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The Altona Curling Club marked Curling Day in Canada Saturday with a free Family Funspiel. Here, Hunter Friesen, 8, sweeps alongside grandparents Pat and Daryl Friesen. For the full story, see Pg. 11.

Family funspiel

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

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getinformed

Gala honours those who made new library a reality

By Lori Penner

The South Central Regional Library (SCRL) Altona branch hosted a gala last week at their new site in the Altona Mall.

The event was held in honour of the donors and their fundraising efforts who helped make the dream to relocate the library a reality in less than two years.

SCRL board member Laverne Siemens attributed it all to the community rallying behind the idea in a big way.

"We've got the parks, we've got the paths, we've got the trails, we've got the arenas. All of these things have been done because people from the community got together and made

it happen," he said. "Yes, we had provincial funding and that's great, but in the end, it really requires local people to dig in, to get the job done to raise the funds for that."

The move to the mall was completed last August and has already resulted in a huge increase in traffic at the library.

The door count has doubled, and circulation of items has increased by 8,000. Internet use has also doubled, and community engagement has grown exponentially, with four times the number of previous social media engagements and event attendance.

These increases are higher than any of the other five SCRL branches coming out of the pandemic, making it clear the move to the mall space was



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The South Central Regional Library held a gala event last week to honour those who contributed to the Altona branch relocation. From left: Library fundraising committee member Guy Mullen, Altona branch administrator Rachael Friesen, fundraising chair Jordan Siemens, committee member Amanda Wright, and SCRL director Cathy Ching.

the right one.

Siemens extended gratitude to the library staff for being such a big part of this success.

"Every one of you stepped up and made that fund raising a real thing," he said. "A former president of the Library of New York City said, 'the most valuable asset of the library leaves at the end of the day, and that's the staff.' I just want to endorse that and thank you for that."

Siemens also thanked the Town of Altona, the Municipality of Rhineland, and the SCRL for their part in the relocation, saying that he could not overstate how vital their support was.

Along with gratitude to the donors, SCRL director Cathy Ching also acknowledged the patrons, who are the mainstay of any library.

"You people love this library. It's amazing to see because they walk straight to that desk, and I know the conversation isn't going to be about fines or overdue. It's like, 'tell me what I want to read next'. The staff here have created a lovely library."

Fundraising chair Jordan Siemens also thanked all who contributed, and reflected on the important role libraries play in bringing people together.

"They are places to connect people

to information and to connect people to people. They are places for stories to be exchanged and to learn about our world, to learn about different perspectives. They are places where young and old can brush past each other in the aisles, where newcomers and long-time settlers and Indigenous residents can make eye contact, maybe even share a brief story with each other while they're here."

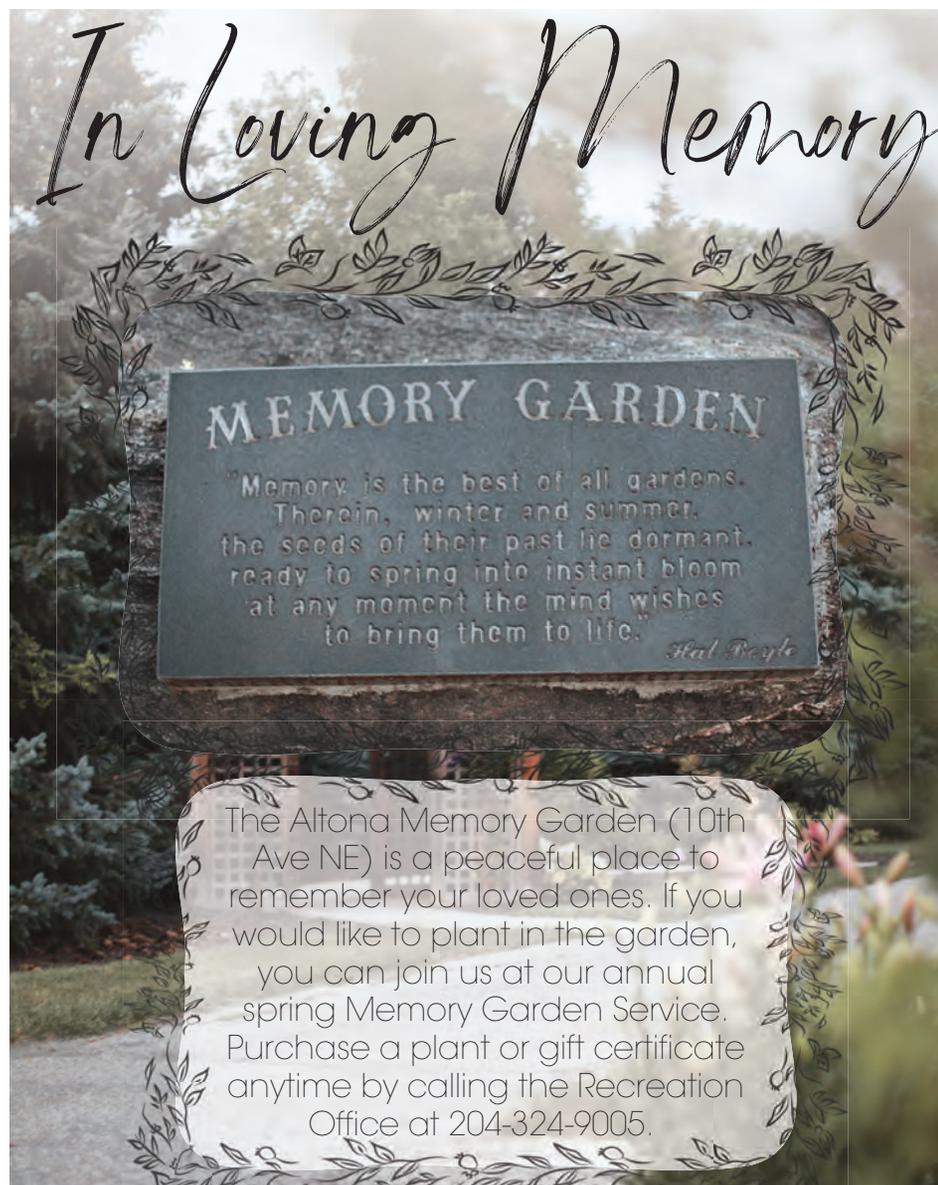
Siemens believes libraries are arguably more important today than ever before.

"There was a time when many people were convinced that information was going to be so available

online, on eBooks, on social media, and on digital formats that libraries would be irrelevant. Thankfully for Altona, books are doing better than ever. People are recognizing the limits of personal algorithm information, and that maybe the wild west of the internet isn't the be all and end all, and yes, there is considerable pleasure to be found in reading.

"In an era of rising costs, having computer, internet, learning and entertainment resources available at no cost to the user, is a huge indicator of our community's belief in the value of knowledge and understanding."

"THE COMMUNITY GOT TOGETHER AND MADE IT HAPPEN."



Standing with Ukraine

A group of area residents gathered Friday evening outside the Morden Civic Centre for a candlelight vigil in support of Ukraine. Marking one year since the start of the war, the rally honored those who have given their lives, organizer Yevgeniya Tatarenko shared on social media. "I'm waiting for everyone next time at the rally in honour of the victory of Ukraine in this terrible war," she added.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Over 200 walkers set out from Central Station Saturday to raise funds for programs supporting those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in our community. Below: The Winkler Co-op team had some fun with their Community Crew “vehicle”.



“Coldest Walk” smashes fundraising goals

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Central Station Community Centre’s very first Coldest Night of the Year walk was a smashing success in Winkler Saturday night.

The inaugural event blew past the initial fundraising goal of \$40,000 to bring in a whopping \$95,170 and counting.

“There is still stuff coming in,” Central Station executive director Bev Wiebe shared on Monday. “It’s crazy.”

When they decided to take part in the nationwide campaign to raise money in support of those experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness, they never imagined how much it would resonate with people.

A total of 203 walkers on 28 teams came out to brave the cold and walk 2 km or 5 km routes through town.

All those walkers collected pledges, raising 237 per cent of what Central Station had cautiously hoped for with this event.

“It’s a shock. We’re overwhelmed,” Wiebe said. “But we shouldn’t be surprised. We live in such a generous community.”

The funds will go a long way towards helping Central Station help the most vulnerable in our community.

“It’s earmarked for issues of hunger and homelessness here,” Wiebe said. “So it’ll go towards our programming that support those who are precariously housed or on the verge of homelessness, our support programs such as our Community Action Training program ... and community events like the Café 545 weekly supper where we’re building community and filling empty stomachs.”

Perhaps equally as valuable, though, is the fact the walk got people talking about issues that often go unseen in a smaller community like Winkler, like

homelessness and food insecurity.

“We do have a lot of need, and a lot of it is not evident,” Wiebe said. “People are surprised when they hear that we do have it because they don’t see [people living in] a bus shelter or on the streets.”

“But if you spend any amount of time with any of our staff or volunteers here you will know that we see people who are facing homelessness every day come through our doors for a bowl of soup or for extra supports, looking for resources.”

The teams gathered inside the community centre just before setting out on the walk, and then returned there for a meal of chili after it was done.

Among them, the “Sole Sisters” team made up of Wendy Loewen, Ashly Dyck, Cindy Kalansky, and Moyra Vallely were psyched to have more than doubled their fundraising goal of \$500, bringing in \$1,150.

“We hear about all the good work that they’re doing here [at Central Station] and really wanted to just come out and support Bev and also the community,” said Loewen.

“I don’t think people are aware of the extent to which there is not enough housing for people here,” noted Vallely. “That’s definitely a conversation that’s needs to be happening to make affordable housing accessible to everyone.”

Winkler Co-op was one of several local businesses to put in a team.

“This is exactly what we do,” said captain Michelle Sawatzky. “It’s a great community initiative and we’re so happy to support it.”

Their team of eight brought in \$3,600 for the cause.

“We’re very proud of everybody’s contribution,” Sawatzky said. “Working together, we can do great things.”

Central Station intends to host the walk again next year.



Sole Sisters—Moyra Vallely, Ashly Dyck, Wendy Loewen, and Cindy Kalansky—pose for a team photo before setting out on the Coldest Night of the Year walk.

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Alzheimer Soc. welcomes new regional coordinator

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Rebecca Atkinson is the new regional coordinator for the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba's south central office.

Atkinson, who started a few weeks ago, comes to the job with a background in physiotherapy and a keen interest in helping make life better for people living with dementia.

"I had my first experiences working with people living with dementia as a student in 2002," she says. "I was shocked at how limited our health system was in supporting these families and knew I wanted to help."

Atkinson today is a practicing physiotherapist with experience working in personal care homes, the acute and rehabilitative units at Boundary Trails Health Centre, and also in the community through Morden Physiotherapy.

Throughout her career, she has focused on helping people suffering from dementia or brain injuries live their fullest lives by facilitating an environment that supports and nurtures them.

"The environment becomes so important, the people around them become so critical, and then those engagements with the person with dementia can make all the difference," she says.

Atkinson also comes to the job with a personal view on the impact a dementia diagnosis can have on a family. Her grandmother suffered from Alzheimer's disease, she shares, so she's able to "relate to clients on that level."

The Alzheimer Society's south central office, which is located in the Buhler Active Living Centre in Winkler, offers programs and supports to patients, caregivers, and families across southern Manitoba.

"We are here to give direct client support," Atkinson says. "It's supportive counselling,—we're going to hear your story, we're going to validate what you're going through, and then we're going to work with you on accessing the resources that are out there."

Atkinson urges people to give her a

call or stop by if they'd like to learn more about what supports are available. She's in the office Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

She also hopes to empower and educate the community at large.

"You might not come into the office with dementia or be touched by it, but maybe you're like, 'Hey, I run a restaurant here and we know our main clientele is seniors. How do we do better at being dementia-friendly?'"

Along those lines, Atkinson is available to give presentations to any group or business interested in learning more about making the community one that actively works to integrate people living with the disease into society, allowing them to continue doing the things they love for as long as possible.

LOTS ON THE SCHEDULE

A few weeks into the job and Atkinson certainly already has a lot on her plate.

Coming up, the south central office is hosting a Dementia Friendly Communities workshop from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Morden Activity Centre March 15. The event is open to the general public, care partners, people living with dementia, and service workers.

Minds in Motion sessions are also slated to get underway in both Winkler and Altona next month.

The eight-week program is designed for people with early to moderate signs of dementia to attend with a family member or friend. Each session features gentle chair fitness exercises, other engaging activities, and coffee and conversations.

"It's a place to have fun," says Atkinson. "Everyone there is in the same boat, so there's a lot of understanding there ... it's safe space."

Learn more at alzheimer.mb.ca/mindsinmotion.

Also in April, Atkinson is teaming up with the Buhler Active Living Centre and the Winkler Senior Centre to host the Navigating Care Options expo. More details are expected to be released soon for the April 15 event.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Rebecca Atkinson has joined the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba team as the new south central regional coordinator based out of Winkler.

Finally, there is an in-person support group for care partners that meets in Carman monthly.

For details on all these events and programs, call 204-325-5634 or email ratkinson@alzheimer.mb.ca.

Atkinson also encourages people to contact her if they'd like to talk about offering more in their area.

"If you're wanting resources in your community or you feel like you could host something, please reach out."

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EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

• DON'T MIND THE MESS

What a true winner looks like

Years ago, during the heat of "Olympic Fever" my son's Grade Two class had a skating party.

There was a mixture of talent on the ice that day. Some of the kids had clearly taken lessons or played hockey, and studiously demonstrated their stops and spins with ill-concealed pride.

Others were still a bit shaky on their blades, clinging tenaciously to a parent, or a teacher's mittened hand. My son was still learning, and like many kids, his training consisted of the occasional jaunt to the local arena or the pond near our farm. He gingerly stepped out onto the ice, and his small feet had a mind of their own. He seemed propelled by

his flailing arms, and I almost expected him to take flight. Suddenly, both his feet were up in the air. Lying like a slug on the ice, he slowly rolled over and nonchalantly shoved a snow-encrusted mitten into his mouth. Was he injured? No. Just thirsty.

He struggled to stand and joined the pint-sized chain of parkas and toques sweeping by in its endless, counter-clockwise circuit around the frozen surface. His head was low, he lost his grasp, spun out of control and... smack! He careened into the unyielding boards and slumped onto the ice, still smiling merrily as the other kids sailed past him. No points for technique, but gold for attitude.

It was a happy day. The skating party gave him a chance to show off to his peers, and things were going well. No broken bones, no concussion. He was taking things at his own pace, unfazed.

Then one of the teachers called out, "Hey everybody! We're going to have a race. Anyone who wants to participate, line up beside me. Once around

the rink."

My son, distracted by the announcement, left another polished stripe across the ice with the seat of his ski pants. Some of the kids scurried off, stuck to the boards like shy wallflowers in an arctic ballroom. But there was my boy, calming lining up with a group of competitors who could skate circles around him.

"One, two, three... go!" the teacher cried.

One youngster quickly took the lead, leaving a scrambling clot of frantic, red-cheeked skaters in his wake. Far behind was my son, floundering and fluttering like a kite ribbon.

The winner was announced long before he even made it to the other end of the arena. He hesitated for just a second, realizing he was last, but patiently ambled on. In the end, puffing, panting, and soaked from about seven wipeouts, he completed the circle, lurching towards his classmates with his trademark dimpled grin.

Continued on page 7



By **Lori Penner**

Letters

CREEK WALKING PATH IS MOST APPRECIATED

I would like to thank the individuals who have groomed the path along Dead Horse Creek this winter.

I have enjoyed walking along the creek both from the Morden Park to the golf course and from Living-

stone Park northeast to 1st St.

Walking along the creek takes you into a quiet, peaceful environment without having to travel far.

We have seen groups of Cedar Waxwings and caught glimpses of both Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers.

Having this trail groomed makes

it much more accessible. Cycling along the path with a fat bike also looks like fun.

This type of recreational opportunity helps us get through the long winter. Thank you.

**Brian Duff,
Morden**

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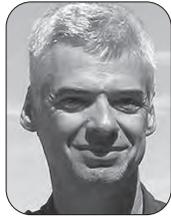
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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Morden council approves 7% tax increase for '23

By Lorne Stelmach

The financial plan for the City of Morden is bumping up spending by 23 per cent, and it will mean an increase of just under seven per cent in municipal taxes for 2023.

The budget approved by council Monday evening is one that exercises some foresight in tackling some larger, longterm capital projects but in a responsible manner, suggested Mayor Brandon Burley.

"It's a budget that relates to our growth and commits to not, I guess, first of all, not creating problems for ourselves down the road," he said.

"There's a good number of budget items where the decision was ultimately made spend more now and reduce the total number of capital projects in order to ensure that we weren't just creating another problem for five to 15 years down the road," Burley noted. "We have the belief if we're not taking on these capital projects now, we're creating additional demands for resources for the city down the road."

The budget means the municipal portion of a tax bill on a home assessed at \$250,000 will increase by \$144.99 to \$2,284.59—a 6.7 per cent increase including the garbage fee.

It is part of an operating budget that

increases by 23 per cent to over \$20.6 million from \$16.7 million in the 2022 budget. The preliminary forecast for the 2024 budget though does set out a decrease back down to \$16.2 million.

Council also approved a capital budget of almost \$10.6 million as well as a utilities budget of over \$6.7 million connected to water and sewer related costs with \$4 million for capital costs.

Burley said a lot of work went into reigning in expenditures wherever they could in order to be able to tackle some of the larger capital projects.

"The amount of paring down that occurred was substantial, and the ability of our directors to work within what we're able to provide them I think was significant as well as their creativity.

"Overall, I'm proud that we're in a position where wastewater is getting funded, and the Pembina River diversion project is moving ahead ... we can now calculate and project where we're going, and we can start building the infrastructure for that," Burley continued.

"I don't want to call it a problem solving budget, but in many ways it is," he said. "I think this budget starts to cast a much longer range view ... the things we're doing this year we're going to be still using in 40 years, so

"IT'S A BUDGET THAT RELATES TO OUR GROWTH AND COMMITS TO NOT ... CREATING PROBLEMS FOR OURSELVES DOWN THE ROAD."

I really think it is a forward-looking budget.

"The first budget meeting we were going to be doubling taxes ... so to be able to get it down to where we are today is I think something the organization can be pretty proud of," the mayor added.

"Looking at what we've had to cut from the budget, this is a fifth budget in a row where we're below the provincial and the federal rate of inflation," he noted. "I'm not convinced there is much that could be cut departmentally anymore in terms of operating. I think we're pretty lean."

A significant item in the budget sees the transfers from reserves increasing by 48 per cent, and Burley said that is primarily due to more significant equipment replacement.

"The big one on that is potential replacement of the ladder truck this year ... if the right truck isn't there, it

won't be coming in this year."

He further noted about 17 per cent of the overall budget increase can be attributed to special projects such as wastewater and projects like the bridge replacements at Parkhill and Alvey. Remove those, he suggested, and it would be about a six per cent increase.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

On the revenue side, in addition to the increase in transfers from reserve and surplus from about \$2.2 million to over \$3.3 million, the city is also looking for a 42 per cent increase in other revenue (primarily provincial government funding) for a total of about \$7.1 million compared to just over \$5 million in the 2022 budget.

The majority of the revenue of course comes through the municipal

Continued on page 8

> PENNER, FROM PG. 6

Later, he explained, "I could've taken a short cut, but that would've been cheating."

Philosophical words from a kid who still had most of his baby teeth.

Watching the Olympics on TV later that night, I watched a speed skater slip and fall right at the starting line. Only his pride was injured, but the man pouted like a baby, and stubbornly refused to continue the race. He threw down his glasses and angrily bolted off the ice. It was a pathetic thing to see.

I wondered what little future Olympians thought as they watched this grown man have a hissy fit on national TV.

I remembered the proud look on my son's face earlier that day and realized, once again, that you don't always have to be the fastest or best to finish first.

Persistence and courage are more valuable than some chunk of metal on a fancy ribbon and the true champion is simply the one who keeps going, with a smile on his face.

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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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Registration deadline nears for Pembina Valley Studio Tour

Early-bird pricing ends Friday; final deadline is March 27

By Lorne Stelmach

Artists are again being encouraged to be part of an annual fall showcase of the arts across the region.

The Pembina Valley Studio Tour will be held for its 19th year the weekend of Sept. 9-10, and organizers are making a final push for artists, studios, and galleries to sign up.

"It's to bring awareness to this region. We've got lots to offer arts-wise," said artist Susan Pharaoh, who is also part of the organizing committee for the tour.

"Part of the idea is to encourage artists to show their work ... we want local artists to have the chance to share what they do," she said. "We want people to feel like they can be part of a bigger arts group, and we can support it."

Artists have until Friday, March 3 to take advantage of early bird discounted registration rate of \$65. The final deadline for registration is March 27 with a cost of \$75. Anyone interested can register online at peminavalley-studiotour.com.

The organizers are hoping to bring together a variety of galleries and artists from across the Pembina Valley region to open their spaces for visitors to experience and see their work.

There are always familiar faces and places featured on the tour, but they also aim each year to vary it a bit with some new participants.

The self-guided tour generally covers an area from Altona in the east to Carman in the north and west to La Riviere.

Pharaoh feels the tour has become a good chance for artists to be able to showcase their work and their creative spaces. It attracted 28 artists last year.

"Everyone we talked with had nothing but good things to say," said Pharaoh. "People were not only coming but sales for the artists were up. Almost everyone was absolutely positive about it."

And the region for the tour is continuing to spread out a bit every year.

"We've got people from Pilot Mound, so it's kind of moving west and then also moving east to Emerson this year," said Pharaoh. "We feel like it's important to support as many art-

ists as possible with the tour who are interested in showing their work and interested in showing their vision. We give our audience then that much more choice.

"And I think we've got so many newcomers in this area ... people have arts and crafts that they have brought with them from their country of origin ... so we would love it if they were interested in showing their stuff."

Pharaoh also noted the studio tour committee is looking for energetic people from across the region who have a few hours to volunteer to join the event's organizing committee.

If you want more information, e-mail pvstudiotour@gmail.com or head to peminavalleystudiotour.com.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Artists from across the region are invited to open up their home studios and workspaces to art-lovers by being a stop on the 2023 Pembina Valley Studio Tour.

> MORDEN BUDGET, FROM PG. 7

tax levy and grants in lieu of taxes. The financial plan calls for a 7.3 per cent increase in that revenue from just under \$9.5 million last year to almost \$10.2 million for 2023.

Among the city's various sources of revenue aside from the tax levy and transfers from reserves are the following:

- Provincial government grants: almost \$2.1 million.
- Provincial municipal tax sharing: \$1.7 million.
- Recreation department revenue: \$700,000.
- Federal government grants: \$509,000.
- Miscellaneous revenue: \$455,000.
- Morden beach revenue: \$379,000.
- Returns on investments: \$328,000.
- Protective services (primarily police and fire services provided to RM of Stanley): \$280,000.
- Taxes added: \$200,000.

On the expenditure side, the changes range from a 75 per cent increase under fiscal services to a 2.5 per cent decrease under transportation services—the lone item that is down from the 2022 budget.

Just over a third of the budget falls under fiscal services, with expenditures totalling over \$7 million. Over \$6.5 million of that amount is going towards the capital budget, while another \$412,000 is for debenture debt charges.

Protective services are next with

17.4 per cent of the budget with expenditures of \$3.6 million, which represents a 13.7 per cent increase. Over \$2.5 million of that amount is for police salaries and benefits, while almost \$277,000 is for fire department salaries and benefits.

Community services come in at about \$3.3 million, which takes up 16.2 per cent of the budget and is a 4.1 per cent increase. Aside from \$1.8 million for the recreation department, there is \$785,000 for parks, \$345,000 for the beach and campground, \$188,000 for the library, and \$179,000 for the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, among others.

Transportation services accounts for nine per cent of the budget with the 2.5 per cent decrease to \$1.85 million. It includes planning and engineering cost of almost \$553,000 as well as \$353,000 for snow removal, \$241,000 for road maintenance, \$170,900 towards street lighting, and \$155,000 for equipment repairs and maintenance.

General government services makes up 8.4 per cent of the budget with a 3.4 per cent increase to over \$1.7 million. This includes the administrative staff costs of \$570,000, and other areas such as the IT department at \$304,000, damage and liability insurance at \$260,000, other government costs at \$205,000, and legislative costs of \$193,000.

Transfers to reserve come in at 7.4 per cent of the budget with a 16.5 per

cent increase to over \$1.5 million. It includes \$684,000 going into general reserve funds, \$509,000 into the gas tax reserve fund, and \$350,000 into replacement reserve funds.

Other lesser areas of the budget include:

- Environment health: 3.9 per cent of the budget; an 18.2 per cent increase to \$811,000. The largest portion of this expenditure is \$444,000 towards recycling costs and \$244,000 for garbage collection.
- Economic development: 2.8 per cent of the budget; 6.1 per cent increase to \$587,000 including \$370,000 for community development costs.
- Public health and welfare: one per cent of the budget; a one per cent increase to \$151,000 with \$125,000 for Menzies Medical Centre,
- Environmental development: just \$1,250 for planning and zoning related costs.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

There are a number of big ticket items included in the capital budget:

- Parkhill bridge: \$1.7 million
- Sewer lift station: \$1.5 million
- Wastewater treatment: \$1.5 million.
- Alvey bridge: \$1.3 million.
- Land development of 40 acre parcel of land: \$1.2 million.
- Water line renewal, 400 block of Sixth Street: \$396,000.
- Second reservoir (preliminary design): \$200,000.

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

Morden's first drag brunch performs to a sold-out crowd

By Lorne Stelmach

A sold-out crowd came together Saturday for a drag brunch hosted by the Pembina Hills Arts Council.

It was a family-friendly event for the LGBTQ+ community and its allies at St. Paul's United Church in



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morden, with performers that included "Peachy Keen" and "The Yellow Belle" entertaining the crowd with energetic lip-syncs.

A handful of protesters showed up to show their displeasure, but they were drowned out by a strong turnout of people bearing rainbow flags and supportive signs as participants arrived to enjoy the event.

"The support was overwhelming and just mind-blowing in a good way," said PHAC programs and outreach co-ordinator Tye Dandridge-Evancio, who spearheaded the event. "I'm incredibly happy with it."

"It meant a lot that we not only had it sold out but we also had so many volunteers show up, and we also had people outside the building showing their support as well ... everyone could come in with a positive feeling and leave with a positive feeling."

The brunch was so popular it sold out at its original venue in the downtown art gallery within minutes, and then filled up the larger church space as well.

"Everyone seemed to respond really well," Dandridge-Evancio said, noting the arts council aims to encourage the growth and diversity of arts and culture in region, and that includes providing an inclusive environment for everyone.

"I take away from it that we're heading in the right direction and that really there is a place for these events in the community," he said. "I think it's a sign that we can keep going and offer more of these kinds of events."



ABOVE PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Attendees and performers at the Y2K Drag Brunch in Morden Saturday were greeted by supporters ensuring everyone felt welcome.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Manitoba is recruiting nurses and health care aides from the Philippines.

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GVC students bringing *The Addams Family* to the stage

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley Collegiate is getting a little creepy and kooky, mysterious and spooky for its first dramatic production in four years.

The Winkler high school brings *The Addams Family—School Edition* to the

stage of the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall next week.

The show is a musical comedy about the Addams family trying to get used to the idea of their daughter, Wednesday, falling in love with a “normal” man from Midwestern America.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The cast of GVC's "The Addams Family—School Edition" bring the spooky family to the stage at the Winkler concert hall March 9-11.

It's certainly not your typical Winkler theatrical offering.

“We thought since it has been such a long break since the last time we were able to do a musical, it would be interesting to do something a little bit outside the box,” says Brent Giesbrecht, who co-directs the show with fellow teacher Jenny Gillespie. “It’s definitely a bit unconventional, but that’s what we were hoping for.”

But while the Addams family might have an affinity for all things macabre, they’re still very much a loving family, and that’s at the heart of the show.

“It’s not what you’d expect, maybe, based on the posters,” says Jamie Reimer, who plays family matriarch Morticia Addams. “We’re a family that has really good values, even though we’re a bit quirky.”

Ken Dueck, who plays Gomez Addams, reflects that even the “normal” family in the show has its own challenges.

“You have your stereotypical normal family, the other family, but they actually have issues,” he says, “And we have issues too.”

But, through about two hours of catchy songs and comedic situations, the two families work through those challenges and come together in the name of love.

Morticia and Gomez Addams are certainly iconic characters depicted not only in the original *Addams Family*

comics but also the classic television show, multiples movies, and the most recent Netflix hit *Wednesday*.

Bringing those characters to life has been a blast, Dueck and Reimer share.

“I’ve noticed I’ve started doing certain Morticia gestures in real life,” Reimer says, laughing.

“Sometimes I catch myself doing the accent a little bit,” adds Dueck.

The duo share the stage with a cast of 15 other actors, plus a sizeable band made up of students, alumni, and school staff.

There are also numerous behind-the-scenes members of the production working hard to bring the Gothic sets, props, and costumes to life.

“It’s something new, something different,” observes Dueck, urging people to give the show a shot. “The last few years [pre-pandemic] it was ‘50s, ‘60s kind of shows, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Grease*. This is very different and so I think it’ll be interesting to come out and see it.”

“And since we haven’t had a musical in so long we’d really like to see a full house,” adds Reimer.

The Addams Family—School Edition takes over the Winkler concert hall stage March 9-11 with nightly 7 p.m. showings and a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, March 11.

Tickets are available online at www.winklerconcerthall.ca

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MSTW development plan workshop March 7

By Lorne Stelmach

The guide that provides direction for land use and development in the region is due for a review, and there is an opportunity this coming week for community input.

The MSTW (Morden Stanley Thompson and Winkler) Planning District is updating its development plan, and a March 7 workshop online will not only provide some information but also gather ideas from the communities.

“Everybody is encouraged to be part of this meeting to have a voice in it,” said Winkler councillor and

MSTW board chairperson Don Fehr. “We want to find out what people like about our region and even what they don’t like about it and then also what they can see, say, 20 years down the road.”

The review is vital to ensure the development plan not only reflects the needs of the community but also the ongoing growth of the region, Fehr stressed.

“With the growth that we have in our communities and municipalities, we want to make sure that we are going in the right direction with our

Continued on page 17



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE
 The Altona Curling Club's Family Funspiel Saturday drew teams of all ages from across the region. Clockwise from above: Gleason Hildebrand and Braylee Hildebrand on sweeping duty; Morden's Reed Peters throws as brother Kyle and niece Isabelle sweep; Zoe Foord winds up for a throw; it was four-year-old Gunner Friesen very first time trying out curling.



Celebrating curling

By Lori Penner

The Altona Curling Club celebrated Canada Curling Day in a big way on Saturday by hosting a Family Funspiel.

Club committee member Quinn Hildebrand said it was a fabulous day.

"Everyone had so much fun. They're asking if we can do it again."

It's been about eight years since the club has hosted an event like this, and this is the first time they celebrated Canada Curling Day.

"So we chose a free family bonspiel as our way to celebrate, where anybody could participate, no matter what their level of experience," Hildebrand explained.

Twenty teams signed up, each playing three games and four ends throughout the day.

"We had about 90 people partaking in the sport, and many brought spectators," Hildebrand said. "It was so great to see so many new faces at the club, and many of our own members brought in their own families, as well."

The whole idea, she added, was to make it free and multi-generational so everybody could get a taste of the game.

"There were grandkids, parents, grandparents, it was so fun to see that. They kept score, but it wasn't about winning or losing. There were

no official winners. It was just having a good time. And possibly familiarizing future curlers with the game."

Arial Friesen joined the event with her husband, kids, and in-laws. Her eight-year-old son Hunter recently joined the junior curling program and was excited to demonstrate what he had learned, and she was excited to watch him play. Her four-year-old son Gunner even had a chance to attempt to throw a few rocks.

"Events like this are just wonderful," Friesen said. "This is our first year being part of the program, and it's great to see families having so much fun together."

The day also included a Draw to the Button game where participants paid a dollar to throw two rocks to earn prize raffle tickets.

"Depending on where it landed determined how many tickets they could put into the prize pail," said Hildebrand. "We had 12 prizes that we pulled out later in the day, for canteen money, an Ang's Pizza gift certificate or curling gloves."

"It was a wholeheartedly good day. Lots of smiles all around. Just a sweet casual time where it didn't matter if you were a really great curler or if it was your first time out there. We had lots of people throwing their very first rocks ever on Saturday. Just a great day all around."

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MCI presents *Little Women: The Musical*

By Lori Penner

Tender, whimsical, and downright entertaining.

Those are just a few of the words used by theatre critics to describe *Little Women: The Musical*.

This spirited adaptation of the beloved novel by Louisa May Alcott will be brought to life by the students and staff of Mennonite Collegiate Institute (MCI) in Gretna next week.

The timeless story of love and family follows the adventures of four sisters and their mother navigating life while their father serves in the Civil War.

Director Jody Friesen says this adaptation features a more intricate window into the sisters' lives, and we see a different view of their characters than what we imagined in reading the book.

"The timeline is easier to follow as well," she says.

About 30 cast members made up of Grade 9-12 students will bring the production to the Buhler Hall stage, with 15 of them working behind the scenes.

"The main characters are the four March sisters and their mother, and some of their love interests," says Friesen. "There is also the old gentleman neighbour. Jo is an author, and we get



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The lead characters in MCI's production of *Little Women: The Musical* include, from left, Greta Wiebe (Beth March), Annabelle Wiebe (Meg March), Larissa Krahn (Marmee), Keeley Sheppard (Amy March), and Presley Schroeder (Jo March).

to see her stories unfold on the stage as she writes them."

Friesen adds that the set design reflects the simplicity of the story.

"Little Women is sweet and simple, so we kept it as basic as possible. We

put more focus on the characters and the plot."

MCI presented the play *Matilda* at the end of the last school year.

"A lot of these students already know the drill, so it's like a well-oiled

machine," Friesen said. "All the different pieces have come together really smoothly."

The main challenge, she says, is the extra memorization required for the five lead characters.

"This is a really beautiful, simple score, but it's a smaller cast, so there's a lot more lines and songs for them to learn, and they're on stage more than the others. All the characters have put a ton of work into this show, the March sisters specifically."

This is also Friesen's first role as director.

"So I'm learning right along with them. But it's been great so far."

Finding the right set props for an 1800s piece has also been challenging.

"It's been amazing to see how the actors have risen to the occasion and how the youngest students from last year have used the leads from *Matilda* as examples and worked really hard to be the best version of their characters that they can be. It's a well-loved production for the whole family, and I know it will be a beautiful show."

Little Women: The Musical runs at the school March 9-11 at 7:30 p.m. nightly and with a 2 p.m. matinee on the 11th.

Head to mciblues.net or call 204-327-5891 for tickets.

'Queen Quest' represents new image for festival pageant

By Lori Penner

The Manitoba Sunflower Festival Queen committee is looking to re-brand their annual pageant.

"First of all, we're changing the name to the one they use in Emerald, Australia," says coordinator Adina Schellenberg, referring to Altona's sister city, which hosts their own Sunflower Festival every spring. "We want to change the name from pageant to Queen Quest."

She says the committee thought the name needed a bit of an update.

"The word pageant often comes with all kinds of connotations. This isn't about a beauty contest; this is about growth as an individual. Putting yourself out there. Challenging yourself, and to me, the word quest defines all that much better than the word pageant. We try to stay away from that stigma. The idea of a quest projects more of what we're about. Not beauty and model type stuff, we are looking for kind, compassionate people with a passion to expand their experiences and to represent Altona and area."

Schellenberg says they want the Sunflower Queen Quest to present more of an image of personal strength.

"More like a journey. The growth I see in the girls from the time they join, to the ceremony, and throughout the year they carry those titles, the changes in them are huge. They're doing things they've never done before and putting themselves out there. To stand in front of your community and share your story, your talents, and your pursuits. That's a pretty big deal and takes a lot of courage."

Recruiting candidates for the Quest has been a challenge over the last few years. Schellenberg says they're trying to inspire interest again.

"Right now, we have five girls who are interested. We want to have at least six entrants in order to run the Quest," she says. "We've been presenting to local schools, and we'll keep pursuing more entrants at least

until the end of April."

Since they stopped the mentorship program, Schellenberg says they'll have a bit more time to search and practice.

"Historically, most of our entrants have participated right out of high school, but we're inviting anyone up to the age of 21 to run, because they have wonderful gifts to offer, as well. Maybe initially, they weren't prepared to consider participating in this event, so we're encouraging them to give it a try, even a few years after graduation."

Schellenberg herself is a pageant alumni, having competed after graduating from MCI.

"I was a super shy person back then, and I had no idea that I would come away from that experience with so much more confidence and life-long friendships," she says. "I have often said it made me who I am today, and I will always be grateful for that."

"Was it hard? It was extremely hard

for me to stand up in front of a crowd. But I'm so glad I did it. And I think most contestants of the past will tell you the same story."

Being a part of the Quest involves representing the community at local and regional events, as well as fundraising for a local cause. The Queen also travels to Emerald, to be a part of their festival.

Schellenberg says when guest judges hear about all the public duties involved in being Sunflower Festival royalty, they are blown away.

"It's not all about the crown and the sash. Entrants become representatives and participants in the community at large. I know there's the big prize at the end, but that's never really been what this is truly about. This is an opportunity to grow as a person in a really positive way."

You can learn more about the Queen Quest on Facebook and Instagram or contact Schellenberg at curtadina@gmail.com.

PVLIP brings community together to celebrate diversity

By Lorne Stelmach

There was extra cause for celebration last Thursday at the Connecting Cultures and Communities event in Winkler.

The night served as a launch party of sorts for the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities toolkit (see story below), but it was also extra special as the first time the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) has been able to hold the annual celebration of diversity in person.

The evening featured the live music of DEJAVU along with cultural appetizers, trivia, and discussion, and it takes the place of a regular annual meeting, said executive director Elaine Burton Saindon.

"We use this as an opportunity to bring information to the public about the work that PVLIP does and has done in the past year and announce our plans for what we are working on next year," she said.

"At the same time, it's an opportunity to get the bigger picture of the goals that we have and to engage the public to see if anyone is interested in joining some of our initiatives," Burton Saindon said. "And this is our third annual event but the first time in person, so coming together like this is exciting."

"It's celebrating the cultures in our region and talking about how we can work together to make this home for everyone."

The event ties into the PVLIP aim to identify and reduce barriers facing newcomers in the region and to create communities where everyone can feel welcome and that they belong.

That continues to be an important goal, given that over 130 different countries of origin are represented in the region as well as 35 different first languages.

There is much opportunity to meet with local leaders and talk about the challenges and barriers as well as share knowledge about things that are positive and working well, said Burton Saindon, and she sees PVLIP as playing an important liaison role with the communities across the region.

"We have seen such momentum," she suggested. "Helping educate our community leaders and helping them feel supported is one way that we can help them bridge that gap in terms of how they can better serve their newcomer population."

"I hope this draws them into a better understanding and maybe they will learn something they didn't realize before on how cultures interact with one another," she continued. "And maybe some of the challenges you may find in communicating isn't even really a personality thing but a cultural or traditional way of handling conflict."

"It's a way of hopefully drawing some attention to these nuances that

"IT'S CELEBRATING THE CULTURES IN OUR REGION AND TALKING ABOUT HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS HOME FOR EVERYONE."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

It was a full house in Winkler Feb. 23 as the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership hosted its third annual Connecting Cultures and Communities event. It's the first time the gathering has been able to be held in person.

we are seeing more and more of as our communities grow and expand."

Burton Saindon is optimistic about where PVLIP can go from here now that they have pretty much accomplished their original goals.

"It's really exciting ... it's almost five years when we met in this building to determine our strategic plan," she noted. "Here we are five years later with this incredible dream coming true and providing this resource to our communities."

"It's kind of come full circle, and we are really excited to see this happen-

ing and where we can go from here. Since we have actually kind of completed our work, we will be looking forward to strategic planning again this fall.

"We'll be doing a lot of consultations and some interviews with stakeholders and community leaders in the next six months, and we'll use some of that content to help us look at what are the next steps for PVLIP, how do we want to move forward and what kind of impact do we want to bring to our communities in the next five years."

PVLIP unveils its new 'Welcoming and Inclusive Communities' toolkit

By Lorne Stelmach

The hope is that a new resource officially launched last week as part of the Connecting Cultures and Communities event will be a valuable tool in many ways for many users in the region.

The Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) sees its Welcoming and Inclusive Communities toolkit as being key to helping promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and enable community leaders and employers to implement best practices within their organizations.

"It's kind of a buffet of information in the toolkit. It's very broad," PVLIP executive director Elaine Burton Saindon said at the Feb. 23 event in Winkler. "It is a lot of information, but you can pick and choose what works

for you."

The project includes not only the resource book but also a series of diversity and inclusion videos for workplace training.

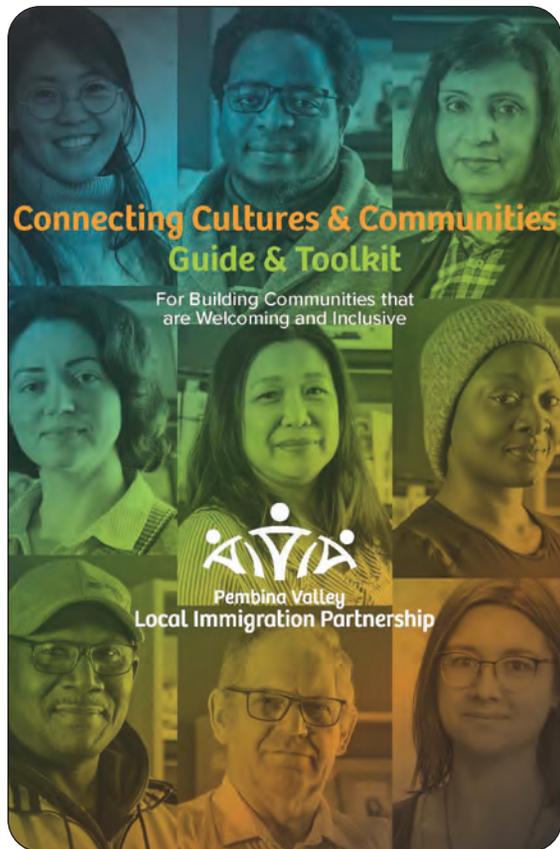
"There's some resources and content in there specific to employers to help them with understanding a multi-cultural workplace," Burton Saindon said. "There's a management perspective but also employees can see maybe these are things they need to be aware of as they work together."

The toolkit addresses diversity and how communities can take steps to be more welcoming to immigrants and offers links for newcomers to connect them with local resources and information as they settle into their new home.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

DEJAVU was among the cultural entertainment for the evening, which also included ethnic food, trivia, and discussion about the work of PVLIP.



ABOVE PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE
PVLIP's Elaine Burton Saindon hopes the new Connecting Cultures and Communities toolkit will have a wide reach across the region.

> TOOLKIT, FROM PG. 13

"There's also a lot of good general information that anyone can access, whether you're a student in high school or a senior in a home," Burton Saindon said.

It's been estimated this project could help PVLIP reach 2,200 newcomers and 100 stakeholders across south central Manitoba, so they're certainly grateful for the federal funding that made it possible.

"It allowed us to create this guide and toolkit and video series on how to be more welcoming in our communities, how do we understand cultures, how do we communicate with different cultures and a multitude of content related to understanding diversity," Burton

Saindon said. "We have a part two now where we will be developing workshops that are then going to be implementing the toolkit content in our communities.

"Our priorities have been focused on welcoming and inclusive communities, communication, and mental health. This resource kind of combines all of those into one resource or one way of accessing that information," she concluded. "We are going to be making the effort to bring this into other communities

within our region that maybe don't have a lot of newcomers, so this could be a way of helping them prepare for immigration that they may be expecting."

"IT'S A LOT OF INFORMATION, BUT YOU CAN PICK AND CHOOSE WHAT WORKS FOR YOU."

Municipalities respond to request to cut library funding

By Lorne Stelmach

Local municipalities have been offering a show of support for the South Central Regional Library.

In recent weeks, a number of them have responded to the delegations who made presentations asking that sexual education books they deemed pornographic be removed from local libraries. Failing that, the presenters asked the seven municipalities that support the SCRL to withhold funding as a show of support for their concerns.

Thus far, the councils who have drafted formal responses to this request have not only stressed the proper process was followed in reviewing the books in question but that funding will be maintained because of the importance of local libraries.

"We've communicated to the library board that they have our support," said Morden Mayor Brandon Burley. "The library is a valuable resource. It's a public library, and there's a variety of different materials in there. It would become a very slippery slope if every piece of literature that somebody didn't like or objected to was removed."

"It's a valuable resource, and we want to protect it," agreed Don Wiebe, reeve of the Municipality of Rhineland, which had formally replied in writing to the delegation earlier this year.

"Our regional libraries are a valued community resource and represent a safe public space for all our residents. As such, the municipality of Rhineland will continue to financially support our regional libraries," stated the RM's letter.

Ike Friesen, reeve of the RM of Stanley, was not available for comment last week, but Stanley's council echoed a similar sentiment in its written response sent out last month.

"At this time, we are not prepared to withhold funding for the library which would remove this valuable resource from our entire community," it read.

The first municipality to formally respond to these delegations was the Town of Altona in mid-December.

"The South Central Regional Library is an essential service in our community, and we support our library board and staff, their knowledge and expertise, and the decision they've made on this request," Mayor Harv Schroeder said in council's statement on the matter, stressing funding would not be halted.

"While we recognize that the library may provide materials that do not

appeal to each and every patron, it is important that all legal reading materials remain available so that each patron is free to make their own choice."

Stanley council's letter on the matter pointed to statistics that show over 4,700 residents of the municipality have library cards, with over 45,167 items borrowed within the last year, so that indicates it is a valuable service.

It further noted the library's collection and development policy was under review, but library users always have the opportunity to challenge a book, including a right to contest the findings of the review committee following a challenge.

"It is our understanding that the board has taken the book challenges seriously and has followed their established policy and has informed us that they received a legal opinion that the materials being challenged are educational in nature, are legal and not pornographic, and do not violate the Criminal Code of Canada," Stanley council said.

"Public libraries are for the public," the letter continued. "They contain a variety of information on different themes and topics that represent the diversity of the community it rep-

resents, and it is expected that, like in any public setting, that parents would explore the libraries together with their children ... in that way, any books selected by the child are at the discretion of the parent.

"What some find to be a valuable teaching tool with their child of a very sensitive subject others may find offensive."

"It's certainly okay to challenge books," noted Wiebe on behalf of Rhineland council, "and if you don't like it, there's an appeal process, so they should follow it."

Burley noted council was under no obligation to respond according to the Municipal Act, but he suggested it was an over-reach by the delegations to ask the municipalities to intercede in this way.

"We made our position very clear at a council meeting that we believed there were jurisdictional lines that they were crossing and that there were serious steps they had not taken.

"[The library board] has jurisdiction. We're not going to insert ourselves where we don't belong and begin to make decisions that would reflect only certain specific positions in the community that would not be shared by everybody."

Winkler city council has yet to comment. Representatives noted it is still considering the matter and they anticipate drafting a response soon.

"IT WOULD BECOME A SLIPPERY SLOPE IF EVERY PIECE OF LITERATURE THAT SOMEBODY DIDN'T LIKE OR OBJECTED TO WAS REMOVED."

sports & recreation

Flyers clinch playoff spot

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A pair of wins last week earned the Winkler Flyers their seat at the MJHL playoffs this spring.

The team kicked things off by blanking the Winnipeg Freeze 5-0 in front of a hometown crowd last Wednesday night.

Aidan Comeau got the shutout in net, making 28 saves.

His teammates fired 49 shots the other way, with Zachary Brault, Jacob Sargent, Gavin Waltz, Xyon Kiemeney, and Zach Nicolas all finding the mark.

On Saturday, OCN drew first blood with the only goal of the first period, but Winkler's Trent Penner got that one back in the second and then pulled his team into the lead with an early third-period goal. Sargent then put the final nail in with an empty-netter with four seconds to go.

It was Malachi Klassen in net this game. He made 37 saves as the Blizzard outshot the Flyers 38-22.

Winkler's lone loss of the week came at the hands of the Swan Valley Stampede Saturday night.

Swan Valley, who are currently in second place in the West Division, skated away from the confrontation with a 4-3 win.

Penner scored the only goal of the first period, giving the Flyers a lead that held all the way until the end of



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Freeze goalie Michael O'Sullivan appears helpless as he tries to get past Winkler's Logan Fillion to cover up the loose puck in Wednesday's game, which Winkler took 5-0 to secure their spot in the MJHL playoffs.

the second, when the Stampede finally got on the board.

The third period saw both teams score twice, Winkler's coming from Sambrook and Andrew. Swan Valley's second at 19:27 tied things at 3-3.

It took Stampede Collin Jennings 41 seconds into overtime to score the game winner.

Klassen made 34 saves in net for Winkler this game off 38 shots. Winkler had 32 shots.

With that, Winkler's record is 30-13-6-1 for 67 points, putting them in third place in the East Division behind the Portage Terriers (80 points) in first and the Steinbach Pistons (74 points) in third place. The Niverville Night-hawks are a ways back in fourth place with 50 points.

The Flyers kick off the final month of the regular season at home against the Steelers Wednesday. They then play

in Selkirk Friday night.

Hawks wrap reg. season with loss to Wild

By Lorne Stelmach

The male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks kicked off their quarter-final series with the Yellowhead Chiefs this week.

Game one between the third ranked Hawks and sixth place Chiefs took place Tuesday in Morden. The result was not available at press time.

The best-of-five series was set to continue Thursday in Shoal Lake and then return to Morden for game three Saturday. If it goes the limit, game four is in Shoal Lake Monday and game five is in Morden next Wednesday.

Pembina Valley finished the regular season at 30-7-7 for 67 points, while Yellowhead ended up at 22-16-6 for 50 points.

The Hawks won three of the four games the two teams played against each other this season. They swept a home doubleheader last October by scores of 4-2 and 9-3 then split a February road doubleheader, winning 3-2 and then losing 4-3.

Pembina Valley ended their regular season run last week Wednesday with a 6-5 overtime loss to the Winnipeg Wild.

The Hawks fought their way back in this one after falling behind 4-1 in the first 20 minutes, closing the gap to 4-3 after two periods and then even leading 5-4 briefly in the third period. The Wild ended it 3:47 into overtime on a powerplay.

Continued on page 16

2023 Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar

The Manitoba Giant Growers Association (MGGA) invite all giant pumpkin growers to a seminar about the intricacies of growing giant pumpkins.

Date: 1:00 P.M. till 3:00 P.M., March 25, 2023.
Incase of inclement weather, it will be postponed till April 1, 2023.

Location: Carman Legion Hall
28 First St. N.W.
Carman, Mb.

The first part of the program will be a presentation by Milan Lukes, two time winner of the Roland Pumpkin Fair.

Secondly, Laverne Wojciechowski, Western Canada representative for the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth, will report about the GPC convention held in Danvers, Massachusetts.

Thirdly, the MGGA will open a discussion about the patch tour, GPC rules, and any other questions the growers may have.

Mr. Don Crews of Lloydminster, Alberta has kindly donated four of his 2537 lb. Seeds grown in 2022 for door prizes.

Since the MGGA hasn't charged a membership since 2017, it will be necessary to charge in 2023 to pay for the cost of holding the seminar. Memberships are \$10.00 per person, or \$15.00 per family. **(Cash Only)**

This is an excellent opportunity for new growers to learn the many challenges of growing giant pumpkins. Good seeds will be available for anyone new to the hobby.

Coffee and snacks are included.

For further information contact:
Art Cameron 204-343-2314
artcam@mymts.net



Bombers/Mercs series tied at one game each



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Morden's Mike Rey tries to stop Warren's Matt Jacobucci from completing a pass in the SEMHL semi-final series, which was tied after the weekend.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Ste Anne Aces await the outcome of the Morden-Warren series to see who they'll face in the SEMHL finals.

The Aces (who finished the regular season in fourth place) swept their best-of-five semi-final against the first-place Portage Islanders 3-0 last week.

It was a close affair that saw Ste. Anne eke out overtime wins of 6-5 and 5-4 in games one and three, bookending a 5-4 victory in game two.

Meanwhile, the Morden Bombers and the Warren Mercs were in lock-step heading into this week, Morden having taken game one 7-4 Friday night and Warren winning game two 4-3 in overtime Sunday.

Adam Hughesman scored four goals for the Bombers in the opening game, which also saw Mike Rey contribute two and Jay Fehr one.

Reed Peters stood tall in net for Morden, making 33 saves as the Bombers outshot the Mercs 51-37.

The lead swung back and forth in game two on Sunday.

Morden was up 2-1 after 20 minutes thanks to goals from Fehr and Andrew Clark.

Warren tied it up early in the second and then pulled ahead in the 14th minute. A goal from Hughesman with 12 seconds on the clock tied things up 3-3.

After a scoreless finale frame, Braydon MacDonald scored the game-winning goal for the Mercs four minutes into overtime.

The Mercs once again held an edge in shots, 45-34. Peters made 30 saves in net.

Game three is in Warren Wednesday night. Game four is back in Morden Friday. Game five, if needed, will be in Warren on Sunday.

Female Hawks made great strides this season: coach

By Lorne Stelmach

The season may have been disappointing in some respects for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks, but coach Addie Miles is looking on the bright side.

Despite having finished sixth and then bowing out in the quarter-finals, the Hawks were always competitive and showed great growth throughout the campaign, she suggested last week.

"At the end of the day ... my mes-

sage to the girls was that I'm a proud coach," said Miles, who cited how they were throughout "really putting an emphasis on their skill development, their work ethic ... this is a completely different group from the start of the year."

The Hawks finished the regular season in sixth at 9-18-1 for 19 points, which put them up against the third-place Winnipeg Avros, who were 21-6-1 for 43 points.

Pembina Valley had dropped all four of their regular season games against

the Avros, but they made them work for it in the playoffs, narrowly losing 3-2 in overtime in game one and then 1-0 and 2-0 in games two and three.

One thing that likely stands out in reviewing the season was a struggle to simply score more, which could have turned the tide in so many of their close losses.

Still, Miles is pleased with the marked improvement she saw in the team.

"I think about where we started at the beginning of the year to where we ended off ... we pushed one of the best teams in the league into very, very close games. We were in a position to possibly being able to win every single night against them, so for me, it's just the progress I've seen throughout the year with the girls.

"We pretty much had a season of barn burners. It was a lot of one goal games, two goal games very consistently throughout the year," Miles continued. "For us, we always just seemed to be just on the wrong side of it.

"Normally, it's you get a couple bounces here and there ... we talked about it as a group, we had to work for everything. We weren't going to

get anything handed to us."

Miles was particularly proud of her core of players who are now graduating after this season: Caitlin Anderson, Gracie Carels, Emily Foster, Mya Pearce, Eric Fijala, Kaylee Franz, and Marissa Fehr.

"They put in so much work and showed such dedication," she said. "They took this team by the reins and put everybody on their shoulders and just went after it. We had rookies coming in who had never played at this level before, and our leaders just brought them under their wings."

Miles believes there are good prospects for next season between players eligible to return and younger talent that is ready to take the next step.

"There's a couple key players we're seeing at the U15 level. I know a lot of girls are looking to make that jump to the U18 level, which is fantastic.

"We're going to be running a spring program allowing those U15 girls to come skate with the U18 girls so they can start to understand the expectation of what it takes to compete at the U18 level," she concluded. "I would say there's three or four really good girls coming up from that U15 team."

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> HAWKS, FROM PG. 15

Ryder Wolfe, Beau Bannerman, Sebastien Hicks, Liam Goertzen, and Marek Miller all scored for the Hawks, who were outshot 35-25. Goalie Bryson Yaschyshyn made 29

saves.

The other quarterfinal matchups have Brandon against Southwest, the Winnipeg Bruins against Eastman, and the Wild against the Thrashers.

Twisters extend win streak

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters are now riding a four game win streak as they hit the final stretch of the MMJHL season.

They extended their run on the weekend with a pair of victories, including a win over league-leading St. James.

The 4-2 victory for the Twisters Saturday handed the Canucks only their fourth regulation time loss of the season, and it came after a 9-3 romp over cellar dwelling Stonewall Friday.

Pembina Valley broke open a 3-3 game after one period with two second period markers against Stonewall followed by four more unanswered goals in the third period.

Nico Vigier led the way with a hat trick while Jacob Carels, Caelen Russell, Luke Van De Velde, Mike Hepner, Zander Carels, and Derek Wiebe also scored.

Shots on goal were 44-30 for the Twisters, with Matt Grysiuk getting the win with 27 saves.

Pembina Valley got a jump on St. James with four unanswered first period goals and then hung on, giving up a pair of third period powerplay goals to the Canucks.

Police locate stolen firearm

By Voice staff

A man is facing several firearms-related charges after a police investigation in Morden last month.

On Feb. 14, Morden Police were contacted about a vehicle that was taken without the owner's consent. The victim was fearful of the suspect and advised police of a firearm inside a Morden residence.

Police subsequently located the firearm and determined it had been stolen from a business in the RM of Dufferin in January.

As a result of this investigation, a 27-year-old man was arrested and has been charged with unauthorized possession of a firearm, knowledge of unauthorized possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm contrary to an order, possession of weapon obtained by crime, taking a motor vehicle without consent, and failing to comply with an undertaking.

He was remanded into custody to appear in Winnipeg Provincial Court.

Scoring for the Twisters were Slade Sotheran, Luke Van De Velde, Brett Bergman, and Riley Goertzen with his team-leading 25th goal. Logan Enns made 31 saves as the Canucks held a 33-27 edge in shots.

The Twisters remain in the thick of the battle in the middle of the standings, sitting in sixth place at 19-14-3-3 for 44 points, which has them one point back of Fort Garry Fort Rouge and two behind Charleswood while eight ahead of Transcona.

Pembina Valley has two key games this week starting with third place St. Vital Thursday then second place Riverview East Sunday.



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER/VOICE

Pembina Valley's assistant captain Nico Vigier (#16) scored a hat trick in the Twisters' 9-3 win against the Stonewall Jets Friday night.

WFRC after-school program calls it quits

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Family Resource Centre's After School Program hosts its final session this week.

The program offering activities and supervision for kids whose parents are still at work at the end of the school day has struggled to keep its head above water since it was launched in the fall of 2021, shares executive director Chantal Human.

"The program just wasn't sustaining itself financially," she says, noting they had just a handful of kids signed-up in recent months.

There is a real need for after-school programming in Winkler, but not necessarily in the two schools the resource centre is closest to, Human observes.

WFRC operates out of space in the

Emmanuel Mennonite Church on 15th St., a short walk from both Pine Ridge and Parkland schools.

As a result, they were able to offer "Walking School Buses" for participants of the program from those schools. A WFRC staff member would meet them at school and walk them down the street to the church each day.

Unfortunately, Winkler Elementary, J.R. Walkof, and Emerado Centennial schools are all too far way to offer a similar service, which made the program unfeasible for many families who might otherwise benefit from it.

"It seems like the need really is for the W.E.S. and J.R. areas," Human

says. "We're just too far away."

There was some discussion about potentially finding another space for the program closer to the other schools, but it simply isn't doable for the resource centre right now.

"For now, we're closing it down," Human says, noting perhaps it's something they can readdress in the future.

In the meantime, WFRC's early-childhood programming for pre-school age kids is alive and well. The next session of courses starts next week and runs until the end of April. Details are available online at winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com.

"[IT] JUST WASN'T SUSTAINING ITSELF FINANCIALLY."

> MSTW WORKSHOP, FROM PG. 10

policies and land use and such," he suggested.

"The development plan reflects where people live and where they work and play in all of the MSTW region," he continued. "So you're looking at urban areas like Winkler and Morden, and you're looking at rural urban communities like Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld ... you have the Stanley corridor and all the villages and the rural agricultural areas.

"It can reflect the region's strengths and our hopes and aspirations that we have for the future as well," said

Fehr, who added the region's zoning bylaws also often need to be updated to reflect new development.

The review process started with a steering committee involving the four municipalities, and it is moving on to the second phase to get community input before the plan is revised and submitted for final approval.

"It will give a pathway then to go into the next phase of drafting the development plan," said Fehr, who suggested the importance of this cannot be understated. "If we don't get this right, it could impact the fu-

ture of our region. If you don't plan properly in all of these areas, we would not continue to grow like we have in the past ... there could be setbacks."

The March 7 workshop will include a background presentation and a facilitated group discussion to explore opportunities and issues in the area.

The workshop is set to go from 6-7:30 p.m. Anyone wanting to join the discussion can contact Kari Schulz, senior planner at WSP, either by calling 204-259-1477 or by e-mail to kari.schulz@wsp.com.

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CAREERS



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This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

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

Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

TENDER

Sealed tenders in writing for the PURCHASE or LEASE of the property described below will be received by March 31, 2023 to the attention of Mr. Paul Eberling, 297 McLean Street, Winnipeg, MB R3R 0V8. Located in the Municipality of GREY, the property is described as:

PARCEL I: S 1/2 OF SE 1/4 SECTION 31-8-5 WPM

- Approximately 80 acres open tillable
- Proximity (1 mile) to Provincial Trunk Highway

PARCEL II: NW 1/4 OF SECTION 21-9-6 WPM (Approx. 120 acres open tillable)

PARCEL III: SW 1/4 OF SECTION 21-9-6 WPM (Approx. 150 acres open tillable)

PARCEL IV: N 1/2 of NE 1/4 OF SECTION 21-9-6 WPM (Approx. 60 acres open tillable)

- Approximately 330 acres open tillable in total PARCEL II, III, IV. Remaining is pasture. Perimeter fence.
- Water (dugouts) located on PARCEL II, III, IV titles
- Yard site on PARCEL III is currently vacant (no buildings) but with access to MB Hydro and dugout. Perfect site to build on.

PUBLIC NOITCE



Garden Valley School Division Public Budget Consultation

On **Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**, Garden Valley School Division will be hosting a Public Budget Forum to present and discuss the draft 2023/24 Operating Budget.

Those interested in participating in the forum may attend in-person at the GVSD Division Office (750 Triple E Blvd., Winkler) or connect virtually through the link that will be posted on our website.

The GVSD Board of Trustees encourages your attendance at this important event.



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If you are looking for a rewarding career in this area or would like to share a resume please contact Ray Beukema at 204-745-2951 (ext 440) or email him at ray.beukema@walinga.com

We thank all applicants for their interest, but only those considered for an interview will be contacted.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



You are invited to attend The Town of Altona 2023 Financial Plan Hearing Tuesday, March 28, 2023 6:00 pm Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre

In accordance with subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, the Council will present the proposed 2023 Financial Plan for the Town of Altona at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 in the Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre. The presentation will include the 2023 operating costs, the 2023 capital budget and a five year capital expenditure program. The presentation will be followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed Financial Plan will be available after March 15, 2023 on our website at www.altona.ca or upon request at the Town of Altona Administration Office, 111 Centre Avenue during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may be directed by letter or email to our Manager of Finance or through our email address at info@altona.ca.

Terry Fehr, CMMA
Manager of Finance
Town of Altona
terry.fehr@altona.ca
Box 1630
Altona MB R0G 0B0

February 24, 2023



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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING 2023 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 2023 Financial Plan at a public hearing to be held on:

March 14, 2023 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. Anyone wishing to get a copy of the City's 2023 Financial Plan can contact City Hall by phone at 204-325-9524 or admin@cityofwinkler.ca during regular office hours.



CITY OF WINKLER
185 Main Street,
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204-325-9524 | 204-325-5915

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2023-001 and By-law No. 2298-23, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2298-23, is to zone the land described below,

Namely:

**1650 Northlands Pkwy, legally described as Part of SE ¼ 8-3-4 WPM
Being Block 4, Plan 66568 MLTO**

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

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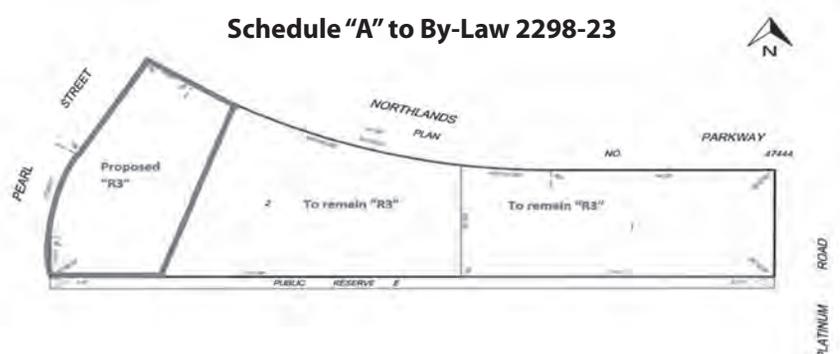
TO: "R3" RESIDENTIAL HIGHER DENSITY ZONE

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2298-23 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

Date of Hearing: March 14, 2023
Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Winkler Council Chambers,
185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 17th day of February 2023.
Designated Officer
City of Winkler

Schedule "A" to By-Law 2298-23



PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Municipality of Rhineland

2023 Financial Plan Hearing
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 • 10:00 am
Council Chambers of the
Municipality of Rhineland

In accordance with subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, Council will present the 2023 financial plan for the Municipality of Rhineland at 10:00am Wednesday, March 22, 2023 in the Council Chambers of the Municipality of Rhineland office.

The presentation will include the 2023 operating costs, the 2023 capital budget, and a five-year capital expenditure program. The presentation will be followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection. Copies of the proposed financial plan will be available after March 8, 2023 at the Municipality of Rhineland office, located at 109 3rd Avenue NE during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may be directed by letter or email at info@rhinelandmb.ca

Michael Rempel, CMMA
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Dear doctors, nurses and volunteers - I want to thank you all for a great job you are all doing, you are all special. God bless you. A great team at Boundary Trails Health Centre and Cancer Care.

Thank you all - You are Awesome!
-Shirley Simpson

BIRTHDAY



If you recognize this newly-minted octogenarian, please come to 1027 Mountain Ave. in Winkler on Saturday, March 4 and wish him well!

Doors open and coffee's on at 6:30 p.m.

DEVOTION

Devotion

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March 17, 2023

5:00 - 7:00 PM

**Winkler Sommerfelder Church
189 2nd St., Winkler**

IN MEMORIAM

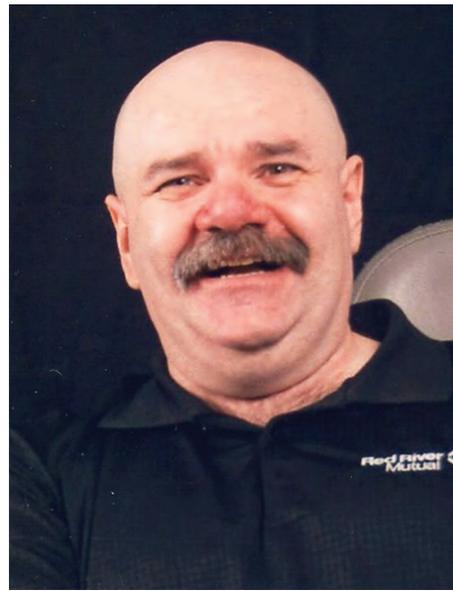


**Evelyn Giesbrecht
1931-2017**

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day;
Unseen, unheard but always near,
So loved, so missed and held so dear.
You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide;
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.

-Lovingly remembered by your family

IN MEMORIAM



**In Loving Memory of
our dear son, brother and uncle,
Rick Heppner**

**June 20, 1963 - March 3, 2021
who went to be with our Lord and Saviour
2 years ago.**

We miss you a lot.

-Mother Diane
and family

SENIOR RENTALS

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Woodland Condo for Sale in Winkler Unit 10 - 255 Main St. South

Condo is five years old situated in a very peaceful area in Winkler. 1136 sq. ft. 2 bedroom, 2 baths. Sunroom and shed in back. There is a 4 foot high crawl space underneath the whole house, where furnace and water tank are situated. With the purchase of the house you also become part owner of the club house, which also has a guest suite in the basement.

The common fee is \$132.00 per month, which includes lawn care and snow clean up, free internet, condo insurance and reserve fund.

**For more info. please call Jake at
204-362-3964 or email 860north@gmail.com**

PUBLIC NOTICE

MORDEN COMMUNITY HANDI-VAN CLUB 300 LGA Winners 2022

Month	Winner	Amount
March 25/22	131 Boundary Plumbing & Heating	\$150.00
	230 John Elias	\$150.00
	264 Kathy Friesen and Barb Klatt	\$500.00
April 29/22	232 John & Pam Jackson	\$150.00
	260 Rob & Cathy Dudgeon	\$150.00
	62 Giant Tiger	\$500.00
May 27/22	246 Merle Block	\$150.00
	115 Tom Wiebe	\$150.00
	15 Krahn Friesen Neufeld CPA	\$500.00
June 24/22	251 John Dyck	\$150.00
	83 Monty Magarell	\$150.00
	266 Paul Link	\$500.00
July 29/22	136 Rod Wolfe	\$150.00
	51 Dave Destoop	\$150.00
	225 Harry Dalke	\$500.00
August 26/22	123 Alain Kolt	\$150.00
	265 Viola & John Goertzen	\$150.00
	268 Scott Robertson	\$500.00
September 30/22	242 Otto & Susan Hamm	\$150.00
	128 Margaret Boulton	\$150.00
	114 Bernie Giesbrecht	\$500.00
October 28/22	132 Dr. D. A. Goerz	\$150.00
	42 True North Electric	\$150.00
	71 Morden Fire Fighters Assoc.	\$500.00
November 25/22	76 Greg Schiller	\$150.00
	184 K Wiebe	\$150.00
	204 Brian Minaker	\$500.00
December 30/22	272 Sara Convery	\$150.00
	262 Tim & Carla Blaich	\$150.00
	174 Greenvalley Equipment	\$500.00
January 27/23	10 Jackie Treleavan	\$150.00
	70 Jacqueline Stark	\$150.00
	66 Marlene Nelson	\$500.00
February 24/23	191 Denis Sung	\$150.00
	144 Jamie & Denise Hartry	\$150.00
	156 Ben Friesen	\$500.00

Thank you for supporting the Morden Community Handi-van through the purchase of a Raffle Ticket. Tickets are on sale now. Please continue your support by purchasing a Raffle Ticket.

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VOTING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTICE OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS ELECTRONIC VOTING

MEMBERS OF ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED (the "Credit Union")

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION

VOTING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Annual General Meeting of the members of Access Credit Union will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. CDT via virtual means, for the following purposes:

1. 2022 Financial Statements
2. Board of Directors Report
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Announcement of Patronage Allocation and Cash Redemptions
5. Director Elections

All eligible members wishing to participate in the General Meeting are required to register online at www.accesscu.ca prior to April 18, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. CDT.

More information about the virtual General Meeting can be found at: www.accesscu.ca.

DATED this 2nd day of March 2023
ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED
By Order of the Board of Directors



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OBITUARY



Abe (Red) Hiebert
1933 – 2023

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather at the age of 89 years. Abe passed away peacefully after a short battle with cancer.

He leaves to mourn two daughters, Jennifer (Bob), Connie (Wilbert); daughter-in-law, Doreen; one son, Wayne (Carol) and their families as well as one sister, Helen; six brothers, John, Nick, Herman, Dick, Chester and Cliff and their families.

Abe was predeceased by his beloved wife, Liz in 2019; son, Robert in 2021; granddaughter, Michelle; great-granddaughter, Carley; his parents, Abram and Helena Hiebert; brothers, Peter and David; brothers-in-law, Art McGinnis and Bob Toews; sister, Mary

Toews and sister-in-law, at Patterson.

Private family memorial will be held at a later date.

Thank you to the caring staff and doctors at Tabor Home.

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



OBITUARY



Harold Dennis Bollenbach
1943 - 2023

The Bollenbach families are saddened to share the news that Harold left this world peacefully in his sleep, on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at the age of 79.

Harold was born at the Morden Freeman's Hospital to parents, Mathilda and Gustav and raised on the family farm, between Thornhill and Morden. He was the youngest of a large family of three brothers and four sisters. He started his schooling at Wellington School in Thornhill. In 1952 Harold and his parents moved to Morden where he continued his education at Maple Leaf Elementary School and Morden Collegiate. In 1963 he was awarded the school Citizen Award for his many contributions to student activities, a recognition of his engaging and social nature.

His first job after leaving school was at the McLeod's general store. A couple of years later, in 1966, Harold was hired by the Manitoba Telephone System (MTS). He started in Morden, where his first job was emptying the coins from the local pay-phones. A year later he was transferred to Winnipeg where he held various positions, many of which were in the Personnel and Payroll department. In 1991 Harold received the Long Service Award from MTS and retired in August 1995 after 29 years with the company. After his retirement he felt the pull of small town living and moved back to Morden. Above all else Harold was a "people person". He loved being around people, he was interested in their stories, and he went out of his way to make connections. He was well known in the local coffee shops and businesses. His ability to engage people served him well in his many volunteer activities once he returned to Morden. Harold was the perfect person to introduce Bruce at the Fossil Discovery Museum, to welcome visitors to Morden at the Tourist Information Booth, to emcee the tractor parades at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum, to be a tour bus guide during the Corn and Apple Festival or to perform in The Grand Ole Opry productions. Over the years, Harold enjoyed writing and created various collections and pieces including "The Family Harold" (1989-1992), letters to the editor, "The Pumphandle" (2007-2013), a play, "Brown's Half-Way House" as well as the Homestead's newsletter "The Last Page". (Uncle) Harold loved his big and growing family and enjoyed keeping in touch with his many nieces, nephews and their families. Keeping up with modern technology as he did, made this possible over the years. After six years at Homestead South, he moved to Tabor Home in July 2022. Harold's family would like to thank all the caregivers and staff at Homestead, the Tabor Home and the Boundary Trails Health Centre for their care, compassion and friendship during his stays.

Harold's memory will be cherished by his sister, Marion Dudgeon; sisters-in-law, Lynn Bollenbach and Edith Penman along with the Andrew, Bollenbach, Borthwick, Dudgeon and Mudge families.

He was predeceased by his parents, Gustav and Mathilda; his brothers, Lawrence, Walter and Herman; his sisters, Lydia Andrew, Helen Borthwick and Ruth Mudge; his brothers-in-law, George Andrew, Jack Borthwick, Allan Dudgeon and Albert Mudge and his sister-in-law, Jean Bollenbach as well as his nephew, Bryan Mudge and nieces, Judy (Dudgeon) Hoes and Karen Borthwick Westfall.

Following Harold's wishes, he was cremated and will be interred with his brother, Lawrence and his parents at the Hillside Cemetery with a Celebration of Life at a later date (he actually referred to it as a "Toast and Roast").

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Harold's memory to Diabetes Canada and the Pembina Valley Humane Society.

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



OBITUARY



Anna Klassen (nee Thiessen)
1940 – 2023

On Sunday, February 19, 2023 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Anna Klassen, 82 years went to her eternal rest.

She leaves behind one daughter, Jenny (Ernie) Enns; two sons, Bob (Chrissi) Klassen, Terry Klassen; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; three sisters; two brothers and their families.

She was predeceased by her husband, Abe in 2008.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 24, 2023 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden with interment at Chapel Cemetery.

Special thank you from the family to everyone for all your prayers and support. Thank you to the wonderful staff at Legion 1 & 2 and Boundary Trails Health Centre. Many thanks to Wiebe Funeral

Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Anna's memory to Legion House 1 & 2 265 North Railway St. Morden, MB R6M 1W4.

"The world changes from year to year;

Our lives from day to day.

But the love and memory of you shall never pass away." Unknown

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
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Team Jennifer Jones reaches Scotties final

By Ty Dilello

Kerri Einarson's curling team captured a fourth straight Canadian women's curling championship with a 10-4 win over Team Manitoba's Jennifer Jones in Sunday's final.

The Jones team includes Karlee Burgess, Mackenzie Zacharias, Lauren Lenentine and Emily Zacharias, who play out of the St. Vital and Altona Curling Club.

Einarson, third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard and lead Briane Harris became just the second team to win four consecutive Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

In the final, Einarson broke a 2-2 tie in the fifth end when they stole two points after Jones' final draw came up light of the eight-foot. Manitoba conceded the game after Einarson had an open hit for five in the ninth end to win 10-4.

"We just didn't make enough shots," said Jennifer Jones. "But I'm super proud of our week and really happy to be in the final. It was fun to be out here and was a great experience, and this run makes us want to keep grinding to get better."

Despite losing in the final, Altona's

Team Jones had a very strong week representing Team Manitoba as they compiled a 10-2 record on the week.

"We've been tight from the start and have played a lot this year, so that contributed to our success," said Mackenzie Zacharias. "We've had a lot of fun this week, and I'm really glad we got to play in the final."

Zacharias notes how important it was to get Jennifer Jones, arguably the greatest women's curler of all time, on their team for this season. Jones, who had won six Scotties previously and the 2018 Olympic gold medal, was at the tail-end of her career when she decided to call up Team Zacharias to join their squad.

"Jennifer has helped us in so many ways as a mentor and teacher for us, in many different aspects, like experience, technical, etc.," said Zacharias. "It's been a thrill to play with her, and hopefully, we can continue to next season."

Also representing Manitoba at the Scotties was Team Kaitlyn Lawes of Winnipeg (Wild Card #1), who lost a tiebreaker game to Nova Scotia, which saw their event end early. Winnipeg's Meghan Walter (featuring Marquette's Sara Oliver at second)



CURLING CANADA PHOTO

Pictured left to right, Team Manitoba including Jennifer Jones, Karlee Burgess, Mackenzie Zacharias, Emily Zacharias, Lauren Lenentine, and Glenn Howard.

played as Team Wild Card #3 and missed the playoffs with a 3-5 record.

The winning Einarson team will now represent Canada at the 2023 World Women's Curling Championship at the Göransson Arena in Sandviken, Sweden, from Mar 18-26.

Team Jennifer Jones will finish out their season with a couple of Grand Slam of Curling events in April and

May before deciding if they will continue curling together next season.

"I'm disappointed that we couldn't put our A game together in the final," said Jones. "But overall, I'm very happy with the week that we had. We will finish out the year and then have some conversations regarding next season."

Altona's Wahl makes playoffs at Canada Games

By Ty Dilello

Altona's Dayna Wahl has had a busy month representing Manitoba at both the U18 Curling Nationals in Timmins, Ontario (Feb. 5-11), and the 2023 Canada Games in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (Feb. 19-24).

Team Wahl, including skip Dayna Wahl, third Piper Stoesz, second Anna Ginters, lead Gillian Hildebrand and coach Keith Stoesz first headed to Timmins in early February for the U18 Nationals. However, things didn't go as the team had planned, and they missed the playoffs with a record of 1-5 in the round-robin and finished 18th out of the 21 teams in attendance.

"Well we definitely didn't play like we could've, which was too bad," said Team Wahl's second, Anna Ginters. "But we got our first Nationals win, and that was on the live stream, so it felt good to have our fans back home watch us win. But I would say that Timmins definitely got us ready for the Canada Games."

The U18 Nationals was almost considered practice for Team Wahl and a

last chance to hone their skills for the Canada Winter Games, which only happens once every four years.

"Our team spent a lot more time on the ice leading up to the Canada Games working on the little things to improve as much as we could in the short amount of time we had to prepare. I feel our team worked as hard as we could to improve as much as possible," said Ginters.

After arriving in Charlottetown to battle against the other provinces and territories, Team Wahl rallied after losing their first two games of the Canada Games to Nova Scotia and Alberta. Then, they won three must-win games in a row (over New Brunswick, Yukon, and Prince Edward Island) to qualify for the playoffs.

Sadly, Wahl's run ended in the quarterfinals after a tough 5-2 loss to Saskatchewan to finish in fifth place at the Canada Games.

"Our goals for the Canada Games were just to have fun and to play our best," said Ginters. "And also to remember that we deserve to be here. We deserved every win we got this week, and we were right up there



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Altona's Team Wahl has had quite the busy month of February after representing Manitoba at both the U18 Curling Nationals and the 2023 Canada Games. From left: Dayna Wahl, Piper Stoesz, Gillian Hildebrand, and Anna Ginters.

with the other teams that we played."

In addition to the curling, Team Wahl enjoyed some of the touristy stuff Charlottetown had to offer. The team visited a lighthouse and the Anne of Green Gables Museum.

With the Canada Games now behind them, the 2022-23 curling season has pretty much wrapped up for Team Wahl, and they will now set

their sights on next season.

"We have decided to continue playing together next year," said Ginters. "It will be difficult with some of us going into university, but we will make it work. I am very proud of this team for how we played at the Canada Games after the difficult week we had at U18 Nationals, so I am very excited for the future."

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Sweetpotato Power Salad

1/4 cup red onion, chopped
 1/2-3/4 cup feta or goat cheese
Dressing:
 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 1/4 cup balsamic or white vinegar
 Preheat oven to 375 F.

Place sweetpotatoes in large bowl. In small bowl, lightly whisk 2 teaspoons olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt and pepper. Toss on sweetpotatoes and place potatoes on large sheet pan. Bake 35-40 minutes until tender, flipping once during baking.

Place chopped kale in large bowl. In small bowl, lightly whisk remaining olive oil, remaining salt and lemon juice. Pour over kale and massage with hands until mixed, about 1 minute.

To make dressing: In bowl, whisk syrup, olive oil and vinegar.

In bowl with kale, add garbanzo beans, avocado, cranberries, almonds, red onion, sweetpotatoes and cheese. Toss with salad dressing and serve.

Note: Sweetpotatoes can be baked and refrigerated 1 day in advance.

Recipe courtesy of Carol Brown on behalf of the North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission

Servings: 6
 4-6 North Carolina Sweetpotatoes, peeled and diced (6 cups)
 2 teaspoons, plus 1 tablespoon, olive oil, divided
 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided
 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 1 1/2 bunches curly kale, rinsed and chopped (7-8 cups)
 1/2 large lemon, juice only
 1 can (15 ounces) garbanzo beans, rinsed and drained
 1 large avocado, pitted and diced
 1/2 cup cranberries
 1/2 cup coarsely chopped almonds



Gimme S'mores Trail Mix

3 cups graham crackers, assorted flavors
 1 1/2 cups colored mini marshmallows
 2 cups slivered almonds
 1 cup chocolate chips

In large bowl, mix raisins, graham crackers, marshmallows, almonds and chocolate chips.

Serve immediately, or store in airtight container up to 1 week.

Prep time: 5 minutes
 Servings: 6
 1/2 cup Sun-Maid Vanilla Yogurt Covered Raisins



Breakfast-to-Go Grape Smoothie

1/2 cup grape juice
 1/4 cup wheat flake cereal
 In blender, blend grapes, banana, yogurt, grape juice and cereal 1 minute. Serve immediately.

Nutritional analysis per serving: 251 calories; 6 g protein; 57 g carbohydrates; 1.5 g fat (5% calories from fat); 2 mg cholesterol; 47 mg sodium; 3 g fiber.

Servings: 2
 1 1/2 cups frozen California grapes
 1 banana, sliced
 1/2 cup vanilla or honey low-fat Greek yogurt



Exercise for a stress-free life

By Health Expert Julie Germaine Coram

Life is back to a bustling pace (which is something to celebrate!) however it's easy to take on too much and end up stressed out. Burn-out is a concern not only for your mental health and financial well-being, but high stress levels can cause problems physically as well.

The best place to start when it comes to managing stress levels is with exercise! I know what you're thinking, "I don't have time to add a workout to my day!" The reality is, even fifteen to thirty minutes, a few times a week can have a dramatic impact on the quality of your sleep, your happy mood, and overall energy levels.

Moving your body releases natural chemicals called endorphins that give you a good feeling and sense of calm. Another interesting fact about these peptides is they have anti-inflammatory effects that aid us in managing pain, from injury or chronic issues such as arthritis.

The same exercise plan isn't going to work for everyone, so take time to try different activities and chose a workout schedule that fits into your lifestyle. I used to spend hours in the gym as a competitive pro fitness model, however after becoming a parent, I prefer to compact my weight training into only 30 minutes, which is very effective for me. Cardiovascular activity like biking, rollerblading, or hiking is something I incorporate outdoors as much as possible, so I can include my minis and help encourage exercise into the lives of my loved ones.

The fact is that life is always going to have some stress. Many people opt to lean on quick fixes like fast food or alcohol to deal with tough



Health and Wellness Fitness expert Julie Germaine Coram

emotions, but I promise you that attempting to change your habits and choosing to get in a workout when stress levels soar will leave you feeling happier, healthier, and way more Zen. (Yes, yoga in the evening counts as exercise.)

It's never too late to start, remember that! You can thank me later – or reach out to me if you want help getting things moving.

Coach Julie Germaine Coram; NASM Certified Nutrition Coach, NFLC Registered Personal Trainer, 2x International Pro Fitness Champion. She has helped tens of thousands of men and women improve their health since 2005. Improve your health with coach Julie: juliegermaine.com or book a FREE DIET CONSULT: www.calendly.com/juliegermaine



Apple Nachos

2 tablespoons peanut butter
 1/2 cup Sun-Maid California Sun-Dried Raisins

Wash and slice apples. Arrange one layer of sliced apples on serving plate. To keep apples from browning quickly, squeeze lemon juice on top, if desired.

In microwave, melt peanut butter about 30 seconds until smooth.

Drizzle 1 tablespoon peanut butter over first layer of apples. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup raisins.

Repeat with remaining apples, peanut butter and raisins.

Prep time: 10 minutes
 Cook time: 1 minute
 Servings: 4
 5 sweet apples, such as Honeycrisp
 lemon juice (optional)

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