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**Overcoming barriers
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Youth from across the Border Land School Division gathered in Altona last week for the Generating Momentum for Our World Youth Conference. For the full story, see Pg. 14.

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New BTHC inpatient unit, Community Services Building ready to open

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Work on phase one of the Boundary Trails Health Centre major expansion project is wrapping up.

Project supporters got the chance to tour the new inpatient unit and the Community Services Building (CSB) at a special reception hosted by the BTHC Foundation Feb. 26.

The hospital planned to begin moving patients into the 24-bed expansion this week, with the CSB expected to open as soon as the numerous programs and their staff finish moving into building.

Joel Nelson, director of health services for BTHC, noted this project has

been in the works for years, so to see phase one through to completion is heartening.

"I've been in this role for about three and a half years and I don't think a week goes by where there's not at least two, three, four hours of meetings that have gone into planning this space. So to be at this point now is very relieving and very exciting."

The inpatient unit features 24 new acute care and palliative care beds, a multi-disciplinary team room, lounges and private gathering spaces for family members and the public, and a staff break room.

Continued on page 5



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

BTHC director of health services Joel Nelson leads a tour of the new inpatient unit, which features 24 acute care and palliative care beds (right). The two-storey building also includes both public and private gathering spaces for family and other visitors (left).



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“We’ve turned it into a new, modern rink”

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new era begins this week for the Winkler Centennial Arena.

Workers are putting the finishing touches on the massive \$23.75 million renovation project ahead of opening it to the public just in time for the Winkler Flyers junior hockey team’s final home games of the regular season Friday and Saturday night.

The Park St. facility officially got its occupancy permit last Friday, and city council celebrated with a tour of the revitalized space.

Over the past year, the rink was completely gutted and transformed into a facility that will serve the community well for generations to come, observed Mayor Henry Siemens.

“We took a rink that was 55+ years old and we’ve turned it into a new, modern rink, adding several hundred seats,” he said. The arena now seats about 1,350 people with room for 200 or so more in designated standing areas.

“We have an opportunity now for a significant amount of standing room seats and we’ve worked hard to make those comfortable,” Siemens said, explaining there are railings in those areas that people can lean up against.

The layout of the space is something new as well.

“Probably the biggest piece that people will notice is that you’re going to walk from the top down to your seat, whereas previously you walked up to your seat,” Siemens noted.

The top-down bowl design allows for not just more seats but better sight lines while still keeping fans close to

the action.

“There were a lot of really good things that we liked in the old rink, like the fact that we were fairly on top of the ice, that our fans could be close,” the mayor noted. “We worked hard to recreate that.”

There’s plenty of traditional bench seating but also new individual seats in select areas. There are also several VIP boxes overlooking all the action.

“We did have box seating in the old arena but it wasn’t quite as nice as this,” Siemens said. “What this does is allow both the Winkler Flyers and other user groups an opportunity to provide a slightly different experience for fans.”

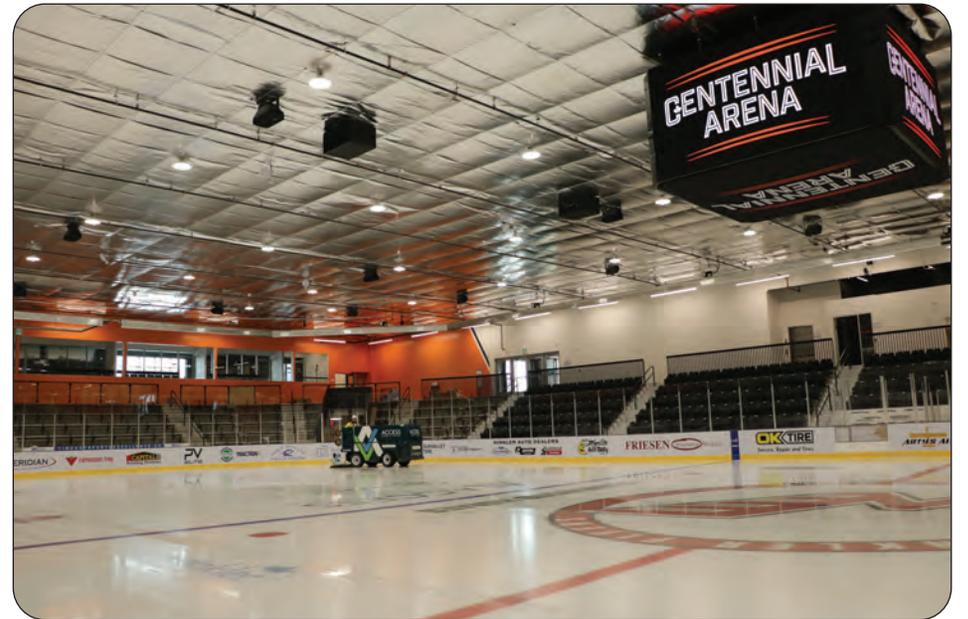
The renos also moved the entrance to the south side of the building, added spacious new dressing rooms, moved the canteen upstairs, and brought aging mechanical and electrical systems up to modern standards.

Also added was a giant electronic scoreboard at centre ice that will provide a host of advertising and play-back opportunities.

“Let’s say the Flyers go very deep in the playoffs—we could literally broadcast away games in here,” said Siemens. “The Jets, the Olympics, we can do watch parties here now. We have a high quality screen that allows us to do all that.”

The project came in under budget and on schedule.

“If we look back at our schedule in October 2024, we tentatively planned to play hockey in this arena by the end of February 2026,” Siemens noted. “We’re within six days of that. To have a year and a half of planning and



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Save for a few finishing touches, the new and improved Winkler Centennial Arena is ready to welcome hockey fans this weekend as the Winkler Flyers play their final regular season home games.

construction and be within a week of the anticipated time, we’re extremely proud of that and thankful to Bockstael Construction and our staff who have managed this entire project exceptionally well.

“We also want to say a huge thank you to all of our user groups about how patient they’ve been, how well they’ve worked together to make use of a much smaller arena for the better part of two years now,” Siemens add-

ed. Winkler’s lone rink in that time was in the Meridian Exhibition Centre. “It really was very inconvenient for a lot of them, but they all recognized that this is what we were working towards.”

Deputy Mayor Andrew Froese, who heads up council’s community services committee, said the renovations

Continued on page 4



Spacious box seats in the renovated Winkler Centennial Arena allow for a higher-end viewing experience.

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler city council check out some of the new bench seating still being installed in the renovated Centennial Arena. Below: The main entrance is now on the south side of the facility, which is connected to the Meridian Exhibition Centre.



> WINKLER CENTENNIAL ARENA, FROM PG. 3

went incredibly smoothly considering the age of the building.

"Usually you find all kinds of surprises—and we did find asbestos in places we didn't expect," he said, noting, however, that the bones of the facility were still solid and the builders and city staff "did a fantastic job of jumping to every problem, finding solutions, and finding ways to stay on track" when curve balls did come up.

"I'm very excited to show this to the community," he said. "I'm excited to hear the atmosphere in here and see what kind of life it brings to the Flyers and to the whole community, what kind of buzz it creates."

The City officially got the keys to the rink last Friday morning, though

there was still a handful of work left to be completed.

"We're not 100 per cent done with a few things, but we can still be in here playing hockey, we can finish out our hockey season," Siemens said. "And there'll probably be a few things that we're going to learn over this next month, month and a half that will allow us to set everything up properly to finish it up and get ready for the next hockey season and the grand opening."

An open house is in the works, likely for March 12, to give people the opportunity to get behind-the-scenes tours of the entire rink, but the official ribbon cutting celebration won't take place until fall.

Morden designated a "Bee City"

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden last week heralded its official designation as a "Bee City."

It is only the second Bee City in Manitoba, and a city representative said the recognition reflects the commitment to supporting pollinators through a range of habitat, education, and community engagement initiatives.

"We've always kind of been looking into how we can naturalize our areas more or provide more support of the pollinators in our area," said Brooklin Reimer, Morden's horticulture lead.

When they heard about the Bee City Canada program, they felt Morden "fell right in with what they stand for," she suggested.

The City of Morden maintains four existing pollinator gardens in parks and open spaces featuring a diverse range of native plant species.

City staff are also working on expanding pollinator-friendly spaces through the establishment of additional gardens in partnership with members of the Morden and District Horticultural Society. These areas will prioritize native flowering plants, grasses, shrubs and trees that provide nectar and pollen throughout the growing season.

Other bee-friendly initiatives include having designated no-mow zones in riparian areas along the Dead Horse Creek and planting clover in downtown tree wells to help increase the availability of nectar-rich forage.

Morden also has an integrated pest management plan that emphasizes biological, cultural, and physical management so as to reduce the reliance on chemical pesticides. City workers also make use of cardboard layering in public shrub and flower beds to reduce weeds.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Morden has been designated a "Bee City" by Bee City Canada.

Other plans in the works include a woodlot extension project at Lakeside Cemetery that includes planting over 12,000 trees, 360 of which will be native saskatoon shrubs to enhance pollen availability and habitat connectivity.

"That will be really important for pollinator conservation and helping those populations," said Reimer.

With the designation, the city now intends to be part of the Pollinator Week promotion in conjunction with Bee City Canada in mid-June.

"We would like to participate in some activities and promotions that they do as well as during Arbor Day in June. We want to host an outreach booth to promote Morden as a bee city," said Reimer, who added their aim is to be "providing clear science-based information on the importance of pollinators and the challenges they face and just basically getting people involved in spreading information about pollinators and their benefits."

You can learn more about the City of Morden's efforts to support pollinators online at beecitycanada.org/bee-cities/morden.

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Above: A hallway in the inpatient unit. Right: The new Community Services Building is also preparing to open. It will be home to a host of programs, including the hospital's pharmacy, child and youth rehab, public health, and more.



➤ BOUNDARY TRAILS HEALTH CENTRE, FROM PG. 2

The CSB is home to a larger hospital pharmacy, child and youth rehab services, CancerCare, public health/healthy living programming, home care, midwifery, and mental health and addictions services.

"It creates a hub which will have quick access to the acute services of the hospital," explained Dana Human, Southern Health-Santé Sud interim CEO. "It's going to be easier access, you're going to know where services are ... we want it to be a place where people feel welcome."

With the work on phase one done, BTHC's focus now turns to phase two: massive renovations in the original hospital building, which has

served the region since 2001.

"We get to enjoy this for a couple of weeks and then we start on renovations at the main campus," Nelson noted. "We'll be moving into those projects over the next 18 to 20 months."

The renovations will expand several departments, including surgery, cancer care, emergency, ambulatory care, medical device reprocessing, and diagnostic services.

"We're doing everything quite cautiously and in phases," shared Human, noting the RHA has similar large-scale building projects going on right now in Steinbach and Portage as well. "We've learned through

all these builds that good direction is always better than speed. These people know what they're doing, the staff know what they need, our patients tell us what they need and what they would like. This next step is going to be phenomenal.

"When this place is all done we really need to have balloons absolutely everywhere because the celebration will be huge."

Through the BTHC Foundation, the community is contributing \$10 million towards the \$100-million cost of the project.

Foundation board chair Brent Menzies said it's taken a lot of support from countless people to make this a reality.

"Together with you all, we cele-

brate the completion of phase one of the Boundary Trails Health Centre expansion: a major milestone for our region and for patients and families who rely on this facility for care," he told the assembled guests. "This new inpatient unit represents increased capacity, improved spaces for care, and a stronger foundation for meeting the needs of our growing community well into the future."

"The communities and rural municipalities that surround this hospital have always displayed immense pride and willingness in supporting initiatives that enhance community wellness," Human agreed. "It's a beautiful thing to see ... it makes me proud to be a part of this region."

Segue hosting 'Unlocking Workforce Potential' workshop

By Lorne Stelmach

An upcoming workshop will bring together a number of speakers to address employers on practical accommodation strategies for disabled people in workplaces.

Unlocking Workforce Potential is an initiative of Segue Career Options in collaboration with Gateway Resources, Manitoba Possible, the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce, and Gardenland Co-op.

The workshop takes place Thursday, March 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Winkler library, and an organizer noted the session will address the issue from a number of perspectives.

"I think there's definitely employers, and all of us really, who have more to learn about how to create these optimum spaces for everybody," said Lavonne Kroeker, program director at Segue.

"The whole purpose of the event is just to provide employers with more resources about some of the pieces related to hiring individuals with disabilities," she said. "We're very excited about having the opportunity to host something like this ... we know there's often questions from employers ... so getting a chance to bring

employers together to learn more and to share and discuss is a great opportunity."

The workshop will include the following topics and speakers:

- 11:30 a.m. - Identifying employer challenges with Scott Hoepfner on employment law; addressing legal implications of increased accessibility and implementation of accommodations.
- 12 p.m. - Highlighting employer success with Phillip Valley, director of people and culture at Triple E; learn how Triple E has creatively welcomed and supported employees of varied abilities.
- 12:30 p.m. - Celebrating workplace wins with Gateway Resources; hear first hand stories of accommodation in action.
- 1 p.m. - Community resources with representatives of Manitoba Possible, Segue Career Options and Gateway Resources sharing local resources available to employers.

"We became aware of some of the initiatives at Triple E that are really interesting and exciting," said Kroeker. "And Gateway Resources is giving the opportunity for a few participants in their programs to share about their employment journey and their experiences working in the community."

Kroeker believes there is a need for more

awareness around this topic in many workplaces.

"Sometimes, employers may have considered it before, but they've never actually gone down the path of being open to the possibility," she said, noting it often might only require small changes being made in the workplace for people to thrive.

"It's kind of one of those things until you experience it, you may not know or you may have questions or ideas about what it might mean to, for example, provide accommodations," she said, "In our work, we still run into employers where they might not be aware that it could be just a really simple thing that could make a huge difference for someone."

Anyone interested should reserve in advance as seating will be limited. For more information, contact Segue Career Options at 204-325-8988.

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Spring means growth

The season of growth is coming. You can feel it on the wind and sense in the growing light of the morning. This is always a super exciting time of year for me.

Growth means the emergence of green: grass, plants, fields, trees, flowers, etc. With this growth comes the re-awakening of a myriad of insects, birds, and wildlife of all kinds.

People are also more visible as they timidly peek out their windows and doors to determine if it is warm enough to come out. When they do we see them on bikes, walking, hiking, motorcycling, swimming, boating and more.

There is also another kind of growth that becomes more visible in spring: the growth of development. Houses, apartments, commercial and industrial ventures. This kind of growth signifies a healthy community.

Additional development means increased tax dollars to the community. When commercial and industrial development keep pace with residential it lessens the burden on homeowners (and renters to whom tax increases are passed on in rent increases).

In 2025, by order of most development to least, here's what we saw: Winkler saw 246 permits issued valued at \$83 million in development; Stanley saw 121 permits issued valued at \$37 million in development;

Morden saw 117 permits valued at \$37 million in development and Altona saw \$13 million in development value.

In terms of single-family housing permits Winkler saw 58 permits issued; Altona saw 42 permits issued and Morden saw 23 permits issued.

From a value per capita perspective Altona wins with \$8,671 in permit value per person; Winkler's permit value was \$6,039 per person; Stanley saw \$4,120 in permit value per person and Morden saw \$3,727 in permit value per person.

Despite being the second largest of the four municipalities considered, Morden comes in dead last when it comes to permit value. This is not a new thing but rather a years-long trend related directly to our inability to complete a new wastewater facility, which has limited the number of permits issued.

Growth would no doubt be much higher if Morden we able to allow the expansion. I was speaking with a leader in regional development recently and they told me that most builders developing in Winkler are already booking into 2027, the need is so high.

An enterprising individual than me could certainly look at permit values over the past 10 years and estimate where Morden's should have been to determine lost opportunity in dol-

lars. It would be interesting to compare this to the ever-increasing cost of wastewater that the city has seen.

The point I'm making here is old and worn out. This is a horse so past being dead that I no longer recognize what it is that I am beating at this point and am searching for new metaphors.

The sooner we see the wastewater plant completed the sooner Morden can work its way back to healthy growth. Even then the city has work to do given that an unhealthy majority of taxes are being paid by residents in comparison to commercial and industrial (ideally you want to see a split somewhere in the range of 65/35).

It's not just Morden that is seeing the negative effects of stagnant growth. Regionally leaders are concerned that what Morden has been incapable of supporting has moved to Winkler and further afield.

What's the problem? Well, cities like Winkler plan their budgets and infrastructure development out several years. Winkler has been growing faster than forecast which means predicted infrastructure costs are less than what was expected. This translates to having to spend more, faster than expected and that increased cost lands on the taxpayer.

Regional growth needs to be balanced or else negative effects compound throughout the communities.

Let us hope this spring is the beginning of re-growth and opportunity for Morden ... for the sake of its residents and regional health.



By Peter Cantelon

Letter policy

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

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

Please include your full name, address, and phone number for ver-

ification purposes. Your name and city will be published with your letter. We do not print anonymous letters.

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

Morden Police promote from within

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Police Service has once again promoted from within its own ranks.

Chief Sean Aune last week announced Curtis Warkentin has moved up from constable to sergeant to fill the vacancy created when Chris Flook was promoted to inspector.

Aune said they believe Warkentin possesses the necessary leadership ability, knowledge, and dedication required for the position.

“He’s got experience from several different police services ... and once he was with us, he continued on with some specialized training,” he noted.

Aune observed that it is a positive thing for the city and police department to be able to be promoting from within, and it is something that has become a priority for them.

“I think it’s a really good sign. It’s important,” he said. “It shows that the training levels that we do here are all supporting members to get more education, to keep building themselves up and to be eligible for promotions.”

Born and raised in Morden, Warkentin relocated in 2005 to pursue his

education at Lethbridge Community College, where he earned a diploma in criminal justice. In 2009, he completed his basic recruit training at the Saskatchewan Police College.

He previously served as a constable with the Saskatoon Police Service from 2008 to 2011 followed by the Regina Police Service from 2011 to 2016.

He then joined the Morden Police Service in 2016 and has since been involved in a wide range of investigations and special projects. Among the many training courses he has completed, Warkentin has obtained certification as a drug recognition expert and has received specialized training in search warrant drafting.

In 2022, he completed K-9 handler training and has since served as a member of the K-9 Unit alongside police service dog Ice. He will remain actively involved in the K-9 Unit while carrying out his duties as sergeant.

Warkentin welcomed the new opportunity.

“It’s something I’ve been working towards for a while,” he said. “Though it’s something that when I started policing, I didn’t think would be a possibility.”



MORDEN POLICE PHOTO

Morden Police Service Chief Sean Aune (left) with Sgt. Curtis Warkentin.

He added it is also nice to have this opportunity in his hometown.

“It’s nice that Morden is a supportive community that has an organization that’s been set up the way it has been over the last several years,” Warkentin said. “Jumping into something like this, there’s a lot of guidance. The guys here can steer me in the right direction ... I’m really looking forward to it.”

With the change, it leaves the police service at a total staffing of 16 members, which is down with the retirement of former chief Brad Neduzak.

“A new future problem that we have is that our police service is getting

older, so we have a retirement coming up this year as well, so we will be down another spot,” Aune said. “But fortunately we have two members in the police academy right now that will be filling those two spots, so that will give us 17 in total.”

“We kind of knew those were coming, so we got ahead of that,” he added, noting it takes time for new recruits to go through a number of levels of training and then a year of probation.

“So it’s usually a couple years before you can actually start taking on your own responsibilities here ... so we have to get ahead of it.”

Letters

SPEED LIMIT FRUSTRATIONS

I wrote a letter to this paper back in 2014 mentioning the lack of turning lanes in Winkler and surrounding areas.

At the time there were three turning lanes if you were southbound on the Hwy. 32. Now there is more like 17. Just maybe my letter made a difference?

Now I would like to bring up the topic of speed limits in this area. In my short 35 years of driving in this area, I have seen them shrink from 100 kph to 80, from 80 down to 60, from 70 down to 50, from 50 down to 30. If this trend continues, pretty soon nobody will be moving at all.

I’m not sure if people realize this, but the slower you go, the longer you are on the road, and the longer you are on the road, the more congested traffic gets, and the more congested that the traffic gets, the more impatient some drivers get, and the more impatient some drivers get, the more idiotic things they attempt.

Winnipeg has the perimeter highway where you can go 100, and even some streets where the speed limit is 80. I was in Minneapolis last summer and we could drive 100 in the

city (never saw an accident), Alberta is talking about increasing the limit from 110 to 120 on one of their highways, and in North Dakota you can go 130.

As Winkler keeps growing, I sure hope that they put some thought into how to keep traffic flowing. Does anyone else think it strange that you can only go 30 on Roblin Blvd. past GVC where I rarely see anyone crossing the street save for at a crosswalk, but the speed limit is 50 on 4th St past the MCC store where every minute of the day (Tuesday to Saturday) you see toddlers and senior citizens crossing all day long and vehicles backing up into traffic out of their parking spots?

It did feel a little strange driving on Pembina East from Reinfeld to Winkler and only going 50 with agricultural fields on both sides of the highway, and then speeding up to 60 when you got into town, but I see they now fixed that.

I was going to bring up the topic of traffic lights, but I ran out of time. Maybe next week. I guess it took me too long to get home.

Andy Fehr,
Reinland

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Southern MB Tech Conference looks to the future

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Southern Manitoba Tech Conference last week brought business leaders from across Manitoba and beyond to Morden for a day of tech innovation, hands-on demos, and networking.

"We've got a whole cross section of people that have showed up from multiple industries, multiple levels of leadership," shared John Chaput, president of Passionate Productivity, which hosted the conference.

"I've been hearing that this is a need here for a long time," he said. "As I've been reaching out to local compa-

nies to tell them I can support them, they're telling me we really need to get together in southern Manitoba to talk about this stuff. This is our way to show we're listening."

The conference's various panels and presentations were all meant to help attendees navigate the future of technology in manufacturing.

"The theme is really about being open-minded and bold," Chaput said, explaining the event was designed specifically for business leaders looking for guidance from experts on how things like robotics, enterprise resource planning (ERP), and artificial intelligence can revolutionize their



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Southern Manitoba Tech Conference last week brought together manufacturing leaders for a day of demonstrations, panel discussions, and networking.

operations. It's not about using technology to take jobs away from humans, he stressed, but making those jobs easier and more efficient.

The guest speakers and in-depth panel discussions were invaluable resources for attendees, but so too was simply the opportunity to network with others in the manufacturing world to talk about what's working for them and how they're overcoming

common challenges.

"As part of any good conference, networking is half of it," Chaput noted. "I hope they're making connections that are meaningful to them."

"We also have the exhibitors that are here to help. They're local, and it's really helping the leaders in the room figure out, 'Who do I call to help with the next steps?'"



Pit bull attack leads to request to review Winkler's animal bylaw

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler city council heard from two delegations of concerned residents at its Feb. 24 meeting.

The first, Sally Marsolais and Larry Schroeder, were calling on the City of Winkler to consider amending its animal control bylaw in the wake of a terrifying attack that happened to a local family earlier this year.

On Jan. 7, two large pit bulls entered a neighbouring family's home and began attacking their dog. Tracks in the snow showed the two had come directly from their neighbouring yard to the victims' house's door.

The mother was home alone with her three young children. She became trapped in a bedroom with two of them—a four-year-old and a one-year-old—but her three-month-old was still lying on the living room sofa.

"Outside the door she could hear the dogs fighting. Heavy movement, bodies hitting walls, crashing. The sounds were violent motion more than barking," Marsolais shared.

The mother feared for her infant

child's life but was unable to leave the bedroom and risk her other children being attacked.

She called for help. Neighbours arrived just before police and were able to grab the baby, who was uninjured.

When police arrived on the scene, they used tasers and pepper spray to try to subdue the dogs, with little effect. The dogs were contained to one room so the rest of the family could be safely evacuated.

Additional police and animal control officers were needed to bring the pit bulls under control. They were later put down. The family dog did not survive the attack.

The aftermath of the incident was horrifying, said Schroeder.

"I don't watch horror movies, but I would imagine that a staged backdrop for a gruesome murder sequence would look similar," he said of the blood, fecal matter, and destroyed furniture strewn throughout the house.

Schroeder stressed this could have been a much more tragic situation.

"Sounds outside that bedroom door caused horror in [the mother's] mind,

especially since she had no way of knowing what was actually happening and, most importantly, the condition of her youngest child, a baby who is alone in the living room and utterly unreachable.

"We could have been having a very different conversation ... we could be standing here reflecting on a horrific death."

Schroeder urged council to take steps to ensure something like this can never happen again, including by empowering law enforcement and animal control to take stronger action sooner.

"These kinds of incidents don't usually come out of nowhere. They often happen after a few warning signs have been there for a while and there isn't a clear way to step in early," he said. "In this case specifically, the dogs were not properly contained, the fencing was incomplete, and no one was outside supervising them."

The owner was charged under the Animal Liability Act for allowing an animal to run at large. Their first court date is next month.

"Even if no one meant for anything

to happen, the conditions created a serious and growing risk," Schroeder said, stressing irresponsible owners need to be held more accountable for their actions.

Other municipalities have clearer rules for fencing and supervision of animals, oversight on breeding operations, tougher consequences for dogs that repeatedly get loose, and required safety measures for dogs that have demonstrated dangerous behaviour, Schroeder said.

"These rules are here to protect the public and prevent repeat situations. Right now Winkler's bylaw gives tools to respond after harm has happened. What's missing is stronger tools to step in earlier before a family is harmed."

"Today we're asking council to review Winkler's animal control bylaw with prevention in mind to see what tools could be added so we could reduce the chance of this happening again."

Mayor Henry Siemens said an assessment is already underway.

Businesses celebrated for investing in skills training

By Holly Thorne-Wiebe

More than 60 area employers were recognized in Altona last week for their role in preparing students for careers in the trades, highlighting the strong partnership between local industry and vocational education.

The recognition event was hosted by the Red River Technical Vocational Area (RRTVA), which serves several southern Manitoba school divisions and provides hands-on technical training opportunities for high school students.

Employers honoured at the gathering have supported students through initiatives such as Manitoba's High School Apprenticeship Program (HSAP), offering supervised, paid work experience while they complete their high school education.

Through HSAP, students in Grades 10 to 12 can begin accumulating apprenticeship hours while earning credits toward graduation. Participants are employed and mentored by certified tradespeople, allowing them to gain practical skills in real-world settings. The program creates a pathway for students to continue their apprenticeship after high school and work toward journeyman certification.

Organizers said the event was an opportunity to thank businesses that have opened their doors to young workers and demonstrated a commitment to strengthening the region's future workforce. The turnout reflected the depth of support among employers across the region.

Among those recognized was Rhineland Car owner Jim Dyck, who spoke about the impact of welcoming student apprentices into his workplace.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Local employers were honoured last week at the Red River Technical Vocational Area's annual Partners in Education luncheon. It's the program's way of thanking business leadership for their partnership in helping to train the next generation of tradespeople.

"We've gained so much from working with students through the program," he said, noting the experience has been positive for both the business and the young people involved.

Dyck added that providing mentorship allows employers to help shape skills and work habits early, while also identifying potential long-term employees. For many businesses, apprenticeship placements offer a practical way to address labour needs and invest in talent close to home.

Programs delivered through RRTVA expose students to a wide range of trades and technical careers, including automotive service, carpentry, electrical work, welding and heavy-duty equipment servicing.

Students divide their time between classroom instruction and on-the-job training, developing both theoretical knowledge and practical expertise.

Educators involved with the RRTVA say partnerships with employers are

essential to the success of apprenticeship pathways. Without businesses willing to supervise and train students, the hands-on component of learning would not be possible.

For students, the opportunity to earn while they learn can build confidence and clarify career goals. Some discover a passion for a particular trade through their placement, while others gain valuable workplace skills that benefit them regardless of the career path they choose.

Manitoba's apprenticeship system ultimately leads to certification in designated trades, many of which fall under the national Red Seal program. Journeyman certification provides recognized standards of training and can open employment opportunities across Canada.

Business leaders at the recognition event stressed that supporting youth in trades training benefits the broader community. As experienced trades-

people retire and labour shortages persist in many sectors, apprenticeship programs help ensure that skills and knowledge are passed on to the next generation.

Organizers described the evening as both a celebration and a reminder of the collaborative effort required to sustain skilled trades training. By working together—schools, employers and students—local communities are helping build a workforce prepared to meet future demand.

"There's a real sense of pride in seeing these young people thrive," one mentor noted during the program. "When we invest in them, we invest in our community's future."

With continued employer participation and student interest, supporters say vocational education and apprenticeship training will remain a key part of workforce development across southern Manitoba.

> WINKLER COUNCIL, FROM PG. 8

"Immediately after an incident like this council is briefed, but staff also immediately get to work and say what can we do or what should we learn out of something like this?" he said. "To have suggestions from people who care helps us as we review and as we try to find ways to make sure that what happened here doesn't happen again."

The evening's second delegation featured comments from resident John Dyck in regards to Pembina

Valley Pride's plans to hold a gathering in Winkler in June.

He stated his belief that members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community are in contradiction to God's will, voiced concern over allowing a Pride Month celebration to occur in Winkler and what it might mean for the community's future, and asked council what it intends to do about it.

"Where does our mayor and the city council stand on this issue?" he asked. "Remember: accountability

and blessing in the past and future are from God alone."

Mayor Siemens stressed council makes decisions that are "within the rules that are available to us and within an element of freedom and respect for everyone."

He noted Pembina Valley Pride is not planning a parade through town, as it has done in past years in other communities, but rather a single gathering in a public space.

"In the situation that you're referencing now, we have had a group who has rented some space in Win-

kler for an event in June," Siemens said. "That event is open to people who want to attend it, and it's also no requirement for anyone to attend it."

While he acknowledged some in the community have very strong negative opinions about this event, council has "a legal obligation to make sure that we follow the provincial rules and to follow the municipal rules as they are set before us. Your opportunity is to not attend this event, and I would suggest those that disagree with it, that they don't attend."

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“Everything was in total lockdown”

By Lorne Stelmach

A Morden couple who have been going for extended winter stays in Mexico for the last 15 years had never experienced anything like the chaos and violence that happened last month in the wake of the capture and death of a major drug cartel leader.

Although their vacation spot in Guayabitos is about a 45 minute drive away from the centre of the trouble in Puerto Vallarta, George and Shirley Klassen certainly still felt the impact as the entire town was shut down.

“Our complex and everything was in total lockdown,” said George. “We never felt like this before in ... where we stay ... and we were a little bit leery the first day when it happened.”

“The stores were closed, all of the restaurants were closed. Our complex was completely locked up. All of the vendors were closed,” added Shirley.

Puerto Vallarta, which is a major beach resort on Mexico’s Pacific coast, was among the towns where the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) blockaded roads and torched cars in retaliation for the killing by security forces of their leader, Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, known as “El Mencho.”

Despite being not being right in the epicentre of it all, it was still a shocking and unsettling situation to be in

Mexico as it was all unfolding, says George.

“It absolutely was,” he said. “We didn’t really think about much other than that all day. It consumed us because of all the uncertainty.”

Under normal circumstances, they have never even remotely experienced anything like this there before, he added.

“For us, it’s the most beautiful place anywhere. The people are so friendly,” George said. “The Mexican people, while this was going on, they were making sure that we were one hundred per cent taken care of; they were looking after us. That’s the kind of people who are down here.

“There’s never a reason for fear of anything wherever we go. We come and go as we want, so it’s perfect for us.”

There was a lot of uncertainty, and they at first didn’t know if the violence would spread to where they were located.

“There was some unrest in Bucerias, which is a city closer to us, only about 30 minutes away. It was going on there, but it never came closer to us.”

Things had settled down within a few days, with many places reopening, but things certainly didn’t simply return to normal.

“The streets were not nearly as full as they normally are,” George said.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Mordenites Shirley and George Klassen were in Mexico during last week’s cartel chaos. While their resort is a distance away from Puerto Vallarta, where a major cartel leader was captured and killed, it was still in lockdown (below, left)

“The hustle and bustle, you could feel it was subdued and people were still not letting go of everything and getting out there like usual.”

And of course the Mexican people there are well aware of the cartel and the possible risk it poses, he added.

“They know how to deal with it because they live with it. A lot of them said don’t worry, this won’t be long. This will pass.

“The owner of our complex here said that he has never, and he grew up here in Guayabitos, has never experienced anything like this before,” added Shirley. “This has never happened.”

“I think this was the scariest for them too,” agreed George.

Once things settled, they were thankful to be able to get out again and get back to enjoying their remaining time there.

“We were looking forward to just a

normal day to get back on track. We had three weeks left, and we wanted to enjoy it those last few weeks,” said George.

“We feel really safe here,” he added. “We had been on the edge because we were going to Puerto Vallarta—we are planning to spend two nights there, so we’re hoping and praying that things will be back to normal.”

In the end, they see this experience as likely not dissuading them from returning again.

“We actually talked about it ... the first day on Sunday, when it happened,” said George.

“We did talk about possibly not coming back next year because we were right in the heat of things,” said Shirley.

“We were looking around again then and said how could we not come back here? I think we’ll come back here again.”



Clarification

An article in the Feb. 26 issue of the *Voice* on the Morden Festival of the Arts mistakenly omitted details for one of the upcoming sessions.

The choral sessions take place Friday, April 17 at Morden Mennonite Church with start times of 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Genesis House marking International Women's Day with a free concert

By Lorne Stelmach

Genesis House is marking International Women's Day next week with a free concert.

The organization is inviting people to join them in Winkler Saturday, March 14 in celebrating the achievements and contributions of women from all walks of life with a show featuring headlining artist Brandi Vezina. The evening will also include local band One Night Only and a message of encouragement from Lisa Currier.

The goal of the show is to amplify female voices and empower women in the community, said Sophie Gerbrandt, resource development manager at Genesis House.

"As a domestic violence shelter dedicated to supporting women and children fleeing abuse, Genesis House recognizes International Women's Day as more than a celebration. It is a call to action," said Gerbrandt. "Gender-based violence continues to disproportionately impact

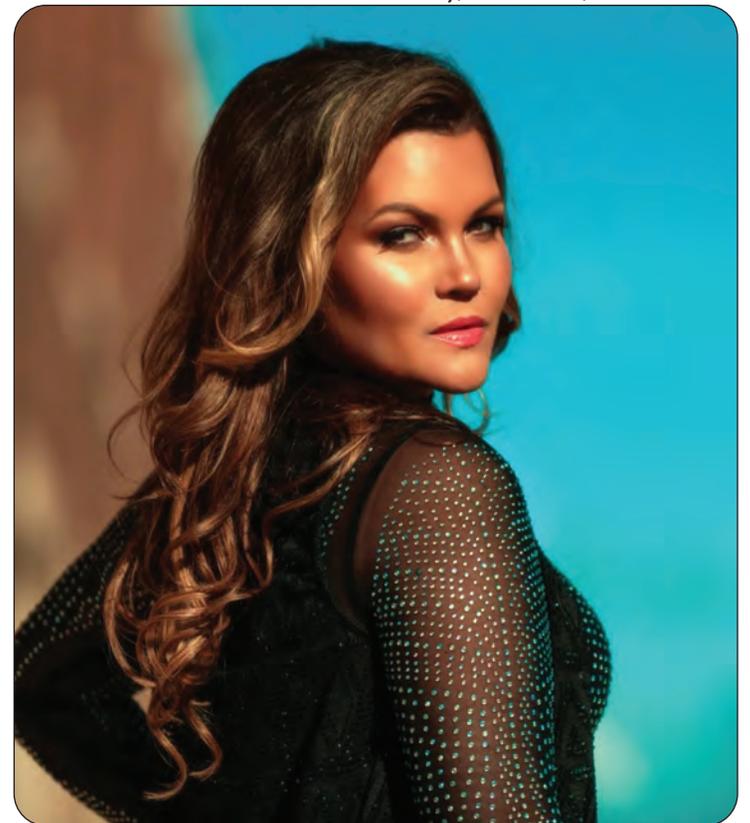
women, and shelters like Genesis House witness first hand the strength and resilience of survivors every day.

"Marking International Women's Day provides us an opportunity to foster community dialogue around equality, safety and respect—and empower women and girls to know their worth and their voices

A Métis singer-songwriter, Vezina and writing partner Scott Nolan were honoured with the Manitoba Country Music Association's Fay Walker Song songwriters award for "Paper Town." Inspired by true events, the song tells the story of a once-thriving mill town that lost its lifeblood when the industry collapsed.

Vezina has earned national recognition and has performed shows across Manitoba.

Thanks to support from Aspire Dental Centre Cornerstone, admission to the March 14 show is free. It begins at 7 p.m. at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Brandi Vezina performs March 14 in Winkler as part of Genesis House's International Women's Day celebrations.

Morden, Stanley, Winkler developing joint strategic planning

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden, Winkler, and Stanley are working together on a new tripartite planning process.

The aim is to develop a joint plan to work together in the areas of communications and strategic planning. The three communities have contracted the 13 Ways consulting firm to help them create the plan.

"Both communities have used their services in the past and were really pleased with the results," Morden Mayor Nancy Penner noted following the Feb. 23 council meeting.

"It's sort of a multi-phased engagement that we could go forward with ... but we're just engaging in phase one for now," she said, noting this is a municipal election year so "this council is only committing to phase one. The newly elected council can then make decisions going forward.

"I think there's a great opportunity here," said Penner. "We're looking forward to this process."

Another item on the council agenda was an unexpected financial boost that led to the transfer of funds to the city's community development reserve.

The opportunity arose from the MSTW (Morden Stanley Thompson Winkler) Planning District having surplus funds as a result of increased fee revenue from development permits.

"So they gave back to the four members," said Penner. "They refunded

some of those development fees back to those municipalities.

"Because it came from development fees, we put into a community development reserve ... how that will be used in the future is yet to be determined," she added. "Instead of just putting it into just general reserves, we're earmarking it for future projects."

The city was receiving about \$350,418 as a result.

"If we had a project that had grant funding, and we needed to match it perhaps, we could use it for that, or if a project needed a top-up, we could use it there," said Penner. "It's significant ... it was unexpected. And whenever you get money like this ... you want to put it to good use."

Council as well gave final approval to the accommodation tax.

The tax that will be added to the cost of renting a hotel room in Morden will be just one per cent in the first year before increasing to two per cent in the second year and three per cent in the third.

"Again, that won't just go into general funds, it will go into a reserve fund, and that will specifically go towards economic development," said Penner, who added those funds down the road then could be used for such things as supporting and attracting more large-scale events or promoting and encouraging tourism.

"It will take a number of years to build up that reserve and to have a significant impact, and that's why

we want to start putting that money away right from day one," she said.

"Other communities are collecting it," she added. "And they're seeing value in it, they're seeing how increased tourism is benefitting their

communities, and they're moving forward."

The tax is now awaiting approval from the province before it is put in place.

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Light Up the Streets raised \$85,002 for Central Station



Feb. 21 saw 138 people come out to walk in support of Central Station in Light Up the Streets 2026, raising \$85,002 to support local families in need.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The numbers are in and the news is good: Central Station's Light Up the Streets hit its fundraising goal.

The three kilometre walk hosted by the Winkler community centre Feb. 21 saw 138 people participate and collectively raise \$85,002—two dollars over this year's target.

"We're extremely pleased," says Krista Rempel, Central Station's social impact director. "Non-profit is a world where there's always more that we could do, so the more money that we receive, the more we can do with those funds."

"In this economy, we acknowledge that it's very hard times, so every penny and every dollar that we receive is incredibly valuable to us. We know how hard people work for their funds, so for them to support us like this, it's amazing."

It was the fourth annual walk and the coldest one yet, but that didn't stop supporters of all ages from taking part.

"For people to come out and do that meant that this is more important to them than their own comfort," Rempel observed. "And that is a beautiful thing."

The chilly weather also provided food for thought, Rempel noted: walking in it can be uncomfortable, but it makes one think about how hard it would be if you didn't have a safe, warm home to go back to at the end of the night. It's a situation an increasing number of Winklerites are facing.

To that end, the money raised will be used by Central Station on its poverty reduction plan.

"Our strategic vision for the next few years has really shifted from poverty alleviation to poverty reduction," Rempel explained, noting they're working to tackle the root causes of poverty in our community, in addition to supporting people going through challenging times. "It funds our everyday operations such as things like showers the unhoused, hygiene kits, our advocacy office where we do all kinds of benefits—legal aid, EIA applications, anything that you're confused about or need some kind of assistance people can come in and we can help them."

"It supports our partnerships with the food cupboard and other agencies to offer people the services that we do," she continued. "That's all through the generosity of the community."

Rempel sends thanks out to everyone who walked, donated, or supported this event as a sponsor.

"Thank you for sacrificing your time and your comfort and your warmth to come out and shine a light on poverty and homelessness that's in our community," she said. "The community made this happen. Every single business, organization and person had a part in it."

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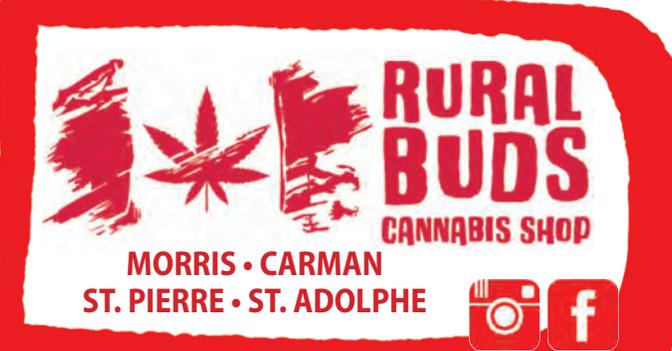
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Flood outlook low to moderate across Manitoba: forecast centre

By Voice staff

The province is anticipating there will only be a low to moderate risk for spring flooding across Manitoba.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre last week released its spring flood outlook, and there is no high risk for flooding right now although of course it remains largely dependent on weather conditions from now through the melt period, including additional snowfall and spring rainfall as well as the snowmelt's timing and rate.

It is currently believed there is a moderate risk of flooding for the Red, Pembina, Assiniboine, Souris and Qu'Appelle rivers as well as the Interlake region including the Icelandic and Fisher rivers and portions of the Saskatchewan River in northern Manitoba.

There is a low flood risk for the Red and Assiniboine river tributaries including the Rat and Roseau rivers. Eastern Manitoba, including the Winnipeg River basin and Whiteshell

lakes area. Most Manitoba lakes are expected to remain within desired operating ranges after spring runoff and the risk of flooding along Manitoba lakes is low.

Soil moisture at freeze-up was near normal to below normal across most of Manitoba, and winter precipitation has ranged from near normal to below normal in many regions, while soil frost depths are generally shallower than normal, allowing greater infiltration of meltwater.

Snow accumulations are also generally within the normal range except for parts of southern Manitoba where snow accumulation remains below typical values for this time of year.

Lake levels across the province are within operating ranges. Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba are well below normal for this time of year, and inflows into most major lakes are expected to be below seasonal normals, reflecting generally drier-than-normal conditions across contributing river basins.

Continued on page 16

The Workers Compensation Act Legislative Review

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A Trusted Partnership Between Sunrise Credit Union and SaskTel

In today's digitally driven world, reliable and secure connectivity is no longer a luxury—it's a business essential. This is especially true for organizations with operations spread across rural and remote areas, where infrastructure gaps can slow down productivity and limit growth. For Sunrise Credit Union, which serves more than 35,000 members across 19 branches across Southwestern Manitoba, improving connectivity was a key step in continuing to meet the needs of their communities.

In 2023, Sunrise Credit Union began looking to modernize their digital infrastructure. "Our existing systems were functional but outdated," said Kelly Scott, Vice President of IT at Sunrise. "We were ready for a more future-forward solution that could grow with us."

After weighing their options, Sunrise met with an out of province technol-

ogy partner, SaskTel. Saskatchewan's leading communications provider is best known in their home province, yet SaskTel has been steadily expanding its footprint, working with organizations across Western Canada that need customized, high-performance connectivity solutions.

From the very beginning, SaskTel approached the project differently. "They didn't come in just trying to sell us something," Scott noted. "They listened. They spent time learning about our needs, our environment, our challenges. Then they came back with a strategy designed specifically for us — not a one-size-fits-all plan."

That strategy led to a complete revamp of Sunrise's network. SaskTel replaced outdated equipment at every branch, from switches and VoIP phones to routers, firewalls, and Wi-Fi systems. They also introduced a flexible SD-WAN

(Software Defined Wide Area Network) solution that tied all Sunrise locations together in a single, secure, and high-speed network.

For Belinda Griffith, Senior IT Officer at Sunrise, the difference was night and day. "Now, everything runs faster and more smoothly, and we've seen a significant drop in outages."

But it wasn't just about speed. The new system gave Sunrise's IT team better visibility and control. SaskTel's real-time diagnostics and intelligent routing mean issues are identified and resolved quickly and efficiently.

Importantly, the new setup empowers Sunrise's internal IT staff rather than replacing them. "We're still very involved in our systems," Griffith said. "But SaskTel handles the heavy lifting on the network side, which lets us focus on higher-value work. It's like adding expert bench strength to our team."

What started as a technology upgrade has become a full-fledged partnership — one that's helping Sunrise stay competitive, secure, and connected as they prepare for what's next in the digital banking landscape.

"This is more than just a client-vendor relationship," Scott said. "It's built on trust and shared goals. SaskTel has proven they're in it with us for the long haul."

For Manitoba businesses, SaskTel might not be the first name that comes to mind. But this success story shows what's possible when you work with a provider that takes the time to understand your needs and delivers more than just connectivity.

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getinformed

Youth conference focuses on communication, peace-building

By Holly Thorne-Wiebe

Students from across Southern Manitoba gathered in Altona last week for a hands-on conference aimed at strengthening communication skills and inspiring youth-led action in their home communities.

The Generating Momentum for Our World Youth Conference, organized by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC), brought together participants from schools within Borderland School Division and beyond. This year's theme centred on communication and peace-building.

"We do this work in schools across Manitoba," said James Kornelson, MCIC's director of engagement and learning. "Borderland School Division has a mandate to promote sustainability across the division, so we've partnered with them to put on this conference."

The day began with an interactive simulation designed to explore barriers to communication and sources of conflict. Participants were seated at tables representing different "boats," tied to the guiding phrase, "We're not all in the same boat, but we're all in the same storm."

"There are a lot of barriers to communication, sources of conflict, polarization," Kornelson said. "We have to face those challenges and we need skills to do that."

During the activity, students moved between stations collecting "treasures."

Success earned tokens, while challenges resulted in "anchors" symbolizing obstacles that can weigh down

communication. The game-like format encouraged reflection on privilege, difference, and collaboration.

In the afternoon, students rotated through creative workshops in spoken word poetry, theatre, visual arts, and multimedia. The goal was to equip them with practical tools they can bring back to their schools to launch community initiatives.

"Each year we develop new resources and materials for students connecting to the sustainable development goals," said Bea Basaran, MCIC's education specialist. "This year we're focused on communication and peace-building ... how we use communication skills to work towards actions for peace."

Basaran said the conference responds directly to concerns raised about misinformation, digital media, and growing polarization.

"With so much information and digital media, communication is really important, especially for students in this day and age," she said. "We want to inspire students to take action in their communities to foster inclusive, sustainable peace."

She added that conferences like this are increasingly vital.

"With disinformation, AI, deepfakes ... and reports showing rising radicalization among youth ... these are big issues," Basaran said. "At the core, we're teaching students to respect each other, to listen to each other, and to understand different forms of communication. That's foundational to democracy."

Students said the interactive approach made complex topics more accessible.

Schevchenko School student Alexis Mattson described the conference as an opportunity "to get our brains working and bring something back to our school and create an action project based on the theme of the day."

Izzy Lebreton, a Gr. 10 student from Ross L. Gray School, ob-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The Generating Momentum for Our World Youth Conference brought together students from across the region last week for workshops focused on communication and peace-building.



served that proper communication is an essential skill in 2026.

"The world is built on language and relationships," she said. "If you don't have communication, you're kind of lost."

Others pointed out the overwhelming amount of information young people encounter daily.

"One of the things we learned about today is miscommunication and misinformation, especially on social media," said Eden Lepp, a Gr. 8 student from Elm Creek School. "It's important that we dig deeper before taking something as true."

Students shared strategies such as checking multiple sources and identifying reliable information.

"Knowing who you can trust and what a reliable source is, is a really important skill to have," Lepp added.

Beyond media literacy, many students said they hope to strengthen personal confidence.

"I would like to take away better communication skills, especially with people with different needs," Mattson

said. "I want to learn how to communicate on different levels with a whole bunch of different people."

Others spoke about pushing beyond social anxiety.

"Learning how to talk without freaking out," said Alice Rogers, a student from Roseau Valley School, drawing nods from her peers. "Even just being exposed, it can help you."

Several schools plan to develop action plans based on the day's learning. One group hopes to address low student involvement by building school spirit through new initiatives and competitions.

"Everything we learn here, we bring back," Lepp said. "Just passing on what we've learned and setting an example."

For organizers, that ripple effect is the ultimate goal.

"The whole idea is to go back to your community and do some kind of initiative," Kornelson said. "Now that you've had some training and some creative ideas, take that momentum and build something that lasts."

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IN MORRIS

MB

Fabulous fun with fashion at Roseau Valley School

By Siobhan Maas

The Roseau Valley School (RVS) gymnasium filled with over 200 people last Wednesday afternoon to celebrate personal fashion, all in support of authenticity, community, and embracing reduce-reuse-recycle in daily life.

A seed that sprouted after students attended a Borderland School Division youth conference about “generating momentum,” students pondered on how to reduce waste.

“Only about one per cent of clothing is recycled,” shared principal Jennifer Collette. “A huge amount of clothing is thrown into the landfill.”

What came of this idea was My Cousin’s Closet, an in-school thrift store that opens to students during the school day and to the community at parent-teacher conferences and special events.

“The store is free and barrier-free, allowing students a buying experience,” explained RVS community coordinator Lil Fisher.

Last year, the idea grew a bit more.

“A fashion show sounded like a fun idea [to showcase some of the clothing available]. We wanted to build community in the school and highlight community partners and help people put faces to names,” said Collette. “So many people are actively involved in our school.”

The “First Ever Fashion Show” saw students, community members, and culture walking down the runway, all in partnership with Manitobah Mukluks; a pair of mukluks was gifted to each model to highlight and take home.

“My cousin is executive secretary with the company and hearing the idea of the show, she said, ‘We’re in and will partner with you,’” noted Fisher.

Daman Morissette, vice-president of Manitobah Mukluks, was MC at event, which fell on Pink Shirt Day, a day reminding of the importance of standing up against bullying and promoting kindness, inclusion, and respect.

“Daman has been a part of fashion shows around the world and Manitobah Mukluks is a very good new partner for our school,” said Fisher.

Some formal wear and grad gowns worn by students in the show highlighted what was donated and is available free-of-charge for students. However, not all clothing in the show was from My Cousin’s Closet.

“Many people made cultural pieces for the show,” noted Collette.



FACEBOOK.COM/ROSEAUVALLEYSCHOOL

Roseau Valley School held its first fashion show, giving students the chance to show off some outfits from the in-school thrift store as well as a host of cultural pieces. Below: Golden Eagle performs.

Some students hosted a workshop to make belts to wear, members of Ginew Wellness Centre and several students wore traditional regalia, People in our Neighbourhood wore their unique clothing, and school staff highlighted clothing supporting various sports programs offered in the school, including hockey and curling.

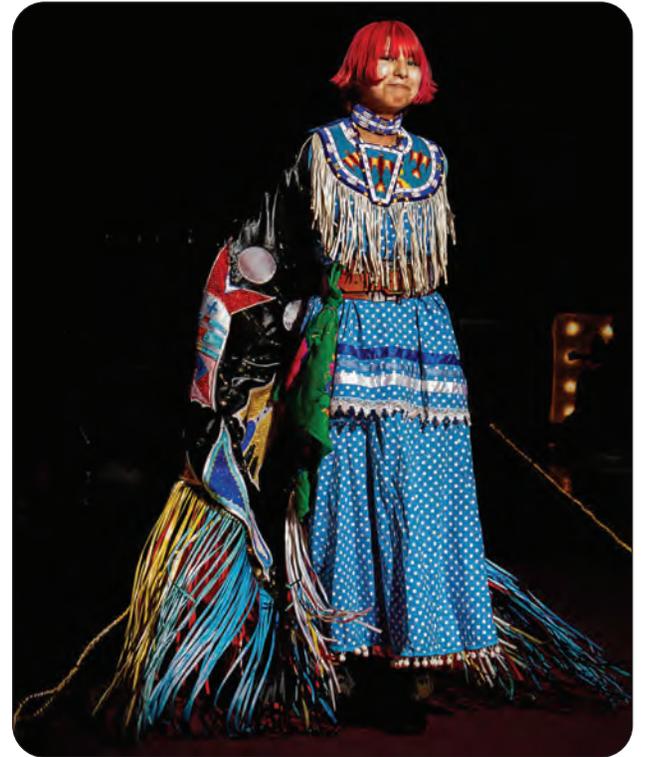
“Students are already asking about the next fashion show and our ‘sound man extraordinaire’ and caretaker have already started planning,” said Fisher.

“It was a neat thing they got to be a part of, supporting other students. There was a distinct feeling that students in our school can be their authentic self and they will be accepted for who they are,” said Collette. “One of the student models is hard of hearing and students were waving their hands in the air, ASL for cheering.”

The Golden Eagle drumming group comprising of adult Ginew community members and Gr. 8-12 RVS students performed alongside the models. An artisan market was also held before the show featuring local vendors selling handmade items.

“We made 300 pieces of fry bread with Joanne ‘the Kitchen Queen,’ and The Prairie Alchemist made traditional teas for us,” explained Fisher, adding that Julie Snarr Photography captured the models on the runway. “She captured the heart of the event. The look on people’s faces – how they looked at each other, the crowd, or just coming down the runway. It is magic.”

“It was a powerful event,” said Collette. “And emotional. People often think of school as a building with people in it, but at RVS we want schools to be open spaces where community is welcome. When kids can



look at people in community and see them as leaders, or as someone to count on them to support them, they have learned well. We want students to identify with other adults, not just their teachers.”

A formal grad evening courtesy of My Cousin’s Closet is being planned for grads from other area schools,

with a seamstress on-site to alter dresses before they go to their new homes.

Additionally, an RVS Family Gathering is taking place March 25 with free hot dogs, horse and wagon rides, ice skating and street hockey, and a movie starting at 6 p.m. The community is welcome to attend.

March 13 concert supporting regional humane society

By Lorne Stelmach

A group of musicians are teaming up next week for a fundraising show in support of the Pembina Valley Humane Society.

Shane Falk, who is a director on the Back 40 Festival board and an avid music fan, has organized a concert featuring Joey McNair from the band Ditch along with Ashburn House, Derek Helps and the Heart Cramps, and Talladega. It's at the Morden Legion upstairs Friday, March 13 at 8 p.m.

For Falk, who has a rescue dog named Indy, it was a natural fit for him to support the humane society

through music.

"I've always loved live music and like to attend as many shows myself as possible," he shared. "When the opportunity came along to work with Joey to help put on a show and at the same time raise some money for a great cause that's close to my heart, it seemed like a win-win situation for everyone.

"The Pembina Valley Humane Society and their employees and volunteers do such important work, and anything we or anyone can do to help out their cause goes a long ways and is appreciated so much."

It is his sense that bands are often happy to help out and lend their time to good causes and worthwhile organizations.

"Musicians, especially the ones I know, are some of the most giving people, particularly when it comes to local causes and giving back to their communities," Falk said. "So involving bands in an event like this is pretty easy because they see the need to give back and also at the same time want to have people experi-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Joey McNair from Ditch is set to perform alongside Ashburn House, Derek Helps and the Heart Cramps, and Talladega in a benefit concert for PVHS taking place at the Morden Legion March 13.

ence their music as well.

"We are fortunate to have a ton of great local musicians in the area, so if we can showcase them and give people the opportunity to come hear them and have a great time for a great

cause, it's something that I think is valuable to the community as a whole and something I can see us doing on a regular basis."

Admission for the show will be by donation at the door.

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> FLOOD OUTLOOK, FROM PG. 13

The Red River Floodway is not expected to be operated under normal or favourable weather conditions but may be operated under unfavourable conditions to reduce water levels within Winnipeg. The Portage Diversion may be operated under unfavourable weather conditions or to mitigate ice-jamming on the lower Assiniboine River. The Shellmouth Reservoir is being operated in consultation with the Shellmouth Liaison Committee to reduce downstream flood risk while maintaining water supply and recreation objectives.

Ice-cutting and breaking activities are already underway along the Red River to reduce the risk of ice-jam flooding. There is also risk of flooding on other rivers that are historically affected by ice jams including the Saskatchewan, Carrot, Swan, Icelandic and Fisher rivers.

Ice conditions and spring weather will play a key role in determining breakup timing and localized flood potential, the province notes. As temperatures warm and ice strength deteriorates, Manitobans are reminded to stay off waterways, rivers and retention ponds.

An updated flood outlook is expected to be released in late March.

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Local police part of new drug enforcement task force

By Lorne Stelmach

The region's police services will be represented on a new drug enforcement task force announced by the province last week.

The Altona, Morden, and Winkler police departments are part of the Manitoba Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking Task Force. Its aim is to strengthen the response to the trafficking of methamphetamine, fentanyl, cocaine and other illicit drugs, Justice Minister Matt Wiebe said at a news conference last Wednesday.

At its first meeting following the announcement, members began on the process of sharing local experiences, setting priorities and working toward a province-wide drug enforcement strategy, which will be focused on disrupting supply chains including a targeted meth sweep that will focus on those producing and distributing methamphetamine.

"We're charting a new course to address drug enforcement here in Manitoba," said Wiebe. "For far too long, the meth crisis in Manitoba has fed addiction, has strained our medical system and has created crime in our streets. Toxic drugs have devastated people. It devastated individuals, and they devastated whole communities across our province."

Altona Police Chief Dan Defer suggested the task force will build on the co-operation that already exists between police services in Manitoba.

"We do work together; we do share information," he said. "I think one of the big things with this group coming together is not that it's new but it has kind of a different focus ... how we share our information or how we participate with Morden, Winkler and other police services."

"What we're trying to do is have a uniform approach to how everybody does their information sharing and working together ... so everyone is on the same page."

"Also, it's not a bad idea for everyone to sit down together and go over what's working, what's not working ... where do we see our best results and just kind of working together that way as a unified front."

"It really is a great opportunity for us," agreed Winkler Police Chief Ryan Hunt. "We work with the other police services in the province quite frequently doing drug projects, but this is a great opportunity for everybody to come to the table and talk about different ideas and what's going on in every other community ... I think it's a really good initiative by the province."

He especially liked having a federal component with Kevin Brosseau, Canada's fentanyl czar, advising the task force, so the group will get perspective on what's happening across the country and get a good idea of "things that have worked and that have not worked, so that will bring a lot of value to the table as well ... it's much more effective when you're not always recreating the wheel."

"We're very excited to be part of it," said Morden Police Chief Sean Aune. "There's a lot of senior leaders from police executive involved in this, so there's a lot of smart people working on it, so we're glad to be part of it."

"We've had a really good relationship working together already [with Winkler and Altona]. We've done some joint projects together, sharing of information ... but it's different when you look at it from this level ... and it's nice to get everybody co-ordinated and really working together."

"It is good to look at all sides of it and what's working, what's not ... everything can always be done better."

In addition to the three local police chiefs, the task force will also include senior leadership from Manitoba Justice, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canada Border Services Agency, Manitoba Criminal Intelligence Centre, Winnipeg



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Altona, Morden, and Winkler police departments are part of a new drug enforcement task force announced by the provincial government last week.

Police Service, Brandon Police Service, and the Manitoba First Nations along with Brosseau in an advisory role.

The task force will help police and Manitoba Justice share information more effectively, the province says, and learn from the best approaches used in other jurisdictions to stop illegal drugs and ensure agencies have the tools and resources they need to target drug traffickers and organized crime groups.

It will also explore new ways to disrupt crim-

inal organizations, such as using unexplained wealth orders, and support joint police operations.

"Manitobans have been clear, the meth crisis needs to end and the people profiting off of creating misery in our communities need to be held to account," said Wiebe. "This task force will provide law enforcement in Manitoba access to the best minds and practices in Canada when it

Continued on page 18



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> DRUG TASK FORCE, FROM PG. 17

comes to fighting back against drug trafficking and organized crime.

“Drug traffickers have exploited and robbed Manitobans of their lives, of their safety and of their loved ones, and ultimately there were far too many years of inaction here in this province,” he continued. “This task force is the first of its kind in Manitoba. Never before have we had this kind of task force that brings together municipal police, RCMP,

Winnipeg police, border services, the Manitoba criminal intelligence centre alongside with the federal and provincial governments to address drug trafficking in a real and meaningful way.”

“It is an important and timely step in strengthening the province’s response to meth, to fentanyl, to cocaine and the full range of illicit drugs that continue to undermine the safety and well-being of all Manitobans,” said Brosseau. “I cannot overstate the significance of Manitoba’s leadership in establishing this new task force as part our ongoing collective efforts to protect Manitobans and by extension

all Canadian communities.

“By strengthening co-ordination, improving information-sharing and disrupting the criminal networks that profit from addiction and violence, the work being announced here today will help reduce the supply of dangerous drugs and enhance community safety across the province,” he concluded. “I look forward to working closely with Manitoba and law enforcement partners to ensure a strong, unified response that delivers safer outcomes for all of us.”



As we move through February 2026, many Canadians are breathing a cautious sigh of relief. The erratic price spikes and rapid-fire interest rate hikes that defined the past few years have finally leveled off. With the Bank of Canada holding its key rate steady at 2.25%, the economic “weather” has cleared—but for most households, the ground remains muddy.

While the inflation crisis has cooled, the “new normal” is expensive. Groceries and rent haven’t returned to 2020 prices; they have simply stopped climbing so fast. Improving your finances today isn’t about

waiting for a miracle; it’s about mastering the new rules of the game.

First, look at your paycheck. Federal tax changes for 2026 have lowered the bottom tax bracket to 14% and increased the Basic Personal Amount to \$16,452. For the average worker, this means a few extra dollars every two weeks. Don’t let this slip into “budget creep.” Instead, automate that small surplus directly into a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA). With the 2026 contribution limit adding another \$7,000 in room, it remains the best tool for mid-term goals.

Second, be ruthless with debt. While interest rates are lower than their 2023 peaks, credit card interest remains a wealth-killer. If you are carrying a balance, 2026 is the year to use the “debt avalanche method.” This strategy is built on cold, hard mathematical efficiency. Unlike the “snowball” method, which targets small balances for a quick psychological win, the avalanche demands you list your debts by interest rate and attack the highest one first.

The process is simple but disciplined: you pay the minimum on everything to protect your credit score, but every spare dollar is funneled toward the debt with the highest percentage—usually a retail or travel credit card. By eliminating the most expensive debt first, you drastically reduce the total interest paid over time. It’s a “math over emotion” approach that

ensures your hard-earned money goes toward your principal rather than padding a bank’s bottom line. In a stable rate environment, this is the fastest way to reclaim your disposable income.

Finally, for those still dreaming of homeownership, the First Home Savings Account (FHSA) is your strongest ally. Maximizing your \$8,000 annual contribution is the fastest way to build a down payment that the taxman can’t touch.

The era of “easy money” is over, but the era of stability has arrived. By capturing small tax wins, leveraging the avalanche method, and guarding against debt, Canadians can stop just surviving the economy and start building a foundation that lasts.

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BTHC Fdn. purchases neuro chair for hospital

By Lorne Stelmach

Boundary Trails Health Centre staff last week heralded the arrival of a specialized chair that they see as being of great benefit to both patients and staff.

The neurological chair became possible for the rehabilitation therapy department thanks to the support of the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

"This is a first of its kind in our region, so we're very excited to be able to use this new equipment," said Melany Krahn, manager of health services for rehab services at BTHC.

Krahn outlined some of the ways that the chair, which costs upwards of \$30,000, will be beneficial not just to patients but staff as well.

"It will allow us to get patients out of bed a lot quicker than we currently are able to based on the supportive makeup of the chair and support that it can provide the patient who maybe can't sit in a traditional wheelchair or other device that we have," she said.

"It will help us mobilize patients out of bed much sooner."

She noted the importance of early mobilization to get patients out of bed to help them gain some strength. This chair can also help get them standing, or lay flat, as needed.

"It does kind of tilt side to side as well," she added.

"There can be a lot of different patients who can benefit from this ... critically ill patients potentially in the ICU or on our medicine unit, on our rehabilitation unit for our neurological patients who maybe have suffered a stroke, a brain injury, or patients who just can't get out of bed through a lot of weakness," Krahn continued.

"So it will help a multitude of patients."

"We've had this kind of on our wish list for a while as our department and because of cost, we just as a program have not been able to afford this equipment," she noted.

Krahn added how much they appreciate the support of the foundation.

"We've been very grateful for their



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Staff in BTHC's rehabilitation therapy department with the new neurological chair they now have thanks to the BTHC Foundation and its donors.

support ... for our program and our facility," she said. "When we found out it was approved, we were pretty ecstatic actually as a therapy group to get that support, not only from the foundation but the community members who donate to the foundation."

"It just means so much that these patients are being looked after and cared for here with kind of state of the art equipment, new equipment that we haven't been able to have before."

Foundation executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett sees the foundation as having a great opportunity to step in and fund this kind of equipment that is often not covered by the

provincial government.

"We assess is this one of those items above and beyond what would otherwise be provided, and clearly the neuro-chair is one of those items," she said. "It is a whole other rewarding feeling ... when you see the staff are so excited about the new equipment and how it's going to elevate patient care, how it's supporting the staff in their roles."

"We really value that," Samatte-Folkett said. "We do want to retain staff. We want to make sure they have what they need ... this is just one of those items where it's very rewarding."

France honours Loreena McKennitt's artistic achievements

By Voice staff

France has honoured Morden-born Loreena McKennitt for her artistic achievements.

The award-winning singer and songwriter has been promoted to the rank of Officer of the National Order of Arts and Letters by the France Ministry of Culture.

She was previously appointed to rank of Knight of the National Order of Arts and Letters in 2013, so this new appointment represents a higher rank with three ranks in total: Knight, Officer, and Commander.

McKennitt received the medal during a ceremony Feb. 19 at the Toronto official residence of Mr. Bertrand Pous, the French Consul General.

Other members of the order include the likes of Margaret Atwood, Celine Dion, John Raulston Saul, Elton John and Eric Clapton.

"I'm humbled to think of myself as an Officier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of France," McKennitt said. "And I am grateful to the coun-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Loreena McKennitt with French Consul General Bertrand Pous.

try of France for continuing to promote the extremely important fields of arts, letters, and humanities. They enhance and bridge our relationships which no artificial intelligence will ever give us. They are central to our

moral progress as a species."

"It gives me great pleasure to hereby highlight your dedication in the service of culture, which holds such a special place in French people's hearts," wrote Rachida Dati, Fran-

ces's Minister of Culture, in her letter to McKennitt.

Created by France's ministry of culture in 1957, the Order "is intended to reward those who have distinguished themselves with their creations in the cultural or communications field or with their contributions to the influence of the arts and letters in France and worldwide."

McKennitt has had gold, platinum, and multi-platinum sales awards in 15 countries. Her eclectic Celtic blend of pop, folk and world music has sold more than 16 million albums worldwide.

She has twice been nominated for a Grammy Award and has won two Juno awards as well as a Billboard International Achievement Award.

In addition to her musical career, McKennitt has been recognized for a number of philanthropic initiatives including the Cook-Rees Memorial Fund for Water Search and Safety, the Falstaff Family Centre, and being named an honorary colonel for the Royal Canadian Air Force. She was awarded the Order of Canada in 2004.

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

sports & recreation



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Left: At the Girls Rock event in Morden Sunday, Georgia MacAulay yells instructions to her sweepers with mentor Shaela Hayward of Team Manitoba. Above: Sophia Hodge gets some expert advice from Team Manitoba's Keira Krahn. Right: Ainsley Noseworthy delivers a rock.

Girls Rock event a success

By Lorne Stelmach

A Sunday morning event at the Morden Curling Club had girls trying out the game perhaps for the first time.

A grant from Curl Canada for the one-day event dubbed Girls Rock gave youth aged 8 to 15 the chance to come learn how to curl at no cost, and organizer Candace Brunn said it was great to see a good turnout.

"There's 34 girls here today, which

is exceptional for our community for sure. They're on the ice with 22 volunteers," she noted.

"They were going through all of the basics of the game," Brunn said. "For many of them, this is the first time they have ever been on the ice ... so it's great to see the interest."

"It's just a really fun morning of curling, and it's a great opportunity for girls to try it," she said. "It's a great

way to introduce people to curling and try it out in a fun atmosphere."

Brunn also suggested it is especially important to get more women involved in the sport.

"Coming up through the ranks, we've really had not as many girls teams moving into high school curling and playing more competitively, so I think this is a great way to get them more involved."

This was the first year for Girls Rock, and Brunn reiterated that it is important for the curling club to interest kids through these kinds of open events.

"Helping keep our curling club strong is huge," she said. "It's always just great to have more people involved in the curling club ... it's a great place to get started."

End of the line for female Pembina Valley Hawks

By Lorne Stelmach

The season came to an end last week for the female U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

An 8-3 loss to Westman Feb. 24 in Hartney brought the best-of-five quarter-final to an end with the Wildcats taking the series in three straight.

The sixth-place Hawks faced a tough task in taking on the third-place Wildcats, but they had given Westman a bit of a battle with Pembina Valley having only lost the first two games by one goal with 6-5 and 5-4 defeats.

In game three, Pembina Valley

opened scoring, but Westman then rattled off five unanswered goals before the first buzzer.

Casey O'Brien, Delaney Darby, and Mackenna Steeves scored for the Hawks, who were outshot 34-30.

Pembina Valley had ended the regular season in sixth place at 9-18-0-1 for 19 points, and coach Matt Victor was proud of how the girls never gave up, even despite, for example, finding themselves down 5-0 in game one and 4-1 in game two.

"We found ourselves down 5-0 after two periods, and honestly, the way the game was going, I wouldn't have

thought we had it in us for a comeback like we did," he said. "That was really quite a comeback. Being able to score five goals in under 15 minutes in the third period was remarkable. We were super proud of them."

"Westman is a great team though, and they were able to capitalize on a power play late in that game ... so it was a crazy one."

"We put everything that we kind of built through the year into the playoffs. I was quite impressed ... believed that we could do something in the playoffs," he added. "We didn't get the outcome, but everything

that we worked on and talked about through the season, we had really seen through these last three games that they grabbed on to it."

Victor cited how he felt the girls really progressed through the season.

"I'm quite happy," he said. "The big thing for me is the things we talked about, like our identity, at the start of the year, they really came to fruition in the playoffs. It was really great to see the grit, the character, being relentless."

"I'm actually impressed and proud of what they showed in the last three games in the playoffs."

Zodiacs clinch Zone 4 banner, Thunder vying for hockey title



PHOTO BY KEAN REDHEAD/VOICE

By Voice staff

The Northlands Parkway Collegiate varsity girls basketball team closed out their SCAC Tier 1 regular season with a 67-36 win against the visiting J.H. Bruns Broncos last week Wednesday (photo at left). The boys wrapped their season with a loss of 79-70 against the Glenlawn Lions the next night.

The girls play Windsor Park in the first round of playoffs this week while the boys take on Jeanne-Sauvé.

Over at Garden Valley Collegiate, the Zodiacs varsity boys (photo at right) clinched the Zone 4 banner by knocking out the Morden Thunder 90-55 in the semi-finals and then defeating Sanford 87-60 in the championship match.

The GVC girls beat the W.C. Miller Aces in their zone semi-finals 59-55 but then fell to Sanford 59-45

In Zone 4 high school

hockey action, the Morden Thunder knocked out the NPC Nighthawks in the league semi-finals last week two games to one.

Morden now faces off against the Morris Mavericks in the championship final round this week starting with game one in Morden Thursday night.



Ernst earns pair of shutouts for Winkler Flyers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers kicked off the final month of the regular season with a narrow loss, following closely on the heels of two wide-margin wins.

Sunday's game against the Blues in Winnipeg began with Winkler up 1-0 after 20 minutes thanks to a goal from William Lyons.

But despite outshooting the home team 42-18 overall, the Flyers just couldn't get past Winnipeg netminder Kannen Kirkwood the rest of the night. His teammates, meanwhile, snuck two around Winkler's Liam Ernst (who made 16 saves overall) to win it 2-1.

The defeat came a few days after the Flyers had handily trounced both the Neepawa Titans and the Northern Manitoba Blizzard.

The Feb. 24 game against Neepawa was a 5-0 shutout victory, with Ernst a wall in net with 27 saves.

His teammates fired 44 the other way. Ryan Winklebleck

contributed two while Tanner George, Charles Bernier, and Rhylan Baxter chipped in singles.

Ernst had another shutout three nights later, this time making 23 saves against the visiting Blizzard in what ended up being an 8-0 rout.

George had a hat trick that night, while Bernier and Connor Rieger scored twice and Kade Stringer once.

With that, Winkler is in fourth place in the MJHL East Division standings with a record of 33-18-1-2 for 69 points, just behind the Portage Terriers in third (also 69 points but with two games in hand), the Steinbach Pistons in second (88 points) and the Neepawa Titans in first (93

points). Filling out the bottom of the standings with no chance of catching up are the Selkirk Steelers in fifth (39 points), Winnipeg Blues (31), and Winnipeg Monarchs (20).

This weekend the Flyers break in the Winkler Centennial Arena after its recently completed renovations with their final home games of the regular season against the Pistons Friday night and the Nighthawks Sunday. Puck drops at 7:30 p.m. both nights.

They then close out the season in Winnipeg to play the Blues March 11 and in Selkirk March 13.

Male Pembina Valley Hawks facing off vs. Winnipeg Wild

By Lorne Stelmach

It was a rough start to the playoffs this past weekend for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks.

They kicked off their best of five quarter-final series Saturday in Winnipeg with a 9-2 thrashing by the Wild.

It was sure to be a tough task for the Hawks, who finished seventh in the regular season, to take on the second-place Wild, although Pembina Valley was relatively competitive with the Wild through the regular season with two of the four matchups being one-goal games. Winnipeg won three of the four.

In game one, the Hawks opened scoring in the first period, but they then trailed 4-2 after 40 minutes before giving up five more unanswered goals in the third.

Pembina Valley was outshot by a wide margin of 42-15. Koen Bleznuk made 33 saves for the Hawks, while Ocean Fehr and Tyson Pethybridge each scored a goal.

Game two in the series went Monday night in Morden. Results were not available at press time.

Game three is back in Winnipeg Wednesday night. Game four, if needed, is in Morden Friday.

What's *Your* story?

We want to hear from you.

The Voice connects people through stories to build stronger communities.

Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion?

A senior celebrating their 100th birthday?

A young entrepreneur starting out?

Please share your story ideas via email to news@winklermordenvoice.ca or call 204-325-6888

The **Voice**

Hockey Manitoba provincials season underway



By Voice staff

Local teams had strong showings at a number of Hockey Manitoba provincials this past weekend.

At the coed U11D provincials in Manitou, Winkler went undefeated through four games on their way to bringing home gold. They had victories of 4-0 over MacGregor, 7-2 over Dauphin, 5-2 over Lorette and they then wrapped it up with a 3-1 win over Virden.

Winkler also did well at the coed U11E provincials in Portage, where Winkler picked up wins of 11-1 over Beausejour and 10-4 over Springfield Orange.

In the girls U18A provincials, the regional South Central Rockets team won 2-1 over the Brandon Wheaties and 5-4 over Birtle then 2-1 over the Brandon Blazers, and they wrapped it up with 2-1 championship victory over the Brandon Wheaties.

Meanwhile, Winkler hosted the coed U11AA tournament. The home team bowed out at 1-2 while Morden went 1-3.

Winkler started by defeating Morden 8-2 but then lost 7-4 to Brandon Gold and 7-3 to Brandon Blue.

Morden, meanwhile, lost 4-3 to Brandon Gold and then rebounded to beat Steinbach 5-2 before bowing out with a 9-2 loss to Niverville.

ABOVE, LEFT PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE
Winkler beat Morden 8-2 to kick off the coed U11AA provincial championships held in Winkler Feb. 27 to March 1. The title was eventually won by Brandon Red.
Below: Winkler won gold at the U11D provincials in Manitou.



WINKLER MINOR HOCKEY PHOTO

Royals strike early in SEMHL, take Game 1 on the road

By Annaliese Meier

The Winkler Royals opened their South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League semifinal series in strong fashion Sunday afternoon, skating to a 5-3 victory over the Red River Wild to grab a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five matchup.

Winkler wasted little time responding after Red River opened the scoring on a first-period power play. Brendan Harms put the Wild ahead at 3:40, finishing a setup from Alex Tetrault and Tyler Anderson.

The Royals answered less than a minute later when Braden Hildebrand buried a feed from Mike Heppner and Aaron Lewadniuk to tie

the game 1-1. Lewadniuk then gave Winkler the lead at 13:42, scoring unassisted to send the visitors into the intermission up 2-1.

Winkler extended its advantage in the second period. Assistant captain Phil Letkeman capitalized at 7:06, converting a pass from Justin Augert to make it 3-1.

The Royals seized full control early in the third. Hildebrand struck again just 1:23 into the frame, netting what stood as the game-winning goal. Lewadniuk added his second of the night at 4:22, giving Winkler a 5-2 cushion.

Red River pushed back with goals from Jared Magne and Harms — his second of the contest — but could not

close the gap.

Lewadniuk led the Royals offensively with two goals and an assist, while Hildebrand also scored twice. Letkeman added a single, and Augert and Heppner chipped in with assists.

Between the pipes, Matthew Thiesen turned aside 32 shots to earn the win. Jayden Catellier made 28 saves in the loss for the Wild.

Special teams played a role early, with Red River going 1-for-3 on the power play and Winkler finishing 0-for-3.

Game 2 of the series is scheduled for March 3 in Winkler, with the Royals looking to build on their early momentum and push the Wild to the brink of elimination.

In the league's other semifinal, the Ile des Chenes Northstars opened their best-of-five series with a dramatic 4-3 overtime victory over the Springfield Winterhawks on Saturday night. Matthew Osadick scored the winner at 4:52 of overtime, finishing a feed from Caleb Paisley to cap a back-and-forth contest. Ile des Chenes built a 2-0 lead on goals from Noah Keating and Ty Naakens before Springfield responded with three straight tallies — two on the power play — to move ahead in the third period. Burke Heide forced overtime with a late equalizer, and Mason Swerdyliak was sharp in goal for the Northstars, turning aside 46 shots in the win.

Ile des Chenes leads the series 1-0.

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

Twisters drop pair as MMJHL season winds down

By Annaliese Meier

The Pembina Valley Twisters dropped two games last week as the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League schedule nears its final stretch.

Pembina Valley hosted the first-place Transcona Railer Express on Feb. 25 at the Morris MultiPlex, falling 5-2 despite a stronger finish after a slow start.

Transcona jumped ahead early on goals from Noah St. Laurent and Declan Whiteman, outshooting the Twisters 19-6 in the opening period.

Rylan Keck got Pembina Valley on the board early in the second, converting a feed from Lucas Thomas and Josh Guilford at 2:46, but Whiteman answered later in the frame to restore a two-goal cushion.

Owen Vanrobaeys brought the Twisters back within two midway through the third, finishing a play started by Ethan Wilde and Darby Olson, but the Railer Express added two more — including an empty-netter late — to close it out. Myles Ganske made 43 saves on 48 shots in the loss.

Pembina Valley was back at home

Sunday and built a 4-1 lead after 40 minutes, but couldn't hold off a late push from the St. Vital Jr. Victorias in a 6-4 defeat.

Vanrobaeys opened the scoring at 14:40 of the first period and Guilford added another late in the frame as the Twisters carried a 2-0 lead into the intermission. Darby Olson made it 3-0 midway through the second before St. Vital got on the board through Ben Dnes. Kai Hildebrand answered 13 seconds later with his first MMJHL goal to restore a three-goal advantage.

St. Vital took over in the third, scor-

ing five times — including two power-play goals in the opening two minutes — to erase the deficit and pull away. Liam Saxberg scored twice in the period and Dnes finished with a two-goal night. Ganske stopped 27 of 33 shots for Pembina Valley.

The Twisters sit 10th in the MMJHL standings at 7-32-2 with 16 points and are slated to visit the St. Boniface Riels on March 2, travel to face the Charleswood Hawks on March 6, then return home March 8 to host the Ft. Garry/Ft. Rouge Twins.

More than \$1.2M announced for Manitoba community festivals

By Haley Cvar

The Government of Manitoba is investing more than \$1.2 million to support festivals across the province in 2025-26, including more than \$359,000 for winter events, Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism Minister Nellie Kennedy announced.

"Festivals connect people, celebrate community spirit and support local businesses," Kennedy said in a news release. "Our government is proud to help communities host events that strengthen neighbourhoods, attract visitors and showcase Manitoba's culture, especially through Manitoba's winters."

Funding is delivered through the Community Festivals and Events program for signature community events, as well as through dedicated funding for major stand-alone festivals.

Among the largest winter investments is \$324,600 for Festival du Voyageur Inc. to host the 2026 Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg from Feb. 13 to 22, and \$25,000 for the Northern Manitoba Trappers Festival in The Pas from Feb. 18 to 22, 2026. Aurora Win-

terFest in March 2026 received \$3,000, while the Canadian Power Toboggan Championships' 2026 Canadian Open in March was allocated \$7,000.

Major summer stand-alone festivals include \$370,000 for Manito Ahbee Festival Inc. for Manito Ahbee in May, \$290,500 for Folk Arts Council of Manitoba to present Folklorama in August, and \$40,600 for the Valley Agricultural Society's Manitoba Stampede and Exhibition in Morris in July.

Dozens of community fairs and celebrations across rural and northern Manitoba also received support, most in the \$6,033 range. These include the Arborg Agricultural Fair (\$6,033.52), City of Winkler Harvest Festival and Exhibition (\$6,033.52), Hanover Agricultural Fair (\$6,033.52), Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, Islendingadagurinn (\$6,033.52), Morden Corn and Apple Festival (\$6,033.52), Nickel Days in Thompson (\$6,033.52), Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair (\$6,033.52), Norway House Cree Nation Treaty and York Boat Days (\$6,033.52), Richer Rough Stock Rodeo and Country Fair (\$6,033.52),

Sagkeeng Annual Treaty Days (\$6,033.52), Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Powwow (\$6,033.52), Stonewall Quarry Days (\$6,033.52), Summer in the City in Steinbach (\$6,033.52), Grandview Mud Bog Weekend and Homecoming (\$6,033.52), Victoria Beach Summer Winds Family Music Festival (\$6,033.52) and the Virden Indoor Rodeo and Wild West Daze (\$6,033.52).

Other supported events span the province and calendar, including the 4P Festival (\$1,255.57), Springfield Chicken Daze (\$6,033.52), Baldur Summer Solstice Days (\$1,263.42), Belmont Jamboree Festival (\$486.90), Carrick Days (\$1,427.53), Prairie Winds Music Festival in Cypress River (\$2,273.43), Eriksdale Creamery Days Fair and Rodeo (\$2,973.92), Flin Flon Trout Festival (\$2,428.43), Frog Follies in St. Pierre-Jolys (\$3,702.77), Harvest Sun in Kelwood (\$2,756.11), Canada Day celebrations in Lac du Bonnet (\$2,083.37) and Vita (\$4,436.44), Lunder Fair (\$5,664.26), Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede in Austin (\$6,033.52), MMF Ste. Madeleine (\$3,475.30), Whitemud Music Festival

in Glenella-Lansdowne (\$1,182.57), Festival du Patrimoine Montcalm Heritage Festival (\$1,145.42), Pina-wa Birthday Celebration (\$1,977.79), Plum Coulee Plum Fest (\$2,293.94), Holiday Alley in Selkirk (\$6,033.52), Reston Fair (\$867.62), Dominion City SummerFest (\$1,281.52), Mitchell and Area Fun Days (\$3,390.23), Blumenort Fun and Fair Days (\$2,090.61), Fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste in La Broquerie (\$2,696.38), Melita Banana Days (\$5,472.40), Stony Mountain Family Festival and Canada Day (\$352.96), Teulon Rodeo (\$3,703.37), Manitoba Sunflower Festival in Altona (\$5,322.16) and Prairie Pioneer Days hosted by the Turtle Mountain Flywheel Club (\$558.70).

The province noted that the \$882,300 invested in 49 summer festivals plays an important role in supporting local businesses, boosting tourism and fostering community pride. With festivals taking place year-round, the government says Manitobans will continue to have opportunities to gather, celebrate culture and experience the province's diverse and vibrant communities.



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FARMLAND TENDER

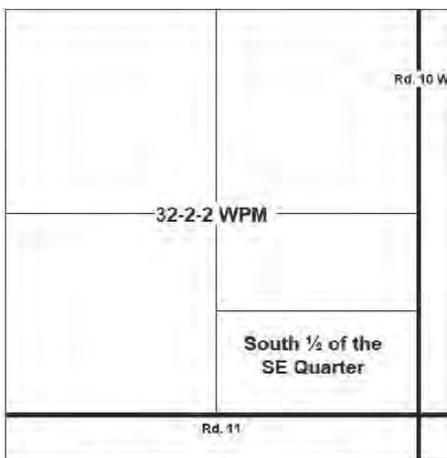
FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for farm land in the described below will be received by:

Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office
Box 99, 1 – 880 J 15th Street
Winkler, MB R6W 4A4

LAND:

The south ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 32-2-2 WPM – Excluding: All Mines and Minerals and the right to work the same as reserved in the original grant from the crown
80 acres



Land owned by Boundary Road Farms, located 1 ½ miles south and 2 ½ miles east of Plum Coulee.

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. The land described will be sold "as is".
2. Tenders must be received on or before Noon on March 13, 2026. Successful tender will be informed by 5:00 PM March 16, 2026.
3. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
4. Possession to be April 1, 2026.
5. Tender must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of \$10,000.00 (cheque made payable to Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office).

TERMS OF SALE:

1. The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter a formal agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
3. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid on the due date, as set out in the agreement, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages.
4. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.
5. The purchaser is responsible for Land Transfer Tax and GST or shall self-assess for GST.

For further information contact Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office at 204-325-4615.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING 2026 Financial Plan

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

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

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



CITY OF WINKLER
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FARMLAND TENDER

50 Acres of FARMLAND for sale by Tender at SW 36-2-4W, RM of Stanley (Reinfeld St S)

Tender deadline: March 18/26 - 4:00pm.

Deposit: Min. \$10,000

Possession: 30 Days.

Buyer is responsible for applicable GST.

Highest or best offer may not necessarily be accepted.

Located 1/4-mile South of the Village of Reinfeld.

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



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

Sudoku Answer

EMPLOYMENT



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

PERMANENT BASIC FRENCH TEACHER (1.0 FTE) FOR SHEVCHENKO SCHOOL IN VITA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

EMPLOYMENT



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

PERMANENT DIVISIONAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST (0.8 FTE)

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TENDER



JANITORIAL TENDER

Access Credit Union Altona

Access Credit Union's Altona branch located at 129-3rd Ave. NE, requires the services of a contractor to provide general cleaning duties.

Duties include:

- Cleaning of interior and exterior areas of branch

Tenders or resumes, accompanied by a minimum of two references, must be received on or before March 23, 2026, before 4:30 p.m.

Walk throughs available by request.

Tender information can be obtained by emailing:

Vickie.Addison@accesscu.ca

Tenders may be delivered, mailed or emailed to:

Access Credit Union
PTH #14 Unit 2 - 23111 Stanley Business Centre Winkler, MB R6W 4B4
Email: vickie.addison@accesscu.ca

AGM & ELECTIONS DIRECTORS

NOTICE OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS ELECTRONIC VOTING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (the "AGM") MEMBERS OF ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED (the "Credit Union")

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION

VOTING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TAKE NOTICE THAT voting for the Board of Directors is open to all members who have a share at any Credit Union branch. Voting will be done by electronic ballot and will be tallied electronically by a third-party provider. Voting will be open from 9:00 a.m. CDT on Wednesday, the 25th day of March, 2026 until 5:00 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, the 8th of April, 2026. Members of the Credit Union are invited to vote online at www.accessvotes.ca. Each member may vote on a personal electronic device or should any member prefer, devices for the purpose of voting will be available at all branches of the Credit Union during operating hours.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the AGM of the members of the Credit Union will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. CDT via virtual means, for the following purposes:

1. 2025 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
2. Board of Directors Report
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Director Elections Voting Results

All eligible members wishing to participate in the AGM are required to register online at www.accesscu.ca prior to April 9, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. CDT. Instructions for voting processes and how to ask questions will be displayed on the screen commencing at 6:45 p.m. CDT. These instructions will also be reviewed at the opening of the meeting.

More information can be found at: www.accesscu.ca.

DATED this 5th day of March, 2026
ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED
By Order of the Board of Directors



Classifieds Announcements

The *Winkler* *Morden* **Voice**

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EMPLOYMENT

CAREER OPPORTUNITY AT



COMMERCIAL SITE SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:

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

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

Resumes should be forwarded to cara@lclconstruction.net

Applications forms can be found on www.lclconstruction.net



EMPLOYMENT

CAREER OPPORTUNITY AT



COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION LABOURER

Qualifications:

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

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

Resumes should be forwarded to cara@lclconstruction.net

Applications forms can be found on www.lclconstruction.net



FARMLAND TENDER

FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for centrally located farm land in the RM of Rhineland described below will be received by:

Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office

Box 99, 1 – 880 J 15th Street, Winkler, MB R6W 4A4

LANDS:

- 1) S ½ OF E ½ OF NW ¼ 7-3-33 WPM (39.75 acres)
- 2) NLY 660 feet of S ½ OF NW ¼ 7-3-3 WPM (40.00 acres)
- 3) SLY 660 feet of S ½ OF NW ¼ 7-3-3 WPM (40.00 acres)
- 4) NLY 1188 feet of the E ½ OF SW ¼ 7-3-3 WPM (36.00 acres)



(The above sketch is for illustrative purposes only)

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

1. All parcels to be sold together. Tenders for less than all lands will not be considered.
2. The parcels of land described will be sold "as is" by current ownership group.
3. Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 PM on March 19, 2026. The successful bidder will be informed by 5:00 PM March 23, 2026.
4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
5. Possession to be April 10, 2026.
6. Tender must be accompanied by a refundable deposit of \$10,000.00 (cheque made payable to Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office).

TERMS OF SALE:

1. The successful bidder(s) will be required to enter a formal agreement with all current owners, covering terms and conditions of sale.
2. Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
3. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid on the due date, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages.
4. Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.
5. The purchaser is responsible for GST or shall self-assess for GST.
6. The successful bidder(s) may enter into an agreement to rent an adjoining 40 acres in SW ¼ 7-3-3 WPM at their option following completion of the sale.

For further information contact Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office at 204-325-4615 – fhwlaw.ca/tenders.

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY OF MORDEN 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN

Pursuant to Section 162 (2) of The Municipal Act, Council of the City of Morden invites all ratepayers of the City of Morden to a **Public Hearing** in respect to the **2026 Financial Plan (Budget)** for the City of Morden. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan.

A presentation of the Financial Plan will be made in **Council Chambers at the City of Morden Civic Center, 100-195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.** Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available to the public on **March 10, 2026.**

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Municipality of Rhineland 2026 Financial Plan Hearing Wednesday, March 18, 2026 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers of the Municipality of Rhineland

In accordance with subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, Council will present the 2026 financial plan for the Municipality of Rhineland at 6:00 pm Wednesday, March 18, 2026 in the Council Chambers of the Municipality of Rhineland office. The presentation will include the 2026 operating budget, the 2026 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 2, 2026 upon request at the Municipality of Rhineland office, located at 109 3rd Avenue NE, Altona during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may be directed by letter or email at info@rhinelandmb.ca.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MORDEN COMMUNITY HANDI-VAN CLUB 300 LGA Winners 2025

March 28/25		
269	Wiebe Funeral Home	\$150.00
221	Ron & Glenda Schwarz	\$150.00
55	Jim & Diane Hunt	\$500.00
April 25/25		
234	Harry Dahl	\$150.00
90	Carolyn Schellenberg	\$150.00
72	Morden Thrift Store	\$500.00
May 30/25		
167	John Hamm	\$150.00
262	Tim & Carla Blaich	\$150.00
247	Leona Meeks	\$500.00
June 25/25		
9	Dawn Rigaux	\$150.00
182	Ron Peters	\$150.00
285	Wiebe Funeral Home	\$500.00
July 28/25		
247	Leona Meeks	\$150.00
51	Dave Destoop	\$150.00
39	Ruth Friesen	\$500.00
August 29/25		
99	Larry Robbins	\$150.00
24	Bill Unrau	\$150.00
272	Sara Convery	\$500.00
September 26/25		
259	Bob & Grace Fehr	\$150.00
249	Suzanne Powell	\$150.00
197	Gwen & Adam Coolidge	\$500.00
October 31/25		
80	Howard Pauls	\$150.00
143	Glen Thiessen	\$150.00
41	Jim Sandercock	\$500.00
November 28/25		
233	Clara Hildebrand	\$150.00
286	Wiebe Funeral Home	\$150.00
16	PKF Lawyers	\$500.00
December 26/25		
2	Krista Giesbrecht	\$150.00
108	Art Petkau	\$150.00
246	Merle Block	\$500.00
January 30/26		
126	Colleen Lyne	\$150.00
264	Kathy Friesen & Barb Klatt	\$150.00
187	A.R.K. New Tech	\$500.00
February 27/25		
169	Louise Gardiner	\$150.00
162	Carol Holmes	\$150.00
93	Levi Wiens	\$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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PUBLIC NOTICE



You are invited to attend The Town of Altona 2026 Financial Plan Hearing Tuesday, March 24, 2026 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 2026 Financial Plan for the Town of Altona at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 in the Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre. The presentation will include the 2026 operating costs, the 2026 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 19, 2026 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, 2026



LOADOUT OPERATOR Carman

Job Title: We at Yara are part of a global network, collaborating to profitably and responsibly solve some of the world's key challenges - resource scarcity, food insecurity and environmental change.

About the Unit

Yara Belle Plaine is a world class producer of nitrogen fertilizer. Yara International is a global fertilizer company, with operations in over 60 countries around the world. Yara's dynamic global presence and unique business model allows the company to be an industry shaper. Belle Plaine is in Saskatchewan, Canada 50 km west of Regina on highway #1. This position is located at our Carman warehouse, in Carman, Manitoba.

Responsibilities

- The Loadout Operator will be responsible for a variety of tasks at the Yara Carman, MB agricultural fertilizer storage facility. This includes operating mechanical machinery and equipment, performing preventative maintenance, and troubleshooting basic issues. The primary duties will focus on safely executing operations within the terminal to efficiently manage the receipt, storage, loading and shipping of product, all while ensuring strict adherence to SOP's and HESQ procedures.
- Perform a variety of responsibilities in the assigned terminal area that may include loading and unloading bulk materials, operate truck weigh scale, bulk packaging, monitoring computerized control systems, de-dusting control system, and making infrequent basic machine adjustments.
- Learn operating procedures, receive guidance from peers/supervisor, and expected to provide feedback on clarity and effectiveness of guidance and procedure documentation.
- Perform routine maintenance and troubleshoot assigned equipment and processes, collaborating with the team to resolve issues.
- Record production and inventory activities in computerized systems.
- Operate mobile powered equipment (ie. wheel loader, compact track loader, various machine attachments, Shuttlewagon & other outdoor power equipment).
- Understand and adhere to all HESQ safety policies and operating procedures, maintain a safe and clean work environment, control work pace and improve knowledge of equipment or processes.
- Perform pre-Inspection, loading and final inspection of trucks/rail cars.
- Perform railcar switching & operations.
- Ensure product quality standards are maintained through loading process so that all products meet specification when leaving the terminal site.
- Other duties as assigned.

Education, Experience & Skill

- Grade 12 Diploma.
- Practical knowledge of safety programs.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Experience troubleshooting equipment issues and preparing equipment for maintenance.
- Ability to operate heavy equipment.
- WHMIS
- Valid class 5 driver's licence

Be Part of Our Team – Why Work for Us – What We Offer

Yara Belle Plaine offers a highly competitive total compensation package including:

- Bonus Program
- Enhanced Top up for Maternity/Adoption/Parental Leave
- Health and Dental Benefits
- Optional Vacation Enhancement
- Pension & Savings Plans
- Wellness and Employee Assistance

Additional Information: This position is considered a safety-sensitive position. This position is located in Carman, Manitoba.

Contact details:

Deanna Milton, People & Culture Manager
Apply on website: www.yaracanada.ca
No later than: **March 11, 2026**

Knowledge grows through differences

Yara is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We believe that creating a diverse and inclusive work environment is not only the right thing, but also the smart thing to do. To deliver on this, Yara has firmly anchored Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) in our business strategy and has more than 400 employees worldwide involved in D&I ambassadors networks.

As part of our recruitment process, where permitted by local law, we may conduct reference and background checks. These checks will only be performed when deemed necessary for the nature of the job. Candidates will be informed by HR before any background checks are initiated.



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> MEAL IDEAS



St. Patrick's Day Stew

Recipe adapted from Simply Recipes
 Prep time: 30 minutes
 Cook time: 1 hour, 40 minutes
 Servings: 6

1 1/4 pounds marbled chuck beef stew meat, cut into 1 1/2-inch chunks

1 teaspoon salt, plus additional to taste, divided

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

6 garlic cloves, minced

4 cups beef stock

2 cups water

1 cup extra stout beer

1 cup red wine

2 tablespoons tomato paste

1 tablespoon sugar

1 tablespoon dried thyme

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

2 bay leaves

2 tablespoons butter

1 large onion, chopped

4 carrots, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

3 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch pieces

freshly ground black pepper, to taste

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
 Sprinkle beef chunks with 1 teaspoon salt. In large pot over medium-high heat, heat olive oil.

Pat beef dry with paper towels and add to pot, working in batches to avoid crowding pot. Cook until browned on one side then flip and brown.

Add garlic cloves to pot with beef and saute 30 seconds, or until fragrant. Add beef stock, water, beer, wine, tomato paste, sugar, thyme, Worcestershire sauce and bay leaves. Stir.

Bring mixture to simmer then reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 1 hour, stirring occasionally.

In separate pot over medium heat, melt butter. Add onions and carrots; saute until golden, about 15 minutes.

After beef mixture simmers 1 hour, add onions, carrots and potatoes. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Simmer uncovered until beef and vegetables are tender, about 40 minutes. Discard bay leaves and spoon excess fat.

Sprinkle with parsley and serve.
 Photo courtesy of Unsplash



Luck O' the Irish Cupcakes

Recipe adapted from Delish
 Prep time: 30 minutes
 Cook time: 1 hour
 Yield: 12 cupcakes
 Cupcakes:

1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour

1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

1/4 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

1 cup granulated sugar

3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened

3 large egg whites, at room temperature

1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract

1/2 cup full-fat sour cream, at room temperature

1/2 cup whole milk, at room temperature

Frosting:

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened

4 cups powdered sugar

3 tablespoons heavy cream

2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

green food coloring

To make cupcakes: Preheat oven to 350

F and arrange rack in center of oven. Line 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners. In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

In large bowl, using handheld mixer on medium-high speed, beat granulated sugar and butter until light and fluffy, 3-4 minutes. Add egg whites and vanilla; beat until smooth, about 2 minutes. Add sour cream and beat until combined.

Add half of dry ingredients to wet ingredients. Beat on low until incorporated. Add milk and beat to combine. Add remaining dry ingredients and beat until combined.

Add batter to liners until three-quarters full. Bake 19-22 minutes, until slightly golden on top.

Remove cupcakes from pan and cool completely.

To make frosting: In large bowl, using handheld mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter until fluffy. Add powdered sugar and beat until combined. Add heavy cream, vanilla and salt; beat until combined. Mix in green food coloring.

Transfer frosting to piping bag and pipe frosting onto cupcakes.

Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Three signs you're not eating enough carbs

By Fitness Expert Julie Germaine Coram

Carbs are a hot topic in diet culture, particularly with the keto diet. This approach to nutrition has been quite successful for individuals with weight-loss goals; however, many find that upon reintroducing foods such as fruit, bread or pasta, the scale climbs right back up again. This yo-yo dieting is not only frustrating, but unhealthy.

You need carbohydrates. They are your body's preferred source of energy — carbs are digested into simple sugars that fuel you throughout your busy day. Your workout requires energy, of course, but so do your workday, family life and even your time asleep. If you are not eating enough carbohydrates, you may experience negative side effects associated with deprivation, such as:

Brain fog — If you feel sluggish and sleepy during the day, you may not be consuming adequate carbohydrates. This obvious sign is important to acknowledge, as you cannot be your best self if you are unable to focus, have headaches or feel mentally exhausted.

Anger issues — Being quick to anger or easily irritated can indicate that you are lacking calories in the form of carbohydrates. Serotonin production is directly affected by carbohydrate intake. Serotonin is the hormone that helps us feel happy and content.

Digestive issues — Fibre, a non-digestible form of carbohydrate, is found in foods such as vegetables, fruits and whole grains. When you limit these foods in your regular diet, you deprive your body of nutrients that help you feel full after a meal and aid digestion. Without fibre, you risk feeling bloated or constipated, as it is essential for proper digestion.



Fitness Expert, Julie Germaine

The best way to reverse symptoms such as those listed above is to monitor your diet and take note of how many carbohydrates make it onto your plate. Canada's Food Guide suggests that a quarter of your plate should come from whole grains and about half from fruits and vegetables — is that what your meals look like?

Stop seeing carbs as "good" or "bad." Instead, pay attention to the timing of your energy-boosting meals (earlier in the day) and your food choices (non-processed whole grains and fresh produce).

Discuss your health goals or fitness struggles by scheduling a free online consultation at www.calendly.com/juliegermaine or email julie@juliegermaine.com.

Coach Julie Germaine Coram is dedicated to lifelong health. She is an active mom, registered personal trainer, two-time pro fitness champion, certified nutrition expert and fitness specialist. She has helped thousands worldwide improve their health since 2005.



St. Patrick's Day Sandwiches

lemon juice
 lemon slices, for garnish (optional)

In bowl, mix cream cheese spread, mozzarella cheese and salt well.

Split English muffins in half. Cut each muffin half into shamrock shape. Spread cheese mixture over each muffin half.

Place three cucumbers on each "shamrock," one on each "leaf." Use green pepper slice as stem. Place cilantro leaf on top of each sandwich.

Sprinkle sandwiches with lemon juice and add lemon slices, for garnish, if desired.

Yield: 8 sandwiches

8 ounces plain cream cheese spread, softened

1 cup finely shredded mozzarella cheese

salt

4 English muffins

24 slices cucumber

8 thin slices green pepper

fresh cilantro leaves