6:18 of the first period, converting a pass from captain Mitch Dyck. Notre Dame answered in the second when Zander Carels finished a setup from Lytle and Nikita Pecheritsyn.

After a scoreless third period, Vincent Grift scored the overtime winner at the nine-minute mark, assisted by Christian Prejet.

Lesage was sharp in the Hawks' net, stopping 44



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler's Marcus Neufeld and goaltender Matt Thiessen track an incoming shot during SEMHL playoff action against Notre Dame on Saturday night in Winkler.

of 45 shots over 69 minutes. Thiessen made 34 saves in the overtime loss. Winkler went 0-for-3 on the power play, while Notre Dame was 0-for-1.

Game 3 returned to Winkler on Feb. 21, where the Royals built a three-goal cushion in a span of 1:49 in the first period. Henry opened the scoring at 11:31, assisted by Donovan Tanner and Ens. Braden Hildebrand made it 2-0 at 13:07, with Lawson McDonald and Henry drawing assists, before Henry struck again at 13:20 off a setup from Brett Bergman and Tanner.

Matuszewski added what proved to be the game-winner with a shorthanded goal at 6:29 of the second period. Notre Dame responded just 28 sec-

onds later on a goal by Connor Hamonic, and Carels cut the deficit to one later in the frame. Christian Prejet pulled the Hawks within a goal at 16:52 of the third, but Winkler held on for the 4-3 victory.

Thiessen made 31 saves in the Game 3 win, while Lesage stopped 40 shots in defeat. Both teams were again held off the scoreboard on the power play.

Game 4 was scheduled for Feb. 23 in Notre Dame, with Game 5, if necessary, set for Feb. 26 in Winkler.

With the series now tilted in their favour, the Royals will look to close things out in Game 4, while the Hawks aim to force a decisive fifth game.

Flyers down Winnipeg teams

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers added two resounding wins to their record in Manitoba Junior Hockey League action last weekend.

Saturday night saw the team in Winnipeg facing off against the last-place Monarchs.

They overwhelmed their opponents in shots on goal—45-21—and made good on eight of them courtesy of William Lyons, Liam Carlone, and Rhylan Baxter in the first, Carlone, Ethan MacTavish, and Trevor Dalton in the second, and Kade Stringer in the third. Liam Ernst got the shutout in net with 21 saves.

The next night Winkler hosted the second-last place team, the Winnipeg Blizzard.

Liam Russell let two slip past him in net, making 23 saves otherwise, while his teammates fired 56 the other way, connecting on six for the win.

Charles Bernier opened scoring midway through the first. The Blizzard were then up 2-1 in the second before Tanner George scored the tying goal and then Bernier pulled Winkler into the lead. One more from George and two from Connor Riegar rounded out the night in the third.

With that, the Flyers are 31-17-1-2 for the season so far, good for 65 points and fourth place in the MGEU East Division standings.

Whatever happens over the next few weeks, they've already clinched their seat at the playoffs alongside the Niverville Nighthawks in first place (87 points), the Steinbach Piston in second (84 points) and the Portage Terriers in third (65 points).

This week the Flyers host Neepawa Tuesday and Northern Manitoba Friday night. They then kick off the final month of the regular season with an away game against the Blues in Winnipeg Sunday.



SEMHL.NET

Winkler Royals manager Brian Giesbrecht (left) presented Matt Thiessen with the SEMHL Goaltender of the Year award in Winkler on Feb. 15.

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

Wild, Bombers tied 2-2 heading into decisive Game 5

By Annaliese Meier

Wild, Bombers headed to Game 5 after back-to-back overtime thrillers

It will take all five games to decide SEMHL Series D.

The Red River Wild and Morden Bombers are tied 2-2 in their best-of-five playoff series after splitting the first four contests, including a pair of dramatic overtime games.

Red River struck first in the series with a 5-3 home win on Feb. 15.

Alex Tetrault scored twice on the power play, while Brendan Harms delivered a five-point perfor-

mance with two goals and three assists. Tyler Peers tied the game 1-1 on a second-period power play for Morden, and Jay Fehr drew the Bombers even at 2-2 late in the frame.

Harms restored the Wild lead early in the third before Tyler Campbell responded for Morden. Justin Baudry netted the game-winner at 16:49, and Harms added insurance late.

Jayden Catellier made 24 saves for Red River, while Reed Peters stopped 31 shots. The Wild went 2-for-4 on the power play; Morden finished 1-for-4.

Red River followed with a decisive 6-1 road victory on Feb. 17.

Gavin Froese opened the scoring on the power play and added three assists in a four-point night. Harms scored what stood as the winner just 7:31 into the first period. Robert Guimond scored twice, including a short-handed goal, while Tyler Anderson and Troy Lehmann also found the net.

Catellier turned aside 32 of 33 shots, and Peters made 39 saves despite the loss. Red River went 2-for-6 with the man advantage, while killing all five Morden power plays.

Facing elimination, the Bombers answered in Game 3 on Feb. 19 with a 5-4 overtime win in Red River.

Harms recorded a hat trick to give the Wild leads of 1-0, 3-1 and 4-2, but Morden responded each time. Mike Rey tied the game in the opening period, while Tyler Campbell, Collin Shirley and Logan Christensen scored in the second to erase Red River's cushion.

After a scoreless third, Michael Hlady ended it 12:30 into overtime, finishing a play from Tyler Peers and Derek Wiebe. Peters made 30 saves in 73 minutes, while Catellier stopped 38.

Game 4 on Feb. 21 in Morden delivered more late-game drama.

Tyler Friesen opened the scoring midway through the second period, and Froese extended the Wild lead early in the third. But Rey cut the deficit to 2-1 less than a minute later, and Cade Kowalski tied the game with a power-play goal at 18:44.

Kowalski completed the comeback 7:43 into overtime, scoring his second of the night off a feed from Collin Shirley to even the series.

Peters earned the win with 46 saves, while Catellier turned aside 40 shots in the overtime loss.

With the series now tied 2-2, the teams will meet in decisive Game 5 on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. in Red River, with a trip to the next round on the line.

After four games, the margin between the clubs has been razor-thin — and fittingly, it will take one final game to decide it.

Wasylak, Baudry honoured by SEMHL



SEMHL.NET

Red River Wild teammates Jonah Wasylak (left) and Justin Baudry were recognized with major South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League honours for the 2025-26 season. Wasylak was named the SEMHL's Most Valuable Player, while Baudry earned Defenceman of the Year honours. Wild's Brendan Heppner presented both awards.

Female PV Hawks down 0-2 in quarterfinals

By Lorne Stelmach

The female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks' season was on the brink of coming to an end this week after they dropped the first two games of their

best-of-five quarter-final against the Westman Wildcats.

The sixth-place Hawks though gave the third-place Wildcats all they could handle as they were both close games.

Game one Friday in Hartney saw

the Hawks make a comeback only to come up one goal short in the end. Westman held a 5-0 lead after 40 minutes before Pembina Valley fired off five goals in the third period to tie it, but the Wildcats got the winner on a

power play with 3:39 remaining.

Makayla Warnick, Leah Klassen, Mia Brass, Sophia Cox and Rylee Harms scored for the Hawks, who were outshot 33-26.

Game two followed a somewhat similar trend as Pembina Valley had fallen behind 4-1 early in the second but again came back to tie the game before Westman connected for the game-winning goal with 1:41 left.

Cox scored again for the Hawks along with Casey O'Brien, Ariel Rondeau, and Delaney Darby. Westman had a 37-29 edge in shots on goal.

Game three was scheduled for Tuesday in Hartney. Results were not available at press time.

If the Hawks win that night, the series will continue with game four Thursday in Morden and potentially game five Saturday in Harney.

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Lewadniuk makes SEMHL history with sixth scoring title

By Lana Meier

The South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League marked a milestone Saturday night—not only celebrating its 75th season, but also recognizing a record that had stood untouched for more than half a century.

Aaron Lewadniuk was presented with the SEMHL West End Tire Top Scorer Award prior to the Feb. 21 game, marking the sixth time in his career he has led the league in scoring—the most in league history.

The historic achievement comes during the 75th anniversary season of the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League and broke the previous record of five scoring titles held by Harry Buechert, whose crowns came between the 1963-64 and 1974-75 seasons with Altona and Morden.

Lewadniuk captured the 2025-26 scoring race while skating in Winkler colours, adding to a career that has spanned more than a decade of senior hockey production. He previously earned scoring titles in 2012-13, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 (co-leader) and 2018-19.

His accomplishments extend beyond scoring races. Over his career he has also earned league MVP honours, playoff MVP recognition, multiple all-star selections and champion-



The SEMHL scoring leader Aaron Lewadniuk from the Winkler Royals controls despite the defensive efforts of a Notre Dame player Feb. 21.

ships, many of them during his years with the Carman Beavers.

Through 237 career SEMHL games, Lewadniuk has recorded 214 goals and 361 assists for 575 points — an average of 2.4 points per game — maintaining elite offensive output across multiple seasons and teams.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT

Carman Beavers former president and general manager Dennis Young presents Winkler's Aaron Lewadniuk with the SEMHL West End Tire Top Scorer Award prior to the Royals' 4-3 playoff victory over Notre Dame on Feb. 21,

Longevity often proves the greatest challenge in senior hockey, where shorter schedules, physical play and work and family commitments make sustained statistical dominance uncommon. Lewadniuk's ability to remain among the league's most productive players across multiple eras

has separated him from generations of high-scoring talent.

In a season celebrating 75 years of SEMHL history, Saturday's presentation formally established a new league benchmark, cementing Lewadniuk's place among the most accomplished offensive players in league history.

Pembina Valley Twisters snap skid with statement win over Jets

By Annaliese Meier

Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League — The Pembina Valley Twisters closed out a busy three-game stretch with their most complete performance of the season Sunday night, erupting for a 7-2 victory over the Stonewall Jets at the Morris Multiplex.

The win capped a roller-coaster week for Pembina Valley, which dropped a 5-2 decision in Stonewall on Thursday before edging the St. Boniface Riels 4-3 in a shootout Friday.

Pembina Valley now sits at 7-30-2 with 16 points in the MMJHL standings.

After being outshot 42-32 in Thursday's loss at Stonewall Veterans Memorial Arena, the Twisters flipped the script early Sunday, jumping out to a 2-0 first-period lead on goals from Owen Vanrobaeys and Dominic Rooney.

Affiliate Dwight Sawatzky extended the lead in the second period with his first of the night, finishing a play set up by Jack Holmes and Rooney.

The Jets pushed back early in the

third, with Gavin Holod scoring just 40 seconds in and Austin Lourenco adding a power-play marker to cut the deficit to 4-2. But Pembina Valley responded emphatically.

Vanrobaeys netted his second of the game at 2:37, Sawatzky added his second at 12:57, and Ethan Wilde sealed the win with a pair late — including an empty-netter — to give the Twisters their highest goal total of the season.

Vanrobaeys finished with two goals and an assist, Wilde scored twice, and Rooney chipped in a goal and an assist. Sawatzky recorded his first two junior goals in the victory.

Goaltender Myles Ganske was outstanding, stopping 43 of 45 shots as the Jets poured 26 shots on net in the third period alone.

The night before, Pembina Valley earned a dramatic 4-3 shootout win over St. Boniface.

Lucas Thomas opened the scoring for the Twisters in the second period with a penalty-shot goal. Darby Olson and Ketema Wall scored in the third



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Jets forward Adam Newcombe and Twisters Darby Oldson battle for the puck in MMJHL action.

Continued on page 20

Curling champs

By Lorne Stelmach

Annabelle Lanthier is having quite a year in curling, including now having a provincial title to her credit.

Not only is she going to Thompson next week to compete in mixed doubles curling in the Manitoba Winter Games alongside Alexandre Bitton, but Lanthier and Colton Graham recently won the Manitoba high school mixed doubles provincial championship.

"It was pretty sweet," said Lanthier. "Me and my teammate got a wild card spot back when we were in Grade 9. We finished as semi-finalists and everybody just kept going they're young, they're in Grade 9, they'll be back," she recalled.

"We kept missing our chance to go back to provincials until this year, so we finally got to go back," she said. "And with it being our Grade 12 year, we both really wanted to win it. It was kind of a nice way to end off our high school curling career."

Having curled now with Graham, who is also her boyfriend, for four years now gives them good experience with each other, she noted.

"So that helps as well. We know each

other pretty well," said Lanthier, who noted with also playing on a high school team and other competitive curling, they are frequent visitors to the curling rink. "We're probably out on the ice maybe four times a week."

"We don't have anybody holding the broom to aim at," she noted.

Lanthier gave special credit to Graham for working especially hard in their games.

"I stand there and I hold the broom for him, and he will get up and sweep his own rocks," she noted. "And then when I go to throw, he will sweep my rocks too."

The duo went unbeaten in five round robin games at the provincial championships. The playoff bracket saw them first beat Vincent Massey of Brandon 7-1 then West Kildonan 7-5 before winning the title with a 10-7 win against Edward Schreyer

Meanwhile, a Garden Valley Collegiate duo also had a strong showing at the event, with Kamryn Klassen and Nolan Lepp going 4-1 through the round robin before losing 6-4 to Edward Schreyer in the first playoff game.

Meanwhile, at the provincial high school curling championships in Win-



MHSAA PHOTO

Morden Collegiate's Annabelle Lanthier and Colton Graham, shown here with coach Gerald Graham, brought home the mixed doubles curling championship banner from provincials recently.

nipeg, the Nellie McClung boys team skipped by Tyson Griffin with Joshua Sanders, Tyrell Gerbrandt, Soren Reid, and Ryder Davis went 3-0 in the round robin before falling 6-3 to Lorette in the opening playoff game.

The Morden Thunder boys skipped by Jesse Fehr with Jakob Harder, Andrew Rothenburger, Tommy Rothenburger, and Birch Evans Froese went 2-1 in the round robin but lost 7-3 to Dauphin in the second playoff game

before rebounding to win the third-place game 6-1 over Beliveau.

On the girls side, the W.C. Miller team that includes Ellie Friesen, London Friesen, Myla Froese, Emily Hiebert, and Sydney Hiebert went 2-1 in the round robin. They then beat Hamiota 10-9 in the playoff opener but then lost 6-5 to Swan Valley and fell 8-4 in the third-place game against Westwood.

Mudbugs' season ends in HTJHL play-in loss

By Annaliese Meier

The Red River Mudbugs' season came to an end Wednesday night with a 4-1 loss to the East St. Paul Gators in the deciding game of their best-of-three Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League Play-In Series.

East St. Paul claimed the series 2-1, bouncing back from a Game 2 loss to win twice at St. Jean Arena and advance in the playoffs.

The Gators set the tone early in Game 3.

Dillon Tower opened the scoring at 7:33 of the first period, finishing a play from Adam Frick and Reis Mediros. Just over four minutes later, Frick scored what stood as the game-winner, converting a feed from Eric Geirnaert to give East St. Paul a 2-0 lead.

Tower struck again midway through the second period, scoring his second of the night off a setup from Frick and Caleb Hofer to stretch the lead to 3-0.

Red River got on the board at 15:04 of the second when Ty Tarnick buried a pass from Xander Dyck and Gavin Hildebrandt to cut the deficit to 3-1

and give the Mudbugs a spark heading into the intermission.

However, East St. Paul responded late in the period. Zane Menard scored on the power play at 19:16, with assists from Jonah Chaulk and Aidan Park, restoring the three-goal cushion at 4-1.

Neither team scored in the third period, though the game grew increasingly physical. The Mudbugs were assessed multiple penalties in the final frame, including a game misconduct

to Eli Bergman, finishing the night with 34 penalty minutes.

Red River went 0-for-6 on the power play, while East St. Paul capitalized once on three opportunities.

Connor Parago made 36 saves in the loss for the Mudbugs. At the other end, Preston Laschyn turned aside 32 shots to earn the win.

The series opened Feb. 12 with a 9-3 East St. Paul victory in St. Jean before the Mudbugs answered with a 4-2 road win Feb. 14 to even the series

and force the decisive third game.

Despite the elimination, Red River showed resilience in battling back to extend the series, but ultimately could not solve Laschyn or overcome East St. Paul's early push in the deciding game.

With the loss, the Mudbugs' 2025-26 HTJHL campaign comes to a close, while the Gators move on in the post-season.

> TWISTERS, FROM PG. 19

as Pembina Valley erased a late deficit to force overtime.

After a scoreless extra frame, Thomas and Owen Vanrobayeys scored in the shootout, while Ganske turned aside two of three Riels shooters to secure the win. He finished with 31 saves on 34 shots through overtime.

The week began with a 5-2 loss to Stonewall on Thursday.

Ayden Lazarenko gave the Twisters an early 1-0 lead, but the Jets answered with first-period goals from Gavin Holod and Dylan Vitelli to take control. Alex Kaczorowski, Kai Smith and Brody Stovin added to the lead, with three of Stonewall's goals coming on the power play.

Ethan Wilde scored his eighth of the season late in the third period for Pembina Valley. Rowan Cherkas made 37 saves in the loss as the Jets outshot the Twisters 42-32.

Pembina Valley returns home to the Morris MultiPlex for three straight games:

- Feb. 25 vs. the Transcona Railer Express (8:15 p.m.)
- Feb. 27 vs. the St. James Jr. Canucks (8 p.m.)
- March 1 vs. the St. Vital Jr. Victorias (7 p.m.)

They'll then travel to St. Boniface on March 2 for a rematch with the Riels.

With the playoffs out of reach, the Twisters will look to build on Sunday's offensive outburst and strong goaltending as they close out the regular season.

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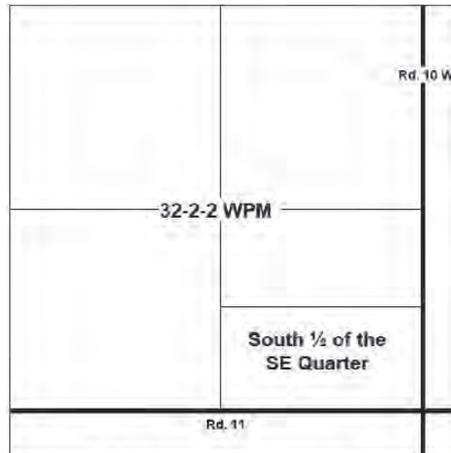
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3. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
4. Possession to be April 1, 2026.
5. Tender must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of \$10,000.00 (cheque made payable to Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office).

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In accordance with Section 36 of *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act* (MCSBEA), the City of Morden Voters List is open for changes or revisions.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters List if he or she is:

- 1) A Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
- 2) A resident of the City of Morden for at least six (6) months prior to election day, OR a registered owner of land in the City of Morden for at least six (6) months prior to election day.

Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the Local Authority of the City of Morden can have his or her name added to the Voters List or have any information about the voter on the Voters List corrected.

In addition, any person can request to have his or her name and address obscured from the Voters List. A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. In a civic election, that person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the Senior Election Official, in person, by e-mail, fax or mail to:

City of Morden
100-195 Stephen Street
Morden Manitoba R6M 1V3
Phone: 204-822-4434
Fax: 204-822-6494
E-mail: SEO@morden.ca

The next General Election takes place October 28, 2026.

Brian Nedohin
Senior Election Official

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The *Winkler Morden* **Voice**

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EMPLOYMENT

CAREER OPPORTUNITY AT



COMMERCIAL SITE SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of and experience in the construction industry including the ability to read construction drawings and specifications.
- The ability to understand all aspects of the project scope.
- The ability to coordinate multiple scopes of work with sub-trades on a construction site to ensure productivity.
- Successfully supervised a construction workforce.
- Journeyman Certificate or Experience is preferred.
- Ability to demonstrate conflict resolution skills, problem solving abilities, and professional judgment.
- Communicates with the project manager/project coordinator in all aspects of the project to ensure final project completion that is on time and on budget.
- Effectively communicates with all sub-trades on site to ensure that performance, productivity, quality, and safety requirements are being met.
- Basic computer skills
- Successful candidate will need to have the flexibility to be away from home
- Company truck and cell phone will be provided
- Class 5 License

This position is a full-time opportunity with competitive wages and benefits package. Please specify your wage expectations.

Resumes should be forwarded to cara@lclconstruction.net

Applications forms can be found on www.lclconstruction.net



PUBLIC NOTICE



The Winkler Centennial Golf Course intends to conduct its

Pesticide Control Program

from April 1, 2026 to November 15, 2026.

The Program is to control Turf Diseases, and Noxious Weeds within the property.

The Control Products include:

Chlorothalonil, Fludioxonil, Propiconazole, Fluxapyroxad, Polyoxin, Tebuconazole,

Trifloxystrobin, Glyphosate, 2,4-D Mecoprop-P, dicamba, Mefentrifluconazole, Carfentrazone-ethyl, Polyoxind Zin Salt, fluxastrobin, pyraclostrobin

The public may send written submissions or objections within 15 days of publication of the notice to the department below.

Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Approvals Branch
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard
Winnipeg, MB, R3Y 0L6
pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca

FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION with an EMPLOYMENT/CAREERS AD in



Call: 204-467-5836 or Email: ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC HEARING
2026 Financial Plan**

Public notice is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the City of Winkler will present its 2026 Financial Plan at a public hearing to be held on:

**March 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
City of Winkler Council Chambers,
185 Main Street, Winkler, MB**

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan. Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available to the public on March 17, 2026.



CITY OF WINKLER
185 Main Street, Winkler, MB, R6W 1B4
204-325-9524 | 204-325-5915

EMPLOYMENT

CAREER OPPORTUNITY AT



COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION LABOURER

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of and experience in the construction industry including the ability to read construction drawings and specifications an asset but not required.
- The ability to operate equipment (Training will be provided)
- The ability to operate hand tools
- Physical strength to load/unload construction materials and move them as needed
- Ability to help with various duties throughout the course of the project
- Familiar with site safety procedures (training will be provided)
- Ability to work in different climates
- Ability to demonstrate mature professional judgement
- Communicates with the site supervisor to ensure tasks are completed as instructed
- Basic computer skills
- Successful candidate will need to have the flexibility to be away from home.
- Reliability and Punctuality is a requirement
- Adaptability and problem solving would be an asset
- Attention to detail
- Class 5 License

This position is a full-time opportunity with competitive wages and benefits package. Please specify your wage expectations.

Resumes should be forwarded to cara@lclconstruction.net

Applications forms can be found on www.lclconstruction.net



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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of Anne Neufeld and the Estate of Henry Neufeld, both late of the City of Winkler, Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estates, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at 326 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1T5, within four (4) weeks of the date of this publication.

PKF LAWYERS
Attn: Stéphane Warnock
Solicitor for the Estate

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OBITUARY



John Sawatzky
August 18, 1929 – February 20, 2026

John Sawatzky, age 96 years, of Altona, Manitoba, passed away on Friday, February 20, 2026 at the Altona Memorial Health Centre. He is survived by his children Gloria Heinrichs, Valerie (Shaun) McMahon, Emily (Ken) Krahn, Tim (Pamela) Sawatzky, and Mark (Irma) Sawatzky, as well as 15 grandchildren and spouses, and 31 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife Toots, son-in-law Grant Heinrichs, one grandchild Natalie Heinrichs, and two great-grandchildren Deklyn and Wyatt Sawatzky.

A celebration of John's life will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. at the Victory Family Church, Altona. A private interment will be held prior to the service. Viewing will be at Wiebe Funeral Home Altona on Thursday, March 5 from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. and on Friday, March 6 from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon.

Donations in memory of John may be made to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Altona
In care of arrangements

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Notice is hereby given, in compliance with the Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Regulation, that the Credit Union will be closing the Plum Coulee branch located at: 257 Main Avenue, Plum Coulee, MB. R0G 1R0.

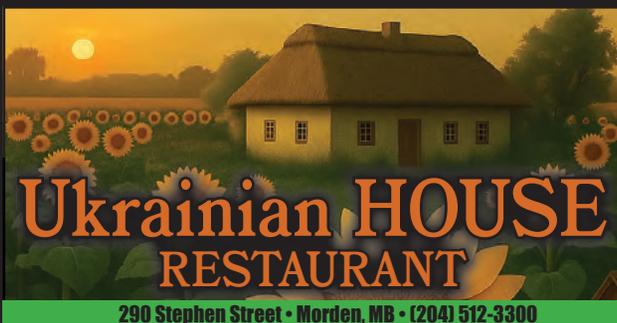
The branch will close effective October 21, 2026.

The Plum Coulee branch members will be consolidated with 295 Main Street, Winkler. Members can also bank at any of our other branch locations throughout Manitoba with no changes of membership number or account numbers.

DATED this 26th day of February, 2026
ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED
By order of the Board of Directors



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FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER R.M. OF DAUPHIN

Parcel	Legal Description	Status of Title	Roll No.	Acres per Manitoba Assessment
Parcel 1	THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 7-24-20 WPM EXC FIRSTLY: WCW PLAN 23537 DLTO AND SECONDLY: THEREOUT ALL MINES AND MINERALS VESTED IN THE CROWN (MANITOBA) BY THE REAL PROPERTY ACT	3082862	71500.000	159.75 acres
Parcel 2	THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 8-24-20 WPM EXC ROAD PLAN 30845 DLTO SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATION AS TO MINES AND MINERALS SET OUT IN O/S INST. 42213 DLTO	3082861	71900.000	159.91 acres
Parcel 3	THE NLY 264 FEET OF THE WLY 498 FEET OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 10-24-20 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 10-24-20 WPM EXC THE NLY 264 FEET OF THE WLY 498 FEET SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIOES CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	3036632 3082858	72800.000	160.00 acres
Parcel 4	THE S 1/2 OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 8-24-20 WPM EXC WCW PLAN 23537 DLTO SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AS TO MINES MINERALS AND OTHER MATTERS SET OUT IN DEED 4787 DLTO	3082859	72000.000	78.82 acres
Parcel 5	THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 17-24-20 WPM EXC ALL THAT PORTION OF SLY 250 FEET PERP WHICH LIES WEST OF A LINE DRAWN NLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SAID 1/4 SECTION FROM A POINT IN SAME DISTANT ELY THEREON 350 FEET FROM THE SW CORNER OF SAID 1/4 SECTION SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIOES CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	3082856	76150.000	157.99 acres
Parcel 6	THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 21-24-20 WPM SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIOES CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	3082860	77900.000	160.00 acres
Parcel 7	ALL THAT PORTION OF SLY 250 FEET PERP OF SE 1/4 17-24-20 WPM WHICH LIES WEST OF A LINE DRAWN NLY AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SAID 1/4 SECTION FROM A POINT IN SAME DISTANT ELY THEREON 350 FEET FROM THE SW CORNER OF SAID 1/4 SECTION SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIOES CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	3082855	76100.000	2.01 acres

SCHEDULE "A" Property Details

Buildings and structures situated on and included as part of Parcel 5: Aeration on bins, propane heated approximately 40' by 80' shop (of which approximately 40' by 40' is heated) and 50' by 100' machine shed. See picture below.

House situated on and included as part of Parcel 7: bungalow measuring approximately 1482 sq feet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, kitchenette in basement, with attached garage. See picture below.



CONDITIONS OF TENDERS AND TERMS OF SALE: All Tenders are subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Tenders may be for either or all properties listed in the above table.
2. Only unconditional Tenders will be accepted.
3. Tenders shall be submitted with a \$25,000.00 deposit (certified cheque or bank draft) payable to Ammeter Law. If a Tender is accepted the deposit will become non-refundable. If the successful tenderer fails to complete the purchase for any reason, the vendor shall retain the deposit as liquidated damages and not as a penalty. Unsuccessful tenderers shall have their deposit returned within 20 days.
4. The closing date for the lands identified as Parcel 1, Parcel 2, Parcel 3, Parcel 4, Parcel 5 and Parcel 6 which shall no later than April 3, 2026, or as may otherwise be agreed upon between the parties, and the closing date for the lands identified in Parcel 7 shall be no later than November 1, 2026, or as may otherwise be agreed upon between the parties.
5. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid on trust conditions acceptable to the vendor's lawyer, on the closing date.
6. All adjustments for property taxes shall be made as of January 1, 2026. The purchaser will be responsible for all 2026 property taxes.
7. If part of the purchase price is to be paid from a new mortgage, payment may be delayed until such time as the mortgage registration is complete, and any amount paid after the closing date shall bear interest at the greater of the Purchaser's mortgage rate or 10% per year, from the closing date until paid in full.
8. The Purchaser will pay any applicable GST or provide an acceptable undertaking to self-assess GST and to indemnify the Vendor for the same, as applicable.
9. Tenders will be held in confidence and not released publicly.
10. Highest or any tender received will not necessarily be accepted.
11. The Purchaser is to rely entirely on their own knowledge and inspection of the property independent of any representations made by, or on behalf of, the Vendor.
12. The particulars and the details with respect to the structures situated on Parcel 5 and the residence situated and of Parcel 7 are listed below in Schedule "A" (the "Property Details").
13. The successful tenderer of the property identified as Parcel 5 acknowledges and agrees that the purchase agreement to be entered into by the parties following acceptance of the tender shall contain a covenant contemplating that the vendor shall be permitted to access the property following the closing date to remove personal items situated on the property and in the shop, barn and outbuildings situated thereon, the details of which shall be further set out in the purchase agreement.

Tenders will be received through to 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026. Tenders are to be sent to:

c/o Ammeter Law
117 Victor Lewis Drive, Winnipeg Manitoba R3P 1J6
Attention: Samuel Guertin
or electronically by email to sam@ammeterlaw.com.

For more information, contact Samuel Guertin at 204-594-3094 or at sam@ammeterlaw.com.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Sick Day Chicken Noodle Soup

pepper, to taste
 chicken bouillon cubes (optional)
 4 cups dry egg noodles
 3 cups cooked rotisserie chicken

In large stockpot over medium-high heat, saute butter, celery and carrots 3 minutes. Add garlic and cook 30 seconds.

Add chicken stock or broth and season with rosemary, thyme and crushed red pepper. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Taste and add chicken bouillon cubes, if desired, for flavor.

Bring to boil. Add noodles and cook until al dente. Remove from heat once noodles are tender.

Add chicken. Taste and adjust seasoning as desired.

Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Recipe adapted from Tastes Better from Scratch

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Servings: 8

1/2 tablespoon butter

2 ribs celery, diced

3-4 large carrots, diced

1 clove garlic, minced

10 cups chicken stock or broth

1/8 teaspoon dried rosemary

1/8 teaspoon dried thyme

1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

salt, to taste



Air Fryer Veggie Rice Bites

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
 1/8 teaspoon salt
 barbecue sauce or ranch dressing (optional)

Preheat air fryer to 390 F. Heat rice according to package directions.

In blender, roughly chop vegetables.

In bowl, combine vegetables, egg, cheddar cheese, garlic powder and salt. Freeze 5 minutes to slightly firm up.

Divide rice mixture into four portions and hand form into mounds.

Air-fry 8 minutes, or until golden brown. Serve with barbecue sauce or ranch dressing for dipping, if desired.

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 9 minutes

Servings: 1-2

1 Minute Butter & Sea Salt Jasmine Rice Cup

1/4 cup frozen mixed vegetables, thawed

1 egg

1/4 cup cheddar cheese, shredded



Simple Chicken Stir-Fry

Heat rice according to package directions.

In large skillet or wok over medium-high heat, heat sesame oil. Add chicken and saute 6 minutes until chicken is evenly browned and cooked through.

Add mixed vegetables to skillet and stir-fry 4 minutes, or until tender but still crisp.

Add cooked sticky rice to skillet. Pour in soy sauce and mix thoroughly, ensuring rice is evenly coated and heated through.

Remove from heat, stir in chopped green onions; garnish with sesame seeds, if desired; and serve hot.

Tips: Chicken can be substituted for shrimp or tofu. Frozen vegetables can be used in place of fresh; cook 5 minutes, or until cooked through.

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 2-4

2 Minute Sticky Rice Cups

2 tablespoons sesame oil

1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into thin strips

1 cup mixed vegetables

3 tablespoons soy sauce

2 green onions, chopped

1 tablespoon sesame seeds (optional)

Ask the Money Lady

Dear Money Lady: My nine-year-old daughter has MS. I read your newspaper column about government programs. It's not exactly easy to make sense of all the information out there. What are the first steps I should take? Thanks, Marlene

Great to hear you're looking to take advantage of what's available to you and your family, Marlene! The most important first step is getting the Disability Tax Credit (DTC), which helps those people living with disabilities and their families reduce the income tax they pay each year. It's also the first step to becoming eligible for important supports like the Registered Disability Savings Account (RDSP) that offers government contributions of up to \$90,000.

To be eligible for the DTC, your daughter's medical practitioner must certify that her disability causes a severe and prolonged impairment in one of the following categories, or she has significant limitations in two or more categories, or she receives therapy to support a vital function. Categories include walking, mental function, dressing, feeding, elimination, hearing, speaking, vision or a life-sustaining ongoing therapy.

Today, over 21 million Canadians live with a medical condition that may potentially qualify for the disability tax credit, but most are unaware of this benefit. In fact, according to a 2025 survey shared with me by Concentra Trust, 23% of caregivers incorrectly believed that DTC eligibility was based on having a specific diagnosis they didn't meet the criteria for. The reality is that the DTC eligibility doesn't require a specific diagnosis but rather considers other restrictions or limitation factors that are certified by a medical practitioner.

With the DTC, you can then open the Registered Disability Saving Plan (RDSP), which I wrote about in my previous column. To recap: the RDSP is a tax-deferred savings plan for Canadians and their families living with disabilities that can provide up to \$90,000 in government-contribution grants and bonds. Of this, \$20,000 in bonds does not require any contribution for beneficiaries from low-to-modest



income households – which means it's worth opening even if you have nothing to contribute.

While RDSPs are offered by many financial institutions, I always recommend going with a team that knows RDSPs, which are often not as well-understood as other registered plans like the RRSP or TFSA. Concentra Trust, a reputed provider of RDSPs, has an experienced, knowledgeable team who can help you with the ins and outs of opening an RDSP. If you are a member of a credit union, that's also a great way to explore the RDSP given their community involvement and understanding of their members.

Other benefits worth exploring include the Canada Disability Benefit and the Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit (CPP-D). For any readers caring for a child with a severe disability, look into the Child Disability Benefit (CDB) if you haven't already. It's also a good idea to apply for any provincial benefits such as the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), the Alberta Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) or the British Columbia Persons with Disabilities benefit (PWD). I hope more Canadians, like you, explore and take advantage of these benefits if they are dealing with a disability.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,
 Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer and Syndicated Money Coach on BNN Bloomberg. Christine is also part of the everyday lineup on CTV Your Morning in every province. No AI. Follow Christine on Instagram @askthemoneylady, or on Facebook (Christine Ibbotson)

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