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VOLUME 1 EDITION 2

THURSDAY,  
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**Cultural day**

French Cultural Day at École West Park School was a big success last week. For the full story, see Pg. 4.

PHOTO BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

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Funding provided by the Manitoba government



# Altona YFC moves into its new home

## Hopes to have renos done next month

By Ty Dilello

Altona Youth For Christ (YFC) has completed its move into the new location at the corner of 6th Street SE and 2nd Avenue.

The new site is a massive former warehouse that was utilized by Friesens Corporation.

For the next month, staff will be working hard to get the building renovated so that they can officially open their doors to youth as quickly as possible.

"We started talking about this with Friesens Corp. before the pandemic started, but then the pandemic came and sort of paused everything," said program director Marty Falk. "January 2021 is when we revisited the

idea, so it's been just over a year we've been going at this. And we hope to open our doors within the next month, month and a half.

"This building was basically just a warehouse with some offices and a warehouse for storage of massive rolls of paper," Falk said. "We started talking to Friesens when we were fundraising for our van, so they also asked about our other dreams.

"We started talking about our Makerspace, which is a program that will offer teens access to tools, programs, computers, and people who can teach them skills. We want to have everything from woodworking to 3D printing to our big laser engraver. We want to offer kids stuff that they can't access this stuff themselves because they're too expensive or there's no one to teach them.

"That program talk facilitated the talk with Friesens, and so they were going to provide a space for that.

However, we didn't want our Makerspace and drop-in space to be separate. To be able to have it all in one building now is more accessible."

At Altona Youth For Christ, the main goal is building relationships with youth.

"Offering them a safe space to be no matter what is so important," Falk said. "It doesn't matter what you believe, what your faith is, what gender you are, what your sexuality is,



PHOTOS BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

Altona Youth For Christ has begun renovating its new building and hopes to be able to reopen next month.



etc. We want every kid that comes in here to feel safe and accepted. We do that by making it feel like home."

Part of that is making YFC a fun place for youth to hang out. The new drop-in space will feature several large TVs, gaming systems, a pool table, lots of board games, and comfy couches, with plans to add even more features in the future.

Since moving into the new building on Feb. 25, Falk and company have been working ten-hour days to get the site ready.

"Phase 1 of our work is getting our drop-in space functional and the Makerspace upstairs," he said. "We're still doing painting, and once that's in, the flooring goes in. Phase 2 involves having an art room, recording room for music, podcasts, etc. ... and then

also buying more equipment for the Makerspace."

If you're interested in helping out, Youth For Christ is always looking for more volunteers. You can reach out on the YFC's social media pages or email stationyfc@gmail.com.

Falk says that if things continue going on schedule, they hope to open their doors to the new YFC centre in early April.

"We always want to say thanks to the community for the support that we get. We raised over \$500,000 in seven months," he said. "We weren't sure where we'd be on that when we first asked for support, but it's been incredible that we've seen that amount of support in that short of time."

## LIVE and IN-PERSON

Altona & District Chamber of Commerce

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ALTONA & DISTRICT Chamber of Commerce

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# Local docs at forefront of a growing new trend in medicine

## Female surgeons outnumber their male peers at Winkler clinic

By Lorne Stelmach

The CW Wiebe Medical Centre in Winkler is in a unique situation among clinics likely nationwide.

In what is largely still a male dominated field, the surgical staff here now includes 10 women among 13 positions.

Three of the five general surgeons are female, while three of the four orthopedic surgeons and all four obstetrician-gynecologists are also women.

It is at least in part a reflection of a

trend now in terms of general surgery, but there is still progress to be made overall in better reflecting our population and diversity, so local staff see the situation in Winkler as something to be celebrated and promoted.

"It's slowly becoming a trend ... it is going to shift from being male dominated," Dr. Elizabeth Thompson said this past week as March 8 marked International Women's Day. "When I came in 2015, I was the seventh surgeon but only the second female ... so we've gone through a shift from male dominated to much more female dominated."

"The more women there are in medicine, the more women there will be in these male dominant sub specialties. It will continue to get better," observed Dr. Alexis Marshall.

"It was never our intention to go out and recruit specifically female surgeons," noted clinic administrator

**"IT'S SLOWLY BECOMING A TREND ... IT IS GOING TO SHIFT FROM BEING MALE DOMINATED."**



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Dr. Alexis Marshall and Dr. Elizabeth Thompson are two of 10 female surgeons working out of the CW Wiebe Medical Centre, which has 13 surgeons in all. More women than ever are not only entering medicine but specializing in certain fields that have traditionally been dominated by men.

Jim Neufeld. "We've been growing all of our programs and particularly our surgical programs, and when we went searching for new people to add to our programs, the candidates that stood out and would provide the best

services for our program were definitely the female candidates."

Neufeld suggested the fact the surgical program here is newer and still developing has worked in their favour.

Continued on page 8



## Happy Retirement KEVIN BOLT

PKF Lawyers congratulates Kevin Bolt on his retirement. After 42 years of practicing law, Kevin will be retiring as of January 31, 2022. He and his wife Bonnie plan to spend more time with their ten grandchildren and to travel the world once conditions allow.

About his retirement, Kevin advises he is heartened by the fact that the team at PKF can ensure continuity of legal service to his clients, including his son Matthew Bolt, and colleague Stephane Warnock, practicing at the PKF offices in Morden and Winkler.

During his many years of practice, Kevin made a significant contribution to the law, to his clients, and has helped establish PKF Lawyers as Manitoba's benchmark for excellence in real-world and practical legal advice.

We wish Kevin all the best and thank him for the wonderful service he has provided our clients over the years.

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# West Park holds French Cultural Day

By Ty Dilello

Last Thursday, École West Park School in Altona held its annual French Cultural Day in conjunction with the Festival du Voyageur going on in Winnipeg.

West Park is a dual-track school with both English and French Immersion classes for Gr. 4-6.

“Our French Immersion classes are engaged in this, but also the basic French students are involved, so all of our students can do these French cultural activities,” said principal Derek Sawatzky. “It’s really important coming out of two years of this pandemic where we were pretty isolated from each other. So to be able to have the opportunity to meet together with kids that we don’t necessarily teach, to build that connection, is very empowering. We’re slowly moving to a position where we’re becoming a community again.”

“This special day initiative came through our French immersion pro-

gram,” he continued. “And it aims to increase the profile of French language in our community, which is not specifically Francophone.”

In previous years, West Park has held a kickoff event for French Cultural Day, bringing in an entertainer. Due to COVID, however, they weren’t able to do that the past few years.

They also used to partner with Rosendfeld School, where their students would come to West Park for the day to join in on the festivities, but that hasn’t worked for a few years either. The school is hoping to build back that collaboration for next year.

Although things were a little different for this year’s French Cultural Day, many fun activities were planned for the students.

“We did some digital things this year where kids could watch something that was pre-recorded,” explained Sawatzky. “And then throughout the day different grade levels are going through four different stations.”

The activity stations ranged from



PHOTOS BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

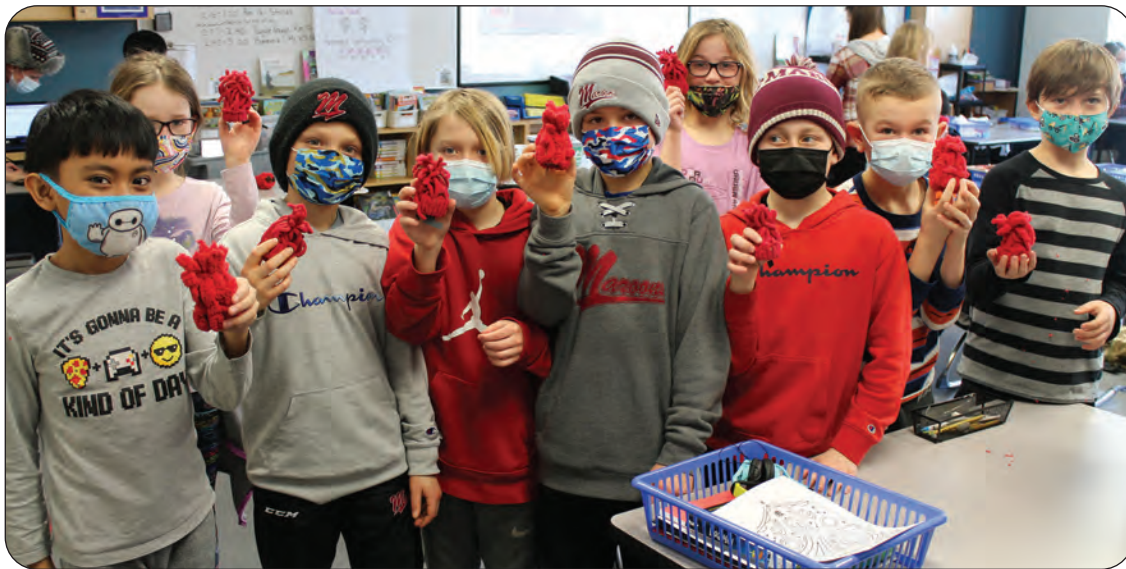
Students at École West Park School in Altona spent last Thursday learning about French and Métis culture at this year’s French Cultural Day. Activities included arts and crafts, bannock making, storytelling, and more.

trying French foods, making bannock, and storytelling to crafts and outdoor games, all tying to French and Métis culture.

The day was an overwhelming success, with lots of big smiles seen as the kids rotated through the activities.

“This is about student learning and

student engagement, and we’re trying to find ways to build those connections with the kids,” said Sawatzky. “School is more than just sitting at a desk and working hard. We’re engaged in learning in active ways, so hands-on interactive experiences are strongly desired.”



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# Many Hands food bank now open at 500 Stephen St.

By Lorne Stelmach

It was an exciting step for Many Hands Resource Centre last week as it began operating the food bank and drop-in centre at the new 500 Stephen Street community centre in Morden.

The move no doubt will present challenges, especially with the food bank facing increasing demand, but representatives of the organization welcomed the opportunity to grow and better serve Morden.

"It will be great to have our own space," said program co-ordinator Tracey Krause, who said they look forward to being a key part of what is envisioned to be a real community hub along the lines of Central Station in Winkler.

"We are really looking forward to becoming a resource centre ... where we know all of the resources people can access here in the Morden area," Krause said. "If people need help, whether it's employment or housing or child care, we can point people in the right direction for whatever needs they may have."

"It's very exciting for Many Hands as an organization. We feel like this is the next step for our organization to propel us forward," agreed board chair Daniel Klauke.

It is a significant milestone in what

has been a rapid journey for the agency since just taking over operation of the local food bank from The Hub last year.

"The change is continuing from last summer when we first took on the food bank ... it kind of fell into our laps, and we were excited to take it on," Klauke said. "Talk about 500 Stephen Street was already in progress at that time, and I believe they were planning to have space for the food bank in the back when The Hub was still taking care of it.

"So we knew this was the space where the food bank was going to happen, and we thought it would be a great space. There's lots of room back there, and we're just excited for the way that can help continue to grow the program," he said. "It can be a central location for people to come and associate it with Many Hands."

Klauke saw Many Hands as being well positioned to carry on, although they anticipate perhaps needing to elevate their level of service.

"We've done a lot of research into the regulations, what we need to have ... and we had the health inspector come by and have a look at the space and had that approved," he noted.

"It's a bigger operation, so I think there's bigger expectations and big-

**"WE FEEL LIKE THIS IS THE NEXT STEP FOR OUR ORGANIZATION TO PROPEL US FORWARD."**

# Nurse shortage at BTHC

By Lorne Stelmach

Boundary Trails Health Centre has temporarily closed some of its beds for a second time within half a year due to staffing shortages.

Representatives of Southern Health-Santé Sud confirmed Monday that 20 beds at Boundary Trails Health Centre have been recently closed.

It was described as a temporary move, but a brief statement provided to the Voice offered no further information on the number of staff positions involved or a possible timeline for the beds to be back in service.

The statement only confirmed "the 20 beds at Boundary Trails Health Centre are currently closed due to nursing vacancy. Southern Health -

Santé Sud continues to focus on recruitment of new staff and ongoing evaluation of the ability to reopen beds incrementally.

"As a system, and as a region, we are grateful for the efforts of all health-care workers. We know that our communities and the patients we serve are also grateful for the efforts of nurses doctors and others on the front lines," the statement said.

BTHC closed 10 beds for six weeks last fall, also citing a shortage of nurses.

Southern Health - Santé Sud officials stressed then that protocols were in place should there be a sudden increased demand for care, especially if there were a spike in COVID-19 cases.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Many Hands treasurer Brenda Klassen, program co-ordinator Tracey Krause, board chair Daniel Klauke, and board members Darcy Wolfe and Jaimee Loewen at the food bank's new home in 500 Stephen St. last week.

ger accountability to the public to make sure we're doing a good job of managing that space and managing the funds that come in that people are trusting us with to manage that space."

They already have a good dedicated group of volunteers but obviously would always welcome more.

"I think we're going to need more volunteers as far as the drop-in centre

is concerned, not as much for the food bank. We're always open to more volunteers if people want to get involved in some way," Klauke said. "The name of the organization is Many Hands, so we can have more hands to make it all work right.

"If we find the demand is greater and we have more people coming to use the drop-in space and looking for

Continued on page 7

## SCHANZENFELD SECONDARY PLAN



### - PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE -

The RM of Stanley is hosting two public open house events to present the draft Secondary Plan for the community of Schanzenfeld. A draft of the Secondary Plan can be viewed on the RM of Stanley website.

To reach the widest audience, we are providing two events. The content of both events will be the same. We invite you to attend one of the following events to learn about the plan, ask questions and provide your feedback.

#### IN PERSON EVENT

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Location: RM of Stanley Council Chamber 1-23111 PTH 14

#### ONLINE EVENT

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

To reserve your spot, please RSVP to [rspv@landmarkplanning.ca](mailto:rspv@landmarkplanning.ca)

For more information, please contact Evan Allan, at [eallan@landmarkplanning.ca](mailto:eallan@landmarkplanning.ca)





**PUBLISHER**  
Lana Meier



**MARKETING & PROMOTIONS**  
Brett Mitchell



**EDITOR**  
Ashleigh Viveiros



**REPORTER**  
Lorne Stelmach



**REPORTER**  
Ty Dilello



**REPORTER**  
Becca Myskiw



**SALES**  
Gwen Dyck



**PRODUCTION**  
Nicole Kapusta



**PRODUCTION**  
Tara Gionet



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Our commitment to you: we want to help build stronger communities through articles that both inform and entertain you about what's going on throughout the Pembina Valley. This is your community newspaper—let us know what you want to see in it.

**OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS**



# All creatures great and small

**T**here's a rabbit living in our yard this winter.

I'm not going to say exactly where because I'm not a narc but it is visible from time to time in his/her/their various comings and goings and tos and fro. Its tracks clearly mark out its existence.

Honestly I am quite fond of the little things. My wife and I are both lovers of all kinds of creatures and how they go about their days as if the mortgage isn't due and nothing needs to be repaired or shopped for.

In the case of the rabbit we set out a couple of carrots for it.

Shocking.

"Don't you know those things breed like, well, like rabbits?!?"

Well, yes, I suppose there is a possibility that an overly warm welcome may result in a small hoard coming to occupy our yard and the neighbourhood. A few would be fine ... hawks and cats will definitely keep the numbers down.

One of our friends mentioned that we can count our small vegetable garden a goner if rabbits decide to hang around.

"We'll just let them have it, I suppose," I said.

"Oh, we could grow lettuce! They'd like that," my wife enthusiastically chimed in.

You see, we are hopeless.

We are not the kind of people who spend a bizarre and inordinate amount of time trying to keep squirrels out of bird feeders and such. Who

cares? Squirrels need to eat as much as birds.

My wife and I are generally fond of urban wild animals. I say wild because cats wandering around are not on that list. We own two cats. A cat that is constantly wandering around outside is not loved. It is owned by a person who cannot handle their complaints to go out. Outdoor cats live MUCH shorter lives and are prone to numerous diseases as a result.

Same goes for dogs. A happy, healthy, loved dog is kept safe by being on a leash and in a loving home or fenced yard.

No, when I say urban wild I mean squirrels, rabbits, deer, bats, birds of all kinds, racoons, and even rats and mice.

Living in Toronto we had our share of racoons and rats in the neighbourhood but generally you left them alone and they left you alone—just like dealing with other Torontonians.

I've never really understood certain people's instant desire upon seeing a small animal to go get a gun and kill it.

I can understand it in certain circumstances such as ground hogs on a cattle ranch where one species puts

another at risk, but from an urban perspective if they're not in your house and they aren't actively hunting you leave them be.

Heck, if the deer eat your cedar hedge one harsh winter good for you. You just saved a life at the sacrifice of an ornamental bush that isn't native to these parts.

I think it is weird that we encourage certain kinds of species to proliferate through feeding and tolerance (birds) while screaming and freaking out about other things (spiders and mice come to mind).

Spiders are another example of animal that go generally unmolested in our house. The particularly large ones that could threaten the cats will be moved outside, but we don't kill them. They take care of animals that fall into the pest category like flies, and mosquitos, etc.

In the end I think it is humbling to remember that we are part of the animal kingdom. A little tolerance and kindness of our fellow creatures like backyard bunny can go a long way to offering perspective and if we lose a few cabbages come harvest ... well, we can just consider it rent.



**By Peter Cantelon**

## letters

### MISLEADING AD

This paper states, "The newspaper is supported solely by advertising."

My interest was piqued by the 1/2 page colour ad submitted and printed on the lower half of Pg. 14 in the first edition of *The Altona-Rhineland*

*Voice*, Thursday March 3, 2022.

The ad contains misleading information which insinuates the truckers who participated in the Ottawa convoy rally (as illustrated in the in-

Continued on page 7

*All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Voice.*

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Lorne Stelmach Reporter  
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Ty Dilello Reporter  
204-250-6322 tydilello20@gmail.com

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View the Voice online at [www.winklermordenvoice.ca](http://www.winklermordenvoice.ca) or [altonavoice.ca](http://altonavoice.ca)



# GVSD hires new superintendent and chief financial officer

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Garden Valley School Division will have a new superintendent starting this summer.

The board of trustees announced last week that Dan Ward has been hired to fill the CEO/superintendent of schools role for the Winkler division. He steps in to fill the vacancy left by Todd Monster, who is retiring later this year after being on medical leave.

"We're very excited to welcome Dan to Garden Valley School Division," said board chair Laurie Dyck. "He brings a wealth of great experience and we're just really looking forward to what he will offer to us in leadership."

Ward, who could not be reached for comment at press time, comes to the job with 26 years of administrative and instructional experience.

He is currently the CEO/superintendent of Mountain View School Division in Dauphin, a role he's held since July 2019. Prior to that, he was the division's assistant su-

perintendent for four years.

Before joining the senior administration team at MVSD, Dan held the position of liaison officer for funded independent schools with Manitoba Education from 2012-2015. From 1996-2012, he served as a teacher and school administrator in both Frontier School Division (Skownan First Nation) and St. Maurice School (Winnipeg).

Ward begins his new job on July 15. In the meantime, Janice Krahn will continue as GVSD's interim superintendent before returning to her previous position as assistant superintendent of programs and curriculum this summer.

Also announced last week was the hiring of Kevin Vovchuk as GVSD's new chief financial officer/secretary-treasurer.

Vovchuk, who starts in the job March 14, comes to GVSD with over 30 years of financial management experience in both the profit and non-profit sectors. In addition to financial management, he has also held senior positions in operations.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Garden Valley School Division has hired Dan Ward (left) as its new superintendent/CEO and Kevin Vovchuk as its chief financial officer and secretary-treasurer.

Dyck said the division is looking forward to the stability filling these key administrative roles will bring.

"The board and senior admin team is really excited to start filling all these chairs with permanent people," she said.

# Clocks spring forward this Sunday for daylight savings

By Voice staff

Most Canadians will adjust their clocks ahead by an hour Sunday, March 13 for the switch from local standard time to daylight saving time.

Daylight saving time officially starts at 2 a.m.

Clocks are pushed ahead one hour in spring to what's commonly called "daylight saving time," an idea first

used in Germany during the First World War with the goal of saving energy. It aims to take advantage of daylight hours in the spring so that people don't sleep through the first

few hours of sunshine.

When the daylight period gets shorter in the fall, the clocks are readjusted to the proper "local standard time."

## > LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

cluded ad photo) can be thanked by your readers who will no longer be required to have proof of vaccination (March 1, 2022) and no longer required to wear masks as of March 15, 2022.

The participating truckers did not accomplish this during the havoc that ensued in Ottawa during the protest. It is disturbing to see this misleading ad printed in your publication, which is distributed to our local communities.

In the bottom right-hand corner of the ad, it states the ad is paid for by Voices for Freedom.

My information sources indicate Voices for Freedom is a group that

## > MANY HANDS, FROM PG. 4

resources, obviously we are going to expand our programs and our operations in that way."

"The need seems to be growing here in Morden," said Krause, who noted the food bank had grown from servicing just under 40 families last August to just over 60 recently. "I think we will be much

was started in New Zealand. This group promotes an anti-mask, anti-mandate, and anti-vaccine agenda. They hand out pamphlets at protests which contain misinformation about the vaccines, and masks, which have been debunked by doctors and scientists.

I would like to know if there is another group that goes by the same name in our area that doesn't have the same agenda? Could you clarify this for the readers?

The paper states, "Our commitment to you: We want help build stronger communities through articles that both inform and entertain you about what's going on through-

more visible here."

For now, the food bank will operate every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 to 4 p.m. The drop-in hours for the community centre will be Tuesdays from 12-4 p.m. and Thursdays from 5-9 p.m.

Find more information online at [manyhandsrc.com](http://manyhandsrc.com).

out the Pembina Valley."

I don't understand how posting an ad that contains misleading representation can help build a stronger community that is already so divided on the vaccine and mandate issue.

The paper also suggests we visit any of the advertisers in our rural communities. My question is, "Was the funding for the 'Voices of Freedom' ad promoted by a local business?"

Keep your dollars working at home and shop local, your paper suggests. If my information sources are correct, then I wonder if our local community

paper is accepting funding for their publication from sources that are not local?

Does anyone else see the irony here?

**Laurie Braun,  
Altona**

*\*Publisher's note: This advertisement was purchased by a local business person who wished it to be attributed to "Voices of Freedom." The content of the ad does not reflect the views of the Voice.*

## Letter policy

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

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

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

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

Send your letters to us by e-mail at [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca).



# "It's a plus for the hospital, for the clinic, for the community"

From Pg. 3

"In a lot of other surgical programs, they're existing programs and they've been going on for a long period of time ... and with most of those programs, with the nature of what's gone on in the past, they were largely male-dominated programs," he observed. "I think it's been hard in some places for a female to fit into existing programs ... whereas here we're creating a new program, and it's just kind of the opposite."

Thompson gives credit particularly to Dr. Chandy Jacob for her decision to come to Winkler in 2015 after having studied medicine at the University of Manitoba, where her training including a stint of time in Morden-Winkler.

"I wasn't really expecting to enjoy my time out here, and I had a great time. Dr. Jacob and the rest of the team were just really easy to work with; did a lot of great procedures ... it felt like a really great fit for me."

There is an appeal to this being a major health care centre that presents them with a larger and varied caseload, with Thompson focusing particularly on breast cancer and surgery.

She recognized that there were some challenges that she faced, though, in getting into the field as a woman.

"I would have said as a medical student or as a resident that I didn't notice a lot of bias, and in fact I would have been relatively against some of the female-only conferences and medical associations," she noted. "However, going through training and having a very small handful of mentors who were female but having a lot of female co-residents, then you do start to see certain biases at play.

"I think U of M though is quite good, is quite open in being equal," she continued. "There were certainly comments before I even got into surgery that, well, if you're a female and you want to have a family you should probably go into family medicine, you shouldn't be a surgeon ... you shouldn't be a particular type of surgeon."

"The shift has happened relatively quick in general surgery," said Thompson, who pointed out in terms of general surgery that over 50 per cent of medical residents are now women, although the surgical sub-specialties are still male dominated.

"Part of it, I think, is how relationships develop and how jobs develop, so a lot of that's networking. The other thing is that a lot of us who are here took jobs here very quickly after we finished our training, and most surgical programs across the country are increasing how many females are being trained."

Seeing more and more women on staff locally is something Thompson is keen to celebrate.

"It's definitely a plus. It's a plus for the hospital; it's a plus for the clinic and for the community," she said. "I would say to the youth ... if it's something that interests you, go for it. Don't feel that you have to fit what society would say is the norm."

"It's totally possible to do something completely different

from that if you want to, and I would encourage them to look at that and look at how our team has come about and the amazing things we are able to do as a group of female surgeons ... I don't feel that I'm missing out on any of those other aspects of life."

"I think it's good for the community ... young girls who are still in school, to have good role models, to see it is possible," observed Marshall, who is an orthopedic surgeon with a speciality in hip and knee replacements and trauma.

She studied in Newfoundland and then did residency training in Thunder Bay and fellowship training in Toronto before a friend and colleague from her residency encouraged her to consider Winkler. She started working here in June of 2020.

"It's proven to be a good spot to work ... everybody here is really good to work with," Marshall said. "I knew I would want to work in a more rural community ... it's much easier to have a good work life balance."

"In big cities, you tend to be very focused on one sub-specialty area ... here you have to be comfortable seeing a few things outside of that simply because there are no sub-specialists in a lot of different areas, so you have to be a little more of a general orthopedic surgeon."

Marshall noted that, according to the Canadian Medical Association, women in general surgery was just under 30 per cent in 2018 while orthopedic surgery was just under 12 per cent.

When she was applying for her residency in 2012, she recalled there being about a dozen women among the 90 to 100 positions across Canada for orthopedic.

"It's still a fairly low percentage when you

consider half of our population is female," Marshall said. "Orthopedics is probably one of the most male dominated specialties in medicine ... it's a little bit of a stereotype for the field."

"The bias still exists. I don't think anybody will deny that it's better than it was, but there's definitely still some of that in play. You'll still see people making certain comments."

If the community and region here wants to continue to promote and pursue this diversity, Thompson stressed the need for more of the support services to help make it possible.

"If we're looking at retention and recruitment, encouraging young women in the area to con-

sider going into a professional field, we need to, as an area, support that," she said, citing particularly the need for more child care options. "If we think this is important, if we want to encourage this, if we want to see other physicians coming here or even other professionals ... those are things that the city needs to think about to push us forward."

"You need the supports in place so that women can do their jobs to the extent that they want to," agreed Marshall.

"The pandemic, in the last two years, in particular with wom-

en leaving the workforce, that has brought these things to light dramatically," Thompson noted. "If we want to actually continue this cycle, that's what we need ... they want opportunities for their kids. They want recreational opportunities."

"We've made some great strides ... those are the things that are going to allow us to recruit and retain for all professional areas."

**"IF IT'S SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU, GO FOR IT. DON'T FEEL THAT YOU HAVE TO FIT WHAT SOCIETY WOULD SAY IS THE NORM."**

## Shining a spotlight on female leaders

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Genesis House and the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce are celebrating International Women's Day this week by shining a spotlight on a number of female leaders in our community.

Starting this past Tuesday, the two agencies began posting a series of short videos on their social media pages on the topic of gender equality.

"The theme this year is Break the Bias, so we're looking at women in roles that you wouldn't always expect a woman to be in," explained Angela Braun, Genesis House executive director.

While great strides have been made in breaking down many of the barriers that kept women out of traditionally male-dominated careers and industries in the past, challenges and harmful stereotypes remain in many areas.

Progress does not mean parity, Braun noted, and gender bias can be both explicit and subtle.

The videos will give voice to local women in the fields of medicine, law, business, agricul-

ture, policing, politics, sports, and more.

"We took a look around our community and said, 'Who's doing things a little bit outside maybe the norm?' Braun said. "And when you start looking, there's quite a bit of that happening."

The ladies interviewed were all asked what inspired them to pursue their chosen paths, and what roadblocks may have been in their way.

"What gave you the courage to forge ahead when this was a road that was maybe a little bit less travelled?" Braun said. "One of the themes I heard was that often it was a mentorship. That there was somebody who mentored that person, be it a woman or man, that helped kind of clear the brush so this person could see themselves in that role."

For its part, the chamber was keen to sponsor this campaign, said executive director Tanya Chateauf.

"Now more than ever, we acknowledge that

Continued on page 9



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# First lots up for grabs in Altona's expanded industrial park

By Ty Dilello

Altona's Industrial Park is in the finishing stages of a massive upgrade designed to give the community room for some major economic growth.

In 2020, the Town of Altona purchased a parcel of land immediately north of the current industrial park, which had run out of space to bring any new businesses to town.

Since then, Altona has worked hard in developing the land to the point where it is now up for sale.

"Our community has spent a lot of time and energy in expanding our industrial park," said Altona Mayor Al Friesen. "And have been working till now to get the proper engineering and drainage studies complete, moving towards getting it prepared to sell for development. There's quite a process in making that happen."

The town still has some work to do on the park, Friesen noted, including building a road and getting sewer, water, and electrical lines run throughout.

The first four lots are on the market now, with additional lots expected to become available starting this fall.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Phase one of Altona's industrial park upgrades is complete and four lots are available for purchase.

The Town of Altona also has a tax incentive program designed to attract new businesses to town and encourage existing ones to grow. Eligible businesses can have municipal taxes waived for

the first three years on new commercial/industrial buildings or large-scale additions and expansions. Contact the Town of Altona for more information.

## Self-isolation requirements to end on March 15

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitobans who test positive for COVID-19 will soon no longer be required to self-isolate.

Dr. Jazz Atwal, deputy chief provincial public health officer, last week announced the province's intention to drop self-isolation requirements on March 15, the same day the mask mandate expires.

"No matter what your respiratory symptoms are, it's still recommended to stay home when you're sick, to give your body time to recover and to reduce the likelihood of spreading that illness to someone else," Atwal stressed.

Manitoba will also stop COVID-19 case investigations next week.

People who test positive for the virus will still be contacted and provided guidance on how to care for themselves and whether they're eligible for certain treatments, Atwal explained, but the province will no longer be looking into where a person may have caught or transmitted COVID-19.

Health officials will also be changing how it reports COVID-19 data moving forward.

"As we continue to transition to living with COVID-19 outside of public health restrictions, we also need to adjust to the information we collect and share with Manitobans," Atwal said. "Real-time data is less critical with endemic reporting. Instead, we would shift our focus to key piece of information that will provide the most relevant epidemiological evidence and data for both the public and decision makers.

"Manitobans will see this shift in the days ahead as we focus on reporting on key trends, more vulnerable settings, and other important indicators of COVID activity and severity in our province."

With restrictions easing across the province, it's likely Manitoba will see a jump in cases, Atwal said, though he doesn't believe a major new wave of the virus will hit in the weeks ahead.

"The system has been preparing and will continue to prepare for potentially a new wave," he said, noting a

future variant could well come along and cause more severe outcomes than the currently prevalent omicron variant. "There isn't anything on the horizon that we can see in relation to that, but we're going to continue to monitor that situation."

Public health is prepared to scale up its response once again should case numbers, especially hospitalizations and ICU admissions, require it.

## Six Winkler businesses receive \$105K in fines for public health order violations

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler had the dubious honour of being the only community in Manitoba with businesses receiving tickets for breaking COVID-19 rules one week last month.

The Feb. 21-27 enforcement report showed officers handed out 21 tickets of \$5,000 each to six businesses in Winkler, totalling \$105,000 in fines.

Twisters Burgers, Fries, & Malts received seven tickets, VB's Entertainment Centre five, Del Rios Family Restaurant got four, both Country Kitchen and DJ's Drive In got two each, and Mulligan's Restaurant received one ticket.

Officials that week also issued one \$298 charge to an individual for failing to wear a mask in an

indoor public place, and an \$8,550 ticket to someone for violating the Federal Quarantine Act.

This weekly report was the final one before the proof of vaccination requirement for public spaces like restaurants and entertainment centres was dropped on March 1.

The mask mandate, meanwhile, remains in place until March 15.

The enforcement report for March 6-12 was not available at press time.

Since April 2020, Manitoba has issued 2,615 tickets for public health order violations totalling over \$3.6 million in fines. The province's online dashboard also notes COVID-19 enforcement officers have received 282,521 calls and issued 6,168 warnings.

### > WOMEN'S DAY, FROM PG. 8

it's important to look for positives to celebrate, including Women's International Day," she said. "We are grateful to work with Genesis House to highlight what strength means to women in our community.

"As we know, Winkler has many strong, suc-

cessful business women, and we want to thank them for their leadership and contributions to the business community, and to the community as a whole."

You can find Genesis House and the Winkler chamber on Facebook or Instagram.



# Things are picking up at fossil discovery centre

By Lorne Stelmach

Business is picking up at the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, and executive director Adolfo Cuetara is looking forward to what lays ahead with the lifting of pandemic restrictions.

Visits to Morden's signature museum have already been on the rise, though Cuetara sees it getting even better with the busy tourist season ahead.

"This summer is going to be my first here at the CFDC without the pandemic, so that's great," said Cuetara, who had barely stepped into the role when COVID-19 took hold. "It's really exciting to think that things are going to be normal ... we have plenty of projects, so we are happy with the way that things are going."

"We are actually having decent visitation already ... we feel like people are coming back to see what new things we have," he said. "I am very optimistic for the season and the summer. I hope that this year we are starting again to do all of our programs ... and even the dig tours. We have big plans for the field season and the property that we have out there."

The museum began ramping things up this month with Mosasaur March, where Morden residents get in for free. It's a promotion that has been done in the past but which had not been possible the last two years thanks to pandemic restrictions.

As well, last Friday was the second of five PD Day camps CFDC is hosting this spring (additional sessions are scheduled for March 18, April 8, and April 22). The day included a guided tour of the museum, a mosasaur documentary, and lots of fun ac-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Gerry Peters led kids on a tour of the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden Friday during the second of five PD Day camps the museum is hosting this spring. As restrictions ease, the facility is welcoming back more and more visitors.

tivities in the kid's room.

Looking ahead, Cuetara is anxious to get people back out to their dig sites, with plans progressing for a field station.

"We are still waiting for some approvals for the funds that we will need, but our plan is to build the field station ... we have part of the funds already, but we are waiting for a big chunk of what we need," he said. "I think it is looking good ... it will be a big improvement for the dig tours because we will have shelter and some place even to offer for lunch break."

"We are also thinking of creating a hike with stops in strategic sites with

information about all of the aspects of the land ... we are talking about the mining activity, the geology of the landscape, the fossils.

"Our intention is also to offer guided hikes. So we have big plans for this year."

Meanwhile, back at the museum, Cuetara is also excited about the unveiling of a new shark exhibit that could be ready as soon as this week.

The exhibit will be a special one because normally only isolated pieces such as the teeth are found, but the CFDC has a full shark skeleton except for the teeth.

"That makes it special, and there is a

scientific paper about it on the way," Cuetara said.

"The CFDC was actually working with this exhibit for the last eight years ... finally we are now completing the exhibit," he noted. "This is a special exhibit for us because this is a very special specimen."

All in all, Cuetara is feeling quite optimistic about the outlook for the museum right now.

"Everything is looking good for the CFDC ... and even the financial position, we have been very successful in bringing in grants," he noted. "And I think this year is going to be even better."

## WSD presents \$25.1 million draft budget

By Lorne Stelmach

Western School Division is increasing its budget by just under six per cent for the coming year while not asking more of taxpayers.

In fact, ratepayers in general will be paying a little less in education taxes under a draft 2022-23 budget of just over \$25.1 million that was introduced at a virtual public presentation last Wednesday.

The division is meeting the challenge posed by keeping pace with its growth while being limited by the province to no more than a two per cent hike in taxation.

"We are growing faster than we can increase our budget," said board chair Brian Fransen. "Our hands are tied as far as increasing taxes locally ... we did go to the top; we went to the maximum with our two per cent increase."

"Our division is growing at more than two per cent ... but each individual property owner is going to have a smaller share of that tax burden because there are more people to share that tax burden."

The budget means that school taxes on a \$300,000 house will decrease from \$1,838.70 to \$1,795.50.

The school taxes on a commercial

property valued at \$500,000 will go down from \$7,289.43 to \$7,154.23, while school taxes on a \$1 million quarter section of farmland will drop from \$2,832.96 to \$2,766.40.

The draft budget of \$25,151,334 is boosted this year by a bump in provincial funding. The base funding of schools increased by 4.2 per cent, or \$546,000. There was further incremental funding of \$720,000, resulting overall in a six per cent increase in revenue.

The provincial funding represents 67.9 per cent of revenues at \$16,948,829, so the division has fared well considering the provincial av-

erage had been 57.8 per cent of revenues. Meanwhile, the local taxation represents 31.9 per cent of revenues at \$8,055,492, while the provincial average had been 36 per cent of revenues.

The bulk of the funding goes to salaries and benefits, which account for about 84 per cent of expenditures.

"The increase in funding in our budget, for the most part, is maintaining the staffing that we have," Fransen noted. "We have added staff during the pandemic, and we intend to maintain that staffing."

The only thing that may change, he

Continued on page 11



# RuffMutts Altona settles into its new home

By Ty Dilello

RuffMutts is a growing pet store in southern Manitoba with three locations in Niverville, Altona, and Morden.

Guy Britten and his wife Mandy originally started a dog grooming business out of their home in Niverville back in 2011. From there, it quickly evolved into retailing pet food.

A few years later, in late 2020, they decided to start a retail store in Altona, filling a definite void in the community.

"This is the only pet store in Altona," said store manager Meghan Funk last week. "There was one a few years ago, but it didn't work out. So it's been a few years since Altona has had a pet store, and the market for pets has just been growing over the last few years, so Altona was the perfect place to start one."

fect place to start one.

"There's a lot of surrounding communities outside of Altona that we pull pet owners from, too, so now they don't have to travel to Winkler or Winnipeg to get their pet fix."

Last week, RuffMutts moved into its new home just down the hall from where they previously were in the Altona Mall.

"The location is a few square feet bigger and will allow us to be able to offer people a few more extra products that we currently can't carry because our space is very limited," Funk said.

In just a few short years, RuffMutts has become the go-to local place for Altona area pet owners. Their business approach is doing things the right way, Funk said, which means carrying a high-quality and safe food and toy selection in their stores.



PHOTO BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

Altona RuffMutts moved to a new, larger location inside the Altona Mall last week.

"Something that I really like for pet owners is they always ask for treats with very simple ingredients," Funk noted. "One thing that's great we have is the Smack Pet Food product. It's great with very simple ingredients and is a Manitoba-made product. They've been popular."

"As well, pet owners really like the bully sticks on hand. With the cold weather lately, bully sticks are great for entertainment for a few hours."

You can find RuffMutts at the Altona Mall or online on social media.

# PVWD hosting public engagement sessions

## Online survey remains open as well

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Watershed District is coming to a community near you for a series of public engagement sessions this month.

PVWD is hosting five in-person gatherings over the next few weeks to get feedback from anyone who lives or works in the Plum-Marias watershed.

The watershed district is in the middle of creating an integrated watershed management plan for the area to guide projects there over the next decade.

To have your say on the matter, you can attend one of the sessions: March 17 at the St. Joseph Community Hall, March 22 in the Altona Millennium Exhibition Centre craft room, March 24 at the RM of Stanley offices, March 29 at the St. Jean Baptiste Centennial Hall, and March 31 at the Plum Coulee Community Hall. Sessions run from 6:30-8 p.m.

Virtual public engagement sessions are also in the works for anyone who can't make these events.

There's also an online survey available at <https://forms.gle/ej8SLCU-SU7ZBLSoS6>.

Survey participants have a chance to

win a free rain barrel for sharing their

thoughts on water use and management in the region. The first winner was Wayne Klassen of St. Jean Bap-

tiste. Two more draws are planned for March 15 and April 1.

## > WESTERN SD, FROM PG. 10

said, is that some staffing may be repurposed into other roles or areas.

"That's one of the things we've been learning during the pandemic is how to pivot and be flexible as needs arise."

Expenditures otherwise include about six per cent each going into the two areas of instructional support and transportation and operations, while other minimal amounts are directed towards adult education and administrative costs.

"Administration of the division is a very small amount when you look at the big picture," said Fransen. "We do make sure that we are putting as much of our resources on what is required for making sure that we can meet our targets and meet our goals."

The budget is addressing a number of priorities including support for the culture and learning teams in schools and an increase in technology expenditures as well as such other areas as playground enhance-

ments and support for the school advisory councils

As well, there are some costs related to the construction of the new piping trades building and the addition to Morden Collegiate, where the division will need to outfit three new classrooms.

Things still being weighed by the division as possible extras for the budget include electronic signs for MCI and ÉMMS as well as updates for the change rooms and home-ec lab and resurfacing of the Maple Leaf parking lot and various technology updates.

The budget overall is aiming to meet the needs of enrolment that is forecast to increase from 1,891 as of last September to 2,025 for 2022-23. The estimate include increases from 568 students to 600 for Morden Collegiate, 604 to 665 for École Morden Middle School, 445 to 470 for Maple Leaf, and 274 to 290 for Minnewasta.

One factor they see as contributing to the boost in enrolment is having

some students returning from home schooling.

"On a typical year we see between 90 and 100 home school students within our school division. You can see that the numbers here add up significantly more than that, and that is a result of the pandemic," said Fransen.

"We are anticipating that a large number of students who have not been in our schools for the last two years will come back next year," he said. "We are anticipating that we will see the numbers start to come back closer to what that trajectory was earlier before the pandemic."

Meanwhile, the division also used the opportunity to promote an upcoming forum that will give residents a chance to get a glimpse of what Morden's new K-8 school will look like.

There will be a public viewing of the new school design on Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. at Maple Leaf School.



# “Illuminate” on now at Winkler Arts and Culture

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Arts and Culture’s 2022 Members Show is on now at the Park St. gallery.

Interim director Sydney Hildebrand said they have 15 pieces of work from 10 artists, all revolving around the theme of *Illuminate*.

“As a curating committee we try to pick something kind of broad so it can be interpreted however an artist might want to interpret it,” she said. “At first you think of light, but if you think about it longer you also might think of shadows and darkness. There’s a lot you can play with than just light and brightness ... it’s a whole spectrum.”

This year’s participating artists certainly took the idea and ran with it. The show features works representing a wide range of mediums and methods, including photographs, paintings, and stained glasses pieces.

“It’s quite interesting to see how they interpreted the theme,” Hildebrand said. “Some of them are pictures that include candles and lights ... other ones are a little more subtle and you maybe have to read the description to understand what is being illuminated through the piece.”

The Members Show is WAC’s chance to give back to the members who help keep the gallery’s doors open with their support each year. WAC currently has about 50 people signed up as members.

“It’s just a way that we can show appreciation for our members,” Hil-

debrand said. “It gives members an avenue, an opportunity to show off their talent.”

That can be especially valuable for artists just starting out or for whom a solo show is a daunting prospect.

“It can be quite intimidating for an artist to think of filling the whole gallery, so this allows them to submit one piece or five pieces or whatever,” Hildebrand said.

It’s an opportunity artist Melissa Friesen is glad to take advantage of.

“There are a lot of people that do art and then no one really sees it outside of their circle,” she said. “This is a chance to share it with more.”

Her acrylic portrait of a young girl plays with light and shadows to fit the theme, Friesen said.

“Portraits are what I gravitate towards,” she said. “And I like to do black and white, so it worked perfectly.”

Fellow artist and WAC board member Valerie Klassen also has a painting in the show, though hers is an oil landscape painting.

“The light in the piece just draws you in,” she said.

Klassen has been involved with WAC pretty much from the get-go and says she always appreciates the platform the Members Show provides local artists.

“I think it’s important for us as members to have that ability to display what we’re working on,” she said. “I would like to see more people get involved and take advantage of that opportunity.”

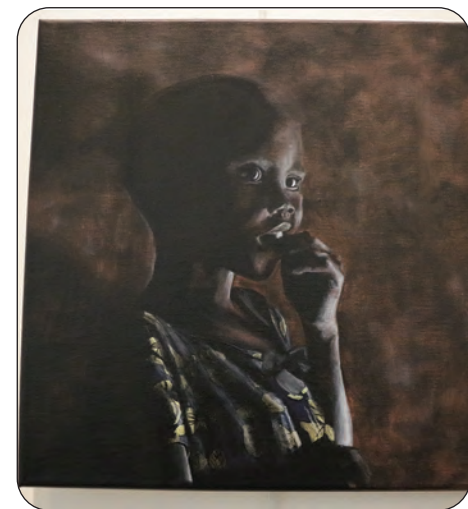


PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The WAC Members Show features a variety of work from 10 local artists, including Valerie Klassen (above) and Melissa Friesen (right).

*Illuminate* will be up until March 26. Klassen encourages everyone to come check it out.

“Come find out who’s in your community. Who’s developing as an artist.”



## BACK 40 SHOW

With proof of vaccination requirements now lifted, WAC is excited to begin welcoming more people back to the gallery.

“We have been waiting to invite the whole community back in,” Hildebrand said. “We’re so excited to have more people through and hopefully get some more events and programs lined up now that we can be open to a wider audience.”

Coming up later this month is the

first Back 40 Folk Festival coffeehouse held since the pandemic began.

The 90s Coffeehouse takes place at the WAC on Friday, March 18 at 7 p.m. It will feature acoustic performances from Bill Dowling, Jenessa Kehler, Rob James, Underhill, Warren Friesen, Mason Weselowski, and Link and the Moustaches.

Admission is free.



## Supporting Ukraine

Morden’s entrance sign (above) has been lit up in the colours of the Ukrainian flag to show the community’s support for the country as it continues to deal with Russia’s invasion. The Ukrainian flag is also flying high at Winkler city hall and the Access Event Centre in Morden. Right: Winkler Mayor Martin Harder did the honours last week. Left: Morden Mayor Brandon Burley (far right) was joined by Councillor Doug Frost and local Ukrainian community representative Yevgeniya Tatarenko in raising the flag there.







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## A perfect day of hockey

Twenty teams came out for the 3-on-3 Pond Hockey tournament at Lake Minnewasta on Saturday. There were a lot of close games across the various divisions, says organizer Brian Thiessen, making for an exciting day of hockey. "I think everybody had a good time. I saw a lot of smiles, a lot of laughter and a lot of cheering going on," he said. "We're definitely interested in building from this and seeing what next year would bring ... bigger and better." The winning teams included The Nozzle Jockeys (corporate division), Jurassic Clubhouse (competitive), Tinker Creek Ramblers (recreational), and the Goal Diggers (11U).

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

## Ross looking forward to weighing in on education funding reform

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By Lorne Stelmach

Western School Division superintendent Stephen Ross welcomes the chance to play a part in looking at how education could be funded in the province in the future.

Ross was named as a representative of the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents recently to a team of stakeholders that will undertake a review of education funding in Manitoba.

It will begin consultations with an aim to help the province develop and finalize a new funding model for the 2023-24 school year.

Ross noted there has been a need for some time to look at how the government could ensure there is an equitable education system and fairness in funding.

"It's a good effort ... it does need to change," he suggested. "Everybody in the system, everybody outside of the system, want something that's clear, more simple to understand, and yet at the same time adequately funds the system so that kids can get what they need.

"It's very confusing the way everything works right now," said Ross. "It's a very complex thing, and I think it's why it's taken so long for government to look at it again. It's been easier at times to put band-aids on it, and at some point you have to rip the band-aid off."

The province has touted the need for a better process for education funding, one that supports long-term planning and gives schools and regional leaders the flexibility they need to address local needs.

In addition, there is a need to address differences in programming and ensure equity in funding across the province, particularly in rural, remote and northern communities, and that is a particular priority for Ross.

"There's areas of the province that have huge economic investment and growth ... other areas of the city and rural Manitoba that don't have it," he said, adding as well there can be vastly different needs in terms of programs and supports. "There's challenges to divisions that have declined

Continued on page 18



# Power of the Purse supports local projects

100 women brought \$100 each to gift out

By Lorne Stelmach

Three local organizations will be sharing a portion of the proceeds from the Power of the Purse.

The annual fundraising brunch held virtually Saturday morning was aiming to raise and grant out \$10,000 after a 100 minute program with 100 women each choosing how they would donate their \$100.

In addition, the Morden Area Foundation gives \$5,000 then to put into the Power of the Purse endowment fund.

Making their pitches for a portion of the pot were the 500 Stephen Street community centre, Small Wonders Nursery School, and Pembina Counselling Centre.

The final donatoin breakdown was not yet available at press time, but 500 Stephen Street will be getting some money for an outdoor patio space, Small Wonders will be able to buy a variety of new toys, and Pembina Counselling Centre earned funding for group and one-on-one counselling for seniors in assisted living.

"500 Stephen was created to fill a void and meet a need in our community for connection. Our need to connect has perhaps never been greater," said 500 Stephen Street task force member Natalie Friesen in asking for up to \$7,000 for an outdoor patio space that would be in a street front location.

They're trying to create a comfortable space where everyone in the community is welcome to gather for fellowship and support.

"I want to invite you to create a front porch for 500 Stephen Street," Friesen said, recalling the days when people used to greet and welcome their neighbours from their front porches. "We want to be a community centre that steps outside into the community and invites everyone to come and sit a while."

Pam Staple, executive director of Small Wonders Nursery School, presented their request for up to \$4,000 for new toys for the facility.

"While children play, it can have positive effects on their memory, make them more creative, acquire

better communication skills and help with emotional regulation ... I think we can all use that after the last two years," said Staple.

She emphasized how such a wide range of learning can happen through play and described the idea of "toys that give us a window into what makes a child tick."

Fundraising has taken on increased importance at the centre with its provincial operating grant cut in half and parents needing to pay more as a result.

"With your help, we will get kids busy away from screens and back to doing what kids do best: play," said Staple.

Chris Derksen, executive director of Pembina Counselling Centre, requested up to \$3,500 to help facilitate small groups and individual counselling for seniors.

A question was raised in the midst of the pandemic about what was being done for seniors isolated from friends and family, he explained.

"I sat down with my tea and we came up with the idea of providing on site counselling, one on one, for seniors living in assisted living facilities," he said.

There was immediate interest from Homestead South, though some residents expressed resistance to one-on-one counselling. Group sessions were launched as a result.

"This would give them an opportunity to talk about the things that matter to them, for them to share their concerns ... and also we invited them to share their stories with us and with each other," said Derksen.

The initial group of 15 immediately expanded to where they needed to split into two groups. They then got interest from Buhler Active Living Centre in Winkler and the two Legion Houses in Morden.

It is reflective of the increasing need in general, suggested Derksen, who noted their 2,200 kept appointments in 2020 grew to 3,400 in 2021, and they expect it will go over 4,000 this year.

"We remain committed to our mission to bring hope and healing to this community ... we want to continue a good thing."

Morden Area Foundation executive director Lynda Lambert was pleased that Power of the Purse was able to support these important community projects.

"Everything is fabulous in my mind



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Mulligans Restaurant and Lounge served up dozens of meals on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley last week as part of the second annual Big Night In fundraiser. Supporters stopped by the Winkler restaurant March 2-3 to pick up a hearty meal of ribs and fixings to enjoy at home. Big Bros. executive director Jenelle Neufeld (left) said Monday that she was pleased with how the event went, though just how much it raised wasn't yet available. "We had about 45 meals that went out," she said. "So I think that was a pretty good success, what with the restrictions changing and people being able to go out again." Proceeds will go to support the agency's mentoring programs.

... and we had some new people this year who have never been involved before, so that's good," she said.

"One thing I do know is that everyone can't wait to meet again in per-

son though," she added. "The whole thing this year went really smoothly, and the organizations all did really well with telling their stories."

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# PRSD schools focus on students' mental health with Project 11

By Becca Myskiw

Elm Creek School and Roland School are giving their students more mental health resources with Project 11.

Prairie Rose School Division (PRSD) board of trustees gave their approval at their regular meeting for the two schools to integrate Project 11 into their curriculum in the 2022-23 school year.

Project 11 was started in 2013 in honour of Rick Rypien, a former Manitoba Moose and Vancouver Canucks player who died by suicide at age 27 in 2011, just months before he was to start playing for the Jets.

Project 11 — 11 being the number Rick would have worn for the Winnipeg Jets — exists because his life ended after suffering years of depression.

Project 11 aims to help students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 understand they can positively influence their mental wellness through skills and healthy coping strategies.

Rypien loved children and desired to see accessible mental health education and support. Project 11 is a program Rypien believed he would have benefited from.

The program provides classroom-ready lessons at no cost to Manitoba teachers. It has a readied curriculum for each grade and is helping thousands of children in the province.

Elm Creek School has been doing the program for six years. Currently, it's in their Kindergarten to Grade 8 classrooms, and as of this year, their Grades 9 and 10, too. Next year, their students in Grade 11 and 12 will also be included.

"We wanted to use this program



SUBMITTED PHOTO

PRSD trustees support Project 11 for Elm Creek and Roland Schools. Project 11 helps students learn to cope with mental illness and honours Rick Rypien, a former Manitoba Moose who took his own life.

because we felt that there was a lack of mental health strategies in the current Manitoba curriculum," said Elm Creek School principal Leslie Howard. "Young people experience crisis, trauma, stress, and conflict just like adults. The difference, however, is that adults have fully developed

brains and coping mechanisms developed through experience, while young people generally do not. This program teaches students how to cope with life's challenges at every age."

Next year, the school plans to have every student from Kindergarten

to Grade 12 participate in the programming. It will be delivered by the school's guidance counsellor, teachers, and resource teachers in health class as part of that curriculum.

The project's curriculum includes wellness activities, educational supports and supplemental videos that focus on a variety of age-appropriate areas of wellness.

Each Project 11 curriculum has a maximum of 10 lessons, each around one hour long and can be split into sections if needed. Elm Creek School will start the program in October with the goal of each class finishing by May.

Howard's seen Project 11's success first-hand — she knows it works. It involves conversation, reflection, interaction, and research.

"By taking part in this program, the students at Elm Creek School will become more knowledgeable about who they are, what they need to succeed, whom they can go to for help, and what to do when life throws them lemons," she said. "This program will hopefully give the students confidence and improved self-esteem, which are both essential in living a happy life."

## 'Spruce Up Your Story' accepting applications for funding

By Ty Dilello

Red River Mutual's Spruce Up Your Story program is back for a third year in a row, providing funding opportunities to help restore well-worn and well-loved community spaces across

Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

This year, Spruce Up Your Story will be providing up to \$25,000 in cash to each project selected, with \$150,000 in total to award to communities across the Prairies.

On top of the monetary gift, the win-

ners will also have access to additional volunteer hours from a crew of staff members from Red River Mutual and their local brokerage to help complete the project, if and when it is safe to do so.

"Leading into 2020, we reflected on our community involvement and wondered how we could make an even greater and more direct impact," said Kailynn Newediuk of Red River Mutual. "After some research and self-reflection, we started the Spruce Up Your Story community sponsorship initiative."

"Our purpose as a company is to be a positive force in the lives of our customers and communities, and through Spruce Up Your Story, we feel we are further able to connect with people and support them beyond their insurance needs. We value our customers and the people in our communities like family. Spruce Up Your Story allows us to learn more about who they are and how we can protect their stories through the spaces that bring them together."

Last year, ten winners were selected based on community use, sustainabil-

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# Plum Fest set to return for its 20th year

By Ty Dilello

This summer marks the 20th year for the Plum Coulee Plum Fest, and organizers are planning to make it a special one.

The Plum Fest committee had its organizational meeting last week. Longtime board chair June Letkeman resigned from the role, though she will remain as a committee member.

"I've been chairperson for many years and have been on the committee since its inception," said Letkeman. "It's great work. I love Plum Coulee, and I love our Plum Fest, but it's time for someone new.

Erica Dyck has taken over as the Plum Fest chairperson.

"I'm excited about that as she's younger and she'll get newer people on our committee," Letkeman said, "and there will hopefully be some new things at Plum Fest this year."

There is still much to be determined for this year's festival, but it's expected most of the usual activities will be

returning, including the ever-popular Crackles and Waffles breakfast, which draws upwards of 700 people.

"We're going to have our street dance as always on Friday night," Letkeman said. "And we'll have a supper on Friday too. Proceeds from that will go to our Pedestrian Bridge committee."

As always, the Saturday lineup will start off with a parade and end with fireworks. In between will be a variety of stage entertainment, though performers have not yet been confirmed.

The committee is excited to bring the festival back after two summers of cancellations due to the pandemic.

"It's awesome that we can plan it, and it's so good to be back to some kind of normal," said Letkeman. "It's good for all of us, and I think we'll get lots of people to attend this year as people are really anxious to get out and about."

With just five people on the organizing committee, the festival is in need



VOICE FILE PHOTOS

The last Plum Coulee Plum Fest was back in 2019. Organizers are hard at working planning for the 2023 edition, which will be the community's 20th.



of a few more volunteers willing to lend a hand or share some new ideas.

Their next meeting will be March 17 at The Centre on Main. If you'd like to attend or get involved, reach out to Letkeman at [june@plumfest.com](mailto:june@plumfest.com) or 204-362-0501.

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# RBWD names Lesage 2022 Watershed Award winner

By Becca Myskiw

A Notre Dame de Lourdes farmer is the 2022 recipient of the Redboine Watershed District (RBWD) Watershed Award.

Lucien Lesage was presented with the win at RBWD's annual general meeting (AGM) on Feb. 25 in Carman. He is one of 20 children born on a farm close to Notre Dame. When he turned 17, Lesage purchased the grocery store in town, the restaurant, lounge, and motel with his brothers. Twenty-five years ago, Lesage sold the local businesses and moved back to the homestead because of "his desire to show children where their food came from."

He and his wife, Mirielle, now run an operation with sheep, pigs, chickens, honeybees, and they harvest maple syrup in the spring. Lesage also

grows a large garden, picks the fresh produce, and he and his family utilize all they can from it.

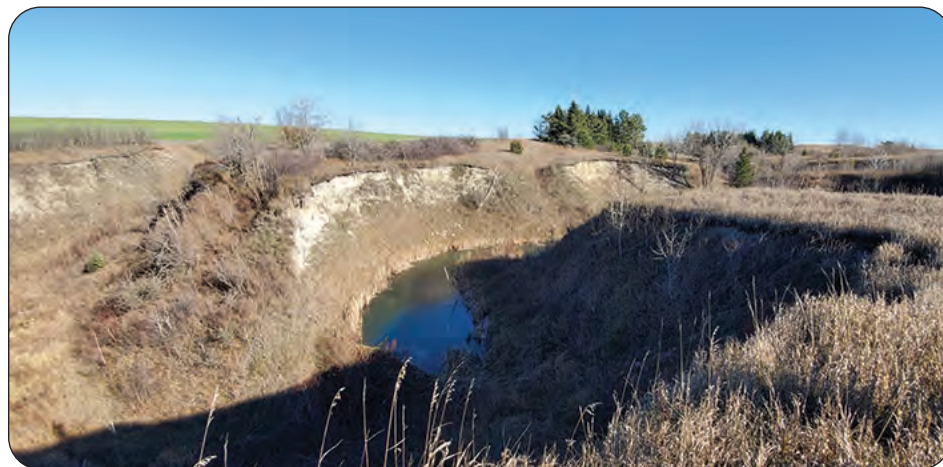
Along with producing, Lesage was chairman of the Manitoba Sheep Federation and is involved with the Canadian Sheep Federation.

"The Lesage family is always looking at ways to improve their operation and benefit both the farm as well as the environment," said RBWD. "His interest lied with becoming self-sufficient, and then being able to provide sustainable and healthy products to consumers."

One of the projects Lesage took on was establishing a shelterbelt along an eroding ravine adjacent to five acres of his farmland. Through RBWD's GROW program, he planted around 1,500 native trees and shrubs, and even during the summer's extreme drought, he had a 90 per cent sowing success rate. That shelterbelt will prevent further erosion along the deep ravine.

Manager of RBWD, Justin Reid, said Lesage also has a "long history" of being a sub-district member with the Pembina Valley Conservation District and was a leader in increasing awareness of erosions in the Roseisle Creek Sub-Watershed.

"He has now brought that enthusiasm and desire to make a difference with him to the Redboine Watershed District," said Reid. "He's been a great sub-district member, has volunteered to represent his sub-district on our GROW Committee, and he was willing to practice what he preaches taking five acres of pastureland out of production to establish a woodland area to help stop major erosion in a gully on the north edge of his property. His application for this project was one of our first applications to the GROW Program. His conservation-minded history and his willingness to show people you can



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lesage planted around 1,500 trees and shrubs to establish a shelterbelt along an eroding ravine in the Red Boine district.

make a difference makes him the perfect choice for our 2022 Watershed Award."

To choose each year's RBWD Watershed Award winner, staff, sub-district members, and board members nominate people. Nominees have to either own land in the RBWD or be a community group that operates within the RBWD that has shown a desire to help the watershed they live in.

Reid said the award is to highlight

the people and groups in the district who are taking steps to provide for the overall benefit of the watershed. Previous winners are Gordon Turner from Treherne, the Pelly's Lake Landowner Group from Holland, and Fred Dunn from Graysville.

This December, Lesage will be recognized for his award at the Manitoba Association of Watersheds annual conference.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lucien Lesage (left) receiving the Award from the RBWD board chair Marshall Piper.

## > ROSS, FROM PG. 14

ing enrolment for sure to provide equitable funding, but there's similar challenges for divisions that are growing rapidly."

The review comes as the province also considers how or if it will proceed with reshaping the education system in general after scrapping

## > SPRUCE UP, FROM PG. 16

ity, an opportunity for volunteerism, and a link to a brokerage that partners with Red River Mutual. The funding they received was put towards sprucing up the trails, parks,

the contentious Bill 64 last fall.

The legislation, which would have dissolved school boards and centralized decision-making, drew widespread criticism and sparked a concerted campaign to keep locally elected school boards.

halls and baseball diamonds that bring their communities together.

Project submissions are open until May 31 at [SpruceUpYourStory.com](http://SpruceUpYourStory.com).

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• GUEST COMMENTARY

# Tale of two pandemics

By Cam Dahl,  
Manitoba Pork general manager

It has been over two years since we first heard the words COVID-19. Since then, we have seen over 130,000 Manitobans become ill from the virus and over 1,500 deaths from the disease. Our mental health has taken a hit too, families kept apart, kids seeing extended time away from school, and the normal interactions we need as social beings are broken. There is an overwhelming feeling that we need to do things differently if this happens again.

COVID-19 has impacted Manitoba's agriculture production too. In the hog sector, we have seen labour become more difficult to find, both in our barns and processing plants, while at the same time more has been required of existing staff because of the pandemic, including filling in for those who have become ill. Our supply chains have been interrupted by a shortage of truckers and vaccine requirements. These constrictions have made it more difficult to access feed and export pigs to the United States. Despite the ongoing difficulties, the value chain has shown tremendous resilience to COVID-19 outbreaks, ensuring a reliable supply of pork to both Canadian and international consumers.

While we all have been dealing with COVID-19, hog farmers in Manitoba have been hit with another coronavirus outbreak: porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED). While PED has no impact

on people, and our pork remains safe to eat, the disease is fatal to young pigs. Euthanasia is often the only humane response to prevent extended animal distress.

PED was first found in Canada in 2014. Since then, Manitoba has seen major outbreaks in 2017, 2019, and 2021/22. We seem to be on a two-year cycle for this disease, which is not sustainable in the long run.

PED has taken an enormous toll on farmers whose operations have been impacted. The financial loss has driven some independent producers to consider their future in the industry. The disease has also taken a significant emotional toll on farmers and their staff. Like COVID-19, producers are telling us that we need to do things differently.

Manitoba is fortunate. All links in our value-chain work collaboratively, including producers, independent and company veterinarians, transport companies, and the office of our chief veterinarian. These partnerships may seem natural, but it is actually not common to see industry and government players step out of their silos and openly collaborate.

**"WHILE WE HAVE ALL BEEN DEALING WITH COVID-19, HOG FARMERS IN MANITOBA HAVE BEEN HIT WITH ANOTHER CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK: PORCINE EPIDEMIC DIARRHEA."**

Using this collaborative model, Manitoba Pork has established a value-chain working group to answer the question, "what do we need to do differently to prevent the spread of PED?" Each participant is being asked to bring forward the pieces of their PED management strategy that they feel are effective and highlight areas where they feel changes could be made. To see the best results possible, members of the working group are looking beyond their own specific issues and will make recommendations based on the best interest of the entire industry.

As part of this effort, Manitoba Pork has engaged the Western College of Veterinary Medicine to review PED management practices in other jurisdictions, including other Canadian provinces and the United States. What works elsewhere that might fit in the Manitoba environment? What alternative practices might look promising, but have been shown to be ineffective?

All parts of the value chain have ramped up biosecurity enforcement since PED was first discovered in Manitoba. But are there still gaps in the application of biosecurity best practices? Can the industry do a better job of communicating the appropriate responses, by service providers, if PED is found on a farm? It is clear that strong communication, both within the value chain and to outside stakeholders, is critical in preventing the next outbreak.

How do you stop the spread of the next potential pandemic? The principles are the same, whether one is talking about a virus spreading through our towns and cities or one spreading through our barns. First, get out in front with strong biosecurity. Take measures to prevent contact with infected premises. Collaborate and communicate frequently with all stakeholders. Perhaps most of all, be flexible and be willing to adapt new approaches that will better meet the needs of the community.

## MASC loan limit changes positive, but not a solution

By Becca Myskiw

The Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) announced on

Feb. 10 with agriculture minister Derek Johnson they will be increasing limits on several lending products to help producers out.

MASC's lending programs give Manitoba agricultural producers ac-

Continued on page 23

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# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## End of the line for Morden Bombers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Bombers saw their championship hopes come to an end last week at the hands of the Warren Mercs.

Despite Morden one-upping the Mercs in the regular season standings by placing second to Warren's third-place finish, it was the Mercs who dominated in the best-of-seven SEMHL semi-final series.

The two teams headed into play last week with Warren up three games to Morden's one.

All of those earlier matches were close affairs, the victors decided by just one or two points.

Game five Thursday night in Mor-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Bombers couldn't catch up to the Warren Mercs in the SEMHL semi-finals last week. Warren won game five 6-2 to take the series four games to one and advance to the finals against either the Islanders or the Hawks.

den was a different beast, as Warren ran away with it 6-2.

Andrew Clark did all the scoring for the Bombers, keeping his team in it 2-1 after 20 minutes and 4-2 after 40.

Warren widened the gap further with a goal midway through the third and then cemented their victory with an empty-netter in the final second.

Reed Peters slapped away 37 shots on net as both teams made 42 scoring attempts on their opponents.

The Mercs now get a breather as they await the outcome of the series between the Portage Islanders (who finished the season in first place) and the Notre Dame Hawks (who bounced the Winkler Royals and the


Carman Beavers in the survivor series rounds to advance).

At press time, the series was tied at two, the Hawks taking game one (5-4) and three (5-4 again, this time in overtime) and the Islanders winning game two (7-4) and four (4-2). The battle continues this Wednesday, Friday, and, if needed, Sunday.

## Winkler Flyers clinch MJHL playoff berth

By Ty Dilello

The Winkler Flyers captured an MJHL playoff berth over the weekend after a pair of wins.



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After losing to the Selkirk Steelers in a shootout on Wednesday, the Flyers blasted the Winnipeg Blues on Friday and Saturday evening.

The Flyers will now return to the postseason for the first time since 2018.

The Flyers overcame the Blues on Friday night by a 4-1 scoreline. Mike Svenson was the player of the game with two goals, while Troy Hamilton and Josh Beauchemin had the other tallies.

"The penalty kill was going well as we were 100 per cent there, and the other team wasn't getting anything off of it," Flyers forward Dalton Andrew said in a post-game interview posted on the team's website. "So it feels great to get that win. The boys played a full sixty minutes, and everyone was going."

The two teams faced each other once again on Saturday night, the Flyers coming out on top once more, this time by a score of 7-2.

It was point night for the Flyers as the goals were spread around. Troy Hamilton and Daniel Issak led the way with two goals apiece, while

Brody Beauchemin, Jayden McCarthy, and Jackson Arpin scored as well.

"It's a good time for the offence to be clicking as we roll into playoffs, and our strong power-play has helped too," forward Troy Hamilton said after the game. "These wins are really important as we want to finish ahead of the South Blues to get home-ice advantage in the playoffs. We want to be playing here at home as much as possible with our loud fans."

The Flyers improve to 63 points with a 29-15-3-3 record. It's good for second place in the MJHL's East Division as they currently chase the first place Steinbach Pistons, who are 16 points ahead of them.

Justin Svenson continues to lead the league in scoring with 72 points in 49 games.

For this week's games, the Winkler Flyers will be able to have a full 100 per cent capacity crowd at Winkler Centennial Arena for the first time all season.



# Zone 4 Hockey hands out year-end awards

By Voice staff

The Portage Collegiate Institute Trojans are the Zone 4 Hockey League champions.

Portage downed the Carman Cougars 3-1 last Thursday night in Carman to take the best-of-three final in two straight games.

The banner win ends a stellar season for the Trojans, who were 19-3 for first place in the regular season. Rounding out the top three was Carman in second (19-3) and the W.C. Miller Aces (14-8) in third place.

The Morden-Winkler teams struggled this season, with the Morden Thunder finishing in sixth place at an even 11-11 record and the GVC Zo-

diacs, GVSD team, and NPC Night-hawks at the bottom of the standings.

With the season now over, the league handed out its awards last week.

Acoyen Fehr of the Morden Thunder took home the Most Sportsmanlike Player Award.

The Gr. 10 student was hailed as a skilled and talented player and leader.

"He is humble and respectful all the time," his coaches noted. "Both on and off the ice he proves that regardless of age you can always be a leader."

The Top Defenseman Award went to Carman's Brock Wood, who had three goals and 30 assists—the most of any other defenseman in the league.

"One of Brock's biggest assets is his competitiveness," his coaches shared. "He is the type of player you love to have on your team and someone that you don't look forward to playing against."

The league's top-scoring player was Ryan Orchard of the Carman Cougars with 28 goals and 31 assist for 59 total points in 22 games.

The rest of the player awards went to members of the Portage team.

Rowan Cherkas took home the Top Goaltender Award for a season that saw him backstop his team to 12 wins in 16 games played, giving up just 27 goals while saving 437 for a goals against average of 1.70.

Finally, the Most Valuable Player Award went to PCI's Layne Rands. The senior helped lead the team to the playoffs in first place for the first time in over 20 years, posting at least one point a game throughout the season. He led the team in points and also broke a 20-year Portage record in assists per season.

Also handed out last week was the Coaches of the Year Award to the Portage Trojans staff and Official of the Year to Tyler Froebe.

In the stats battle, Portage was named the Top Defensive team with 43 goals against in 22 games. The team also received the Charlie Maykut Fair Play Award with 194 penalty minutes.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Morden's Acoyen Fehr took home the Most Sportsmanlike Player Award at the final Zone 4 game of the year last week. Below: Carman players Brock Wood (left) and Ryan Orchard received the awards for top defenseman and highest goal-scorer, respectively.



## Tops in curling



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Garden Valley Collegiate's Avery Friesen and Luke Trinke won the 2022 MHSAA Mixed Doubles Curling Championship last weekend in Swan Lake. The Zodiacs outscored their opponents 28-7 in their three pool wins before moving on to earn three playoff victories, including a 9-7 win in the championship match against the Gabrielle Roy Les Roys to clinch the provincial banner.

Thank you!



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### Youth for Christ Morden

is thankful to the Morden Area Foundation for their Power of the Purse grant of \$4,105.00. This grant provided dignity handbags to young women aged 12-18. We are grateful to have the opportunity to empower and encourage 90 young women in the community.

**Thank you to our local partners.**





# sports & recreation



By Voice staff

Local teams battled hard at youth hockey provincial championship tournaments across the province last weekend.

The Winkler U11 team (right) clinched gold on home ice at the 2022 U11 AA Rural Provincials, besting

Brandon 8-4 in the final match. Morden's U11 team was also in play, falling to Macdonald 1-0 in the consolation final.

The U11 A2 tournament saw Morden 1 fall to Brandon 1 2-1 in the gold medal match to earn silver. Morden 2, meanwhile, lost to Brandon 2 5-3 in the bronze medal game.

## Provincial champions



Playing in Stonewall, the Morden U13 female team (above, left) beat the home team 5-4 in the gold med-

al match to bring home the gold. It capped off a perfect season for the girls, who had 12 wins and no losses.

## Twisters wrap up season with a win, look to defend title

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters closed out their season on a winning note, and they now are getting set to defend their league title.

Due to the pandemic, that previous title goes back to the 2018-19 season, when the Twisters needed seven games to take down the St. James Canucks, who won the regular season banner this year.

Pembina Valley finished third this season at 31-10-4 for 66 points, and they will take on the sixth place Fort Garry Fort Rouge Twins in the quar-

ter-final round. The schedule is still to be set due to a couple final regular season games being made up this week.

The Twisters won the regular season series against the Twins, who finished at 18-20-6 for 42 points, only picking one overtime win in five games.

Meanwhile, the final week of the regular season began with Pembina Valley falling 4-2 to the St. Vital Victorias last Thursday.

The Twisters were stymied by St. Vital goaltender Austin Smyth until the final frame last Thursday as the Victorias took period leads of 1-0 and

4-0. Ben Hillhorst and TJ Matuszewski scored in the third period, while Logan Enns made 29 saves with Pembina Valley holding a 39-33 edge in shots on goal.

The Twisters then trailed 1-0 and 3-1 as they dropped a 5-2 decision Friday to St. James. Nico Vigier and Riley Gortzen scored for Pembina Valley, and Enns made 32 saves with the Twisters holding a 41-37 edge in shots on goal.

It was a wide open first period Sunday with Pembina Valley taking a 4-3 lead on St. Boniface then firing three unanswered second period goals for the 7-3 win over the Riels.

Nathan Ayotte had a hat trick and Matuszewski scored twice with other goals coming from Jordan Keck and Tristan Day. Shots on goal were 37-23 with Martin Gagnon getting the win on 20 saves.

Matuszewski ended up winning the regular season scoring crown and a league leading 39 goals, 52 assists and 91 points. Logan Enns was fifth among goaltenders with a 2.70 goals against average and .908 save percentage.

## Mixed Curling Provincials slides into Carman

By Voice staff

Local curling enthusiasts will have one last chance to see a bevy of elite curlers in action when the Chicken Chef Mixed Provincials slides into Carman March 17-20.

The provincials, which will feature teams from across Manitoba, will begin next Thursday at the Carman Golf & Curling Club rink.

Carman will have two local teams

with the Dean North and Darcy Hayward rinks in the event. Carman-born Tyler Forrest, who won the 2021 event, will also be competing.

The winner of this year's mixed provincials will earn a trip to Sudbury for the 2023 Canadian Mixed Curling Championship.

Admission to the provincials is \$5 per draw, \$10 per day, or \$25 for a weekend pass.

### > FLYERS, FROM PG. 20

"It's pretty exciting," said Hamilton. "It's been a while since we've been able to play in front of a crowd that big, and we hope to give them a

good show."

The Flyers have games this week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday. They play Steinbach, Win-

nipeg, and then have a home-and-home on the weekend with the Portage Terriers.



# Carman to host Rural Female U15AAA provincials

By Voice staff

The Pembina Valley Hawks will be hosting the 2022 Hockey Manitoba Rural Female AAA U15 Provincials, presented by Cargill, in Carman this Friday through Sunday.

The tournament format will feature seven teams: Pembina Valley, the Parkland Rangers, Westman Wildcats, Eastman Selects, Brandon Wheat Kings, Normal Wild and Yellowhead Chiefs.

The Pembina Valley team includes girls from across the region hoping to repeat what the team did in the 2018-19 provincials. This year's squad has battled through adversity and put together a 13-1 record since Christmas.

The Hawks are a team on a mission, playing some outstanding hockey. They travelled to Regina for a tournament earlier in the year, competed in three showcase tournaments, and played in league with combined rural and Winnipeg teams.

The Hawks hit the ice for their first round-robin game of the provincial tournament on Friday at 1 p.m. against Parkland.

On Saturday, they will face off against Westman at noon.

The semi-finals, consolation, gold- and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Pembina Valley Hawks are hosting the 2022 Hockey MB Rural Female AAA U15 provincials in Carman from March 11-13.

bronze-medal games will kick off Sunday at 9 a.m.

All games will be played at the Carman arena. There will be a full canteen, 50/50, door prizes and great hockey to watch all weekend.

To see the full schedule and keep up to date on

the scores throughout the weekend, visit [https://www.hockeymanitobastats.ca/schedule/day/division\\_instance/454580/2022/3/13?subseason=801925](https://www.hockeymanitobastats.ca/schedule/day/division_instance/454580/2022/3/13?subseason=801925)

# Direct loan limit for producers increases April 1

From Pg. 19

cess to credit with "reasonable interest rates and flexible repayment terms." They provide direct loans and stocker loans while guaranteeing loans are made by private-sector financial institutions to help create and expand operations in rural Manitoba. These loan limits were last updated in 2018.

"Our government recognizes the economic pressures on producers as they strive to succeed in the competitive world of agriculture, despite the challenges presented by last year's drought and the impact of the ongoing pandemic," said Johnson. "In response, MASC has increased lending limits to provide our farmers, especially the younger generation, with financial options that give them greater flexibility in managing, establishing or expanding their operations."

Effective April 1, 2022, the direct loan limit for producers will increase from \$3.5 million to \$4.25 million, which reflects land values and operating costs. These loans can be used to purchase agricultural land and buildings, agricultural equipment, breeding livestock and quota for supply-managed commodities. They may also be used for construction or renovation of farm buildings, greenhouses and nurseries, consolidation and refinancing of debt, and financing operating expenses.

Stocker loan limits provide short-term financing for producers. They're typically used for purchasing feeder cattle and lambs or as a cash advance on their retained feeder animals. Also effective April 1, 2022, these loan limits will increase from \$500,000 to \$750,000. Johnson said as Manitoba's beef herd has been significantly reduced recently due to the drought, this in-

crease will provide "an excellent tool to help producers rebuild their herds."

Limits on the Manitoba Livestock Associations Loan Guarantee program are also increasing. This program encourages feeding cattle in the province by providing several economic spinoffs. It will increase to \$750,000 from \$500,000 and association limits will increase to \$12 million from \$8 million, both as of April 1, 2022.

Manitoba Beef Producers general manager Carson Calum said these increases are important especially right now as the price of land is increasing for producers.

"It's not necessarily a solution for those that are in a cash shortfall situation due to the drought," he noted.

Though they are important changes, young producers don't have enough equity to take advantage of them, he said, and it won't bring other producers out of debt.

# Accident takes out light

By Voice staff

Winkler is down a light standard thanks to an accident last Saturday.

Emergency crews were called to a two-vehicle collision at the corner of Hwy. 14 and Main St. at around 2 p.m. March 5.

Police says a southbound Chevrolet Equinox was proceeding through a green light when it was struck by an eastbound Honda Civic that

failed to stop for the red.

The collision cause the Equinox to veer into the median light standard on the south side of Main Street, which was knocked down.

No one was seriously injured, though both vehicles were damaged and had to be towed from the scene.

The driver of the eastbound Honda Civic was issued a ticket for failing to stop at a red light.

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A young entrepreneur starting out?

Please share your story ideas at [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca) Phone 204-332-3456

The Winkler Morden Voice



# The changing rules of romance

By John Gavloski

On Valentine's Day, people often offer presents or cards to those close to them, or have a special meal. Many insects are also gift-givers. Sometimes the treats provided can help attract a partner and improve reproductive success. These are known as nuptial gifts. This month's Incredible Creatures explores how a local species of butterfly can advertise and provide a nutritious gift for his mate, and how an altered environment has resulted in less choosy females.

## Female cabbage white butterflies like their nitrogen

Cabbage white butterflies (*Pieris rapae*) are a common sight in Manitoba in late-spring and summer, although some may mistakenly think these white butterflies are moths. Larvae of this butterfly, which are called imported cabbageworms, are green with a thin yellow line down their back, and feed mainly on cruciferous plants. Male and females of this butterfly are easy to tell apart, because males only have one black dot on their

forewings, whereas females have two dots. Adults avidly visit flowers, and they will also feed on moist earth and mud puddles. Nitrogen plays an important role in mate selection in these butterflies. A nutritious nuptial gift, containing lots of nitrogen is passed from males to females during mating, and is an important source of energy for female butterflies.

## What a butterfly sees in the wings

Nitrogen also affects wing pigmentation in cabbage white butterflies. They can determine the quality of a potential mate by visually assessing the pigmentation of the wings. The wings of these butterflies look different to other butterflies than they do to us though. The mostly white wings of the cabbage white butterflies absorb a lot of ultraviolet light that humans cannot see, but butterflies can see clearly. So to us the wings look white, but to a female cabbage white butterfly, the wings of the male may appear a bold violet. Females know the brighter the violet, the more his nutrient package is rich in proteins. When the male is trying to court the female,

he will fly below the female, engaging in a series of pendulum like "sweeps" below her. This dance allows him to showcase the bright colours on the upper surfaces of his wings that females prefer. If his courtship flight is successful, the female will land on a plant or other substrate below and allow him to mate with her.

## Nitrogen makes for less choosy females

Researchers wondered how differences in nitrogen availability, specifically due to man-made influences, might affect mating behaviour and physiology of cabbage white butterflies. To test this, they compared cabbage white butterflies from a non-agricultural population with a population from an agricultural setting where fertilizer has significantly increased nitrogen availability. Several differences became apparent between the two populations. While females from the non-agricultural site typically mated with more than one male, agricultural females tended to mate only once, thus receiving fewer of the nutritious nuptial gifts.



Cabbage white butterfly

In agricultural environments where nitrogen is abundant, female cabbage white butterflies depend less on nuptial gifts from males, and were less choosy when selecting a mate. Also, the toothed structures used to break down nuptial gifts were reduced in agricultural females' reproductive tracts, indicating a reduced need for the nutrients. In addition, both males and females from the agricultural population had increased wing pigmentation. These results suggest that changes in nitrogen availability can affect cabbage white reproductive behaviour and physiology in a many ways. As their world changes, so do the rules of romance for cabbage white butterflies.

# "Continue to take COVID precautions," urges Doctors MB

By Lorne Stelmach

Physicians are urging Manitobans to remain cautious about COVID-19 even as pandemic restrictions are being eased in the province.

During an online press conference last week, Doctors Manitoba president Dr. Kristjan Thompson stressed that we all need remember there's still a significant risk and a need to take precautions, as COVID continues to circulate widely in communities throughout the province.

"While these protections are being loosened, the risk from COVID-19 is not yet gone," stressed Thompson, who is an emergency physician at St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg.

"While our numbers are trending in reassuring directions, we are not out of the woods yet," he continued. "We've been at this for two years. There's a very strong sentiment and urge just to get back to way things were, but we're not there yet."

During this critical transition period, it remains vital that people continue to follow public health and medical recommendations to reduce the risk.

With that in mind, Doctors Manito-

ba has launched a new website, [newcovidnormal.ca](http://newcovidnormal.ca), to help Manitobans understand the current risks, who is more vulnerable, and what everyone can do to help. The resource was created based on public health advice and with the input of physicians with a wide variety of expertise including in infectious diseases, public health, family medicine, critical care, geriatrics, and pediatrics.

As part of the awareness campaign, Doctors Manitoba is also stressing that there are many factors that can make people more vulnerable to severe outcomes from COVID-19.

Risk factors include age, underlying medical issues, compromised immune systems, obesity, disabilities, history of smoking and pregnancy, and many of these risk factors are not visible to others. As well, Manitobans who are Indigenous, black, or people of colour can also be at an increased risk.

"There are over 20 risk factors that can make people more vulnerable to COVID-19," explained Thompson. "Over half of Manitobans have risk factors that make them higher risk for severe illness or even death from

COVID-19."

He reiterated the message that "COVID is still circulating widely in Manitoba ... our hospitals are still nowhere near back to normal. There are hundreds of patients with COVID still in hospital, and this affects patient care all across the board.

"I think we're concerned that people are getting the wrong message ... the end of restrictions and protections does not mean the end of the pandemic," Thompson said. "There's still absolutely a need to continue doing things that will limit the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others."

Thompson touched on his own recent experiences at St. Boniface Hospital as a prime example of the health care system still being well over capacity.

"There are often days when there are over 20, sometimes approaching 30 admitted patients waiting for beds," he said. "Our hospitals are still stretched and are still over capacity, so I think it behooves us to tread carefully and softly so we can get on top of these numbers.

"I don't want there to be another wave. I'm done with COVID too ... I

want this to be over just as much as anyone else," Thompson continued. "Another variant could still come, and we may have to reinstate these restrictions. If we start to see a trend in the wrong direction, if we start to see our numbers go up, if we see a new wave ... we have to have a mechanism to reinstate if need be, and I do trust our public health officials are looking at that data and will advise government accordingly."

Over the next several weeks, physicians recommend Manitobans do the following to help:

- Understand the risks by visiting the [newcovidnormal.ca](http://newcovidnormal.ca) website.
- Continue to wear a mask that is good quality and well-fitted.
- Get vaccinated and boosted, especially as easing restrictions increase risks for those who haven't been fully vaccinated and boosted.
- Reconnect with others gradually by keeping contacts at a reasonable level and finding fresh air whenever possible.
- Stay home when ill to avoid spreading COVID to others.



# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Salmon and Shrimp Coconut Curry

- 1/4 cup tomatoes
- 4 shrimp
- 1 lime, quartered
- 2-3 cilantro leaves, for garnish

Cut salmon into 1/2-inch cubes. Cook rice according to package instructions.

In large skillet, heat coconut oil over medium-high heat. Add garlic, onion and pumpkin or squash; saute 5 minutes, or until onions are translucent. Mix in lemongrass and curry paste. Cook 2-3 minutes, or until fragrant.

Add coconut milk, fish sauce and tomatoes; mix thoroughly. Add shrimp and salmon; cook until done.

Serve with rice and lime quarters. Sprinkle with cilantro.

Recipe courtesy of MOWI on behalf of the Aquaculture Stewardship Council  
Servings: 2

- 2 pieces of MOWI Pure portions salmon
- 1 cup wild rice
- 1 tablespoon coconut oil
- 1 clove garlic, sliced
- 1/4 cup red onion, diced
- 1 cup pumpkin or butternut squash, diced
- 1 tablespoon lemongrass, finely chopped
- 1 1/2 tablespoons red curry paste
- 1/2 cup coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce



## Prune, Mozzarella and Basil Skewers

- 10 cherry-size mozzarella balls

If using prosciutto, fold each half in half lengthwise so width of prune is wider than width of prosciutto. Starting at one end of prosciutto, wrap one prune; repeat with remaining prosciutto. Set aside.

Wrap one basil leaf around each mozzarella ball then thread onto skewer. Thread one prune or prosciutto-wrapped prune onto each skewer.

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Servings: 5

- 5 pieces prosciutto, halved lengthwise (optional)
- 10 California Prunes
- 10 basil leaves



## Tart Cherry Bedtime Bites

- 1/2 cup finely shredded coconut flakes
- 3/4 cup unsalted cashews
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 pinch fine sea salt

In food processor, process dates until broken into pea-sized bits. Add dried tart cherries, coconut flakes, cashews, almond extract and sea salt; process until combined. Form into 12 balls and chill 2 hours.

Recipe courtesy of the Cherry Industry Administrative Board

- Yield: 12 bites
- 6 medjool dates, pitted
- 1/2 cup dried tart cherries



## Tart Cherry Overnight Oats

- 1/2 cup slivered almonds, plus additional for topping (optional)
- 2 tablespoons tart cherry concentrate
- 2 tablespoons chia seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon honey, for topping (optional)

In large jar or container, mix cherries, oats, milk, almonds, cherry concentrate, chia seeds and cinnamon. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Spoon into bowls and enjoy cold or warmed up. Drizzle with honey or sprinkle with extra dried tart cherries and almonds, if desired.

Recipe courtesy of the Cherry Industry Administrative Board

- Servings: 2
- 1 cup dried tart cherries, plus additional for topping (optional)
- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup almond milk

# Five foods to build your strength

By Fitness Expert Julie Germaine Coram

Having a strong body is important all throughout your life, and the foods you eat help you successfully rehydrate your body, provide nutrients to optimize your immune system, and boost your energy levels to prevent fatigue and mental exhaustion.

Here are 5 foods that support strong muscles:

1. **Protein:** Try to eat a serving of protein with every meal and snack during the day, especially after you exert yourself through any form of exercise. Consume 1 gram of protein for every pound of body weight. Some examples are meals that includes lean meat proteins, such as chicken or tuna, legumes, eggs, or protein powders and meal replacement drinks.

2. **Carbohydrates** – The right carb to protein ratio to follow depends upon your goals. A 3:1 (carb to protein) ratio is ideal for many people, however if you are trying to lose weight currently, you would want to reduce your carbs, perhaps even to match with your protein intake.

3. **Watermelon** - This watery summer treat is delicious and loaded with potassium, which will replenish the electrolytes you lost throughout your active day.

4. **Spinach** – There are many reasons to find ways to eat spinach regularly, and it's very versatile in how it can be prepared (visit <https://www.juliegermaine.com/category/nutrition/recipes/> for ideas!). Spinach contain 5 grams of protein per cup along with key electrolytes needed for muscle recovery (potassium and magnesium).

5. **Green tea** - Relaxing with a hot cup of green tea provides your



Health and Wellness Fitness expert Julie Germaine Coram

body with antioxidants and polyphenols and boosts your metabolism. You can actually burn more calories and naturally reduce your heart rate with this easy additional to your daily diet.

Having a balanced diet that includes these healthy and delicious foods will aid you in maintaining your agility and mobility.

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Coach Julie Germaine Coram is a Manitoba-born fit mom, 2x International Pro Fitness Champion, Miss Fitness Manitoba, Certified Nutrition & Renowned Fitness Expert. She has helped thousands of men and women improve their health since 2005.



## Simple Macaroons

- 1 1/4 cups shredded coconut
  - 5 ounces dark chocolate, melted
- Preheat oven to 375 F.

In bowl, whisk egg. Add honey, vanilla, lemon zest and salt; whisk. Stir in coconut until completely coated with egg mixture.

Using 1 1/2-inch ice cream scoop, make 15 balls, transferring each to parchment-lined baking sheet, spacing about 2 inches apart.

Bake macaroons 10-12 minutes, rotating halfway through, until coconut starts to brown on edges.

Transfer sheet to wire rack and let cool. Before serving, drizzle with melted chocolate or dip bottom sides of macaroons in melted chocolate to cover bases. Refrigerate 15 minutes to set.

Recipe adapted from [marthastewart.com](http://marthastewart.com)

Yield: 15 macaroons

- 1 large egg
- 2 1/4 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- grated lemon zest
- 1/4 teaspoon salt



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The *Winkler Morden* Voice

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

## PUBLIC HEARING 2022 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 2022 Financial Plan at a public hearing to be held on:

**March 22, 2022 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 City's 2022 Financial Plan will be available at the Reception Desk at the City Hall for anyone wishing to get a copy prior to the meeting.



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### CAREERS



## Crop Inputs Labourer Winkler

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### LAND FOR SALE TENDER

## FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER RM OF THOMPSON

Completed Tenders and a \$10,000.00 deposit per parcel are invited to be received up to 12:00 pm (noon) on March 25, 2022, for the land described below, at:

**PKF Lawyers**  
71 Main St S, Carman, Box 1240, MB R0G 0J0  
Attn: Mona Brown/Tammy Bisschop  
Ph: 204-745-2028  
mbrown@pkflawyers.com tbisschop@pkflawyers.com

### Land for sale:

(Bids for one or both parcels will be accepted)

1. NE 1/4 24-5-6 WPM 160 acres (CT #3160007/4)
2. NW 1/4 19-5-5 WPM 157.52 acres (CT #3160006/4)

### Conditions of Tender

1. Financing must be pre-approved.
2. Tenders to be in the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. To obtain tender form or more info, contact Tammy Bisschop or Mona Brown.
3. Each Tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of \$10,000.00 per parcel. Deposits of tenders not accepted will be returned to the tenderers.
4. Highest Tender or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.
5. Vacant Possession date and the due date of the balance of Tender Price shall be April 15, 2022.
6. The maker of any Tender relies entirely upon his/her personal inspection and knowledge of the Land, independent of the representations made by the vendor or the solicitor and agent of the vendor. The Land will be sold "as is" and the bidder is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the Land.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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March 26/21		
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25	Jack Peters	\$150.00
167	John Hamm	\$500.00
April 30/21		
285	Dr. Carol Holmes	\$150.00
194	Dawn Nedohin-Macek	\$150.00
244	Ray Dyck	\$500.00
May 28/21		
1	Chicken Chef	\$150.00
76	Greg Schiller	\$150.00
20	Ken Freund	\$500.00
June 25/21		
58	Reg Braun	\$150.00
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47	Dennis Macklem/Bruce Rae	\$150.00
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89	Ed Fehr	\$150.00
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92	Mitchell Bergman	\$150.00
97	Rob Martens	\$150.00
186	Rick & Marlene Britton	\$500.00
October 29/21		
184	Ken Wiebe	\$150.00
77	Moonlight Construction	\$150.00
234	Harry Hildebrand	\$500.00
November 26/21		
107	Judy Stambuski	\$150.00
176	Alfred Loewen	\$150.00
159	Bruce Ashton	\$500.00
December 31/21		
80	Howard Pauls	\$150.00
255	Rhonda Plett	\$150.00
11	Fred and Dale Pohl	\$500.00
January 28/22		
299	Christine Turnbull	\$150.00
276	Dean & Shauna Richards	\$150.00
68	Moonlight Construction	\$500.00
February 25/22		
246	Betty Duncan	\$150.00
63	Tammy Petkau	\$150.00
3	Krista Giesbrecht	\$500.00

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Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

### TERM FRENCH IMMERSION KINDERGARTEN TEACHER (0.5 FTE)

FOR ÉCOLE ELMWOOD SCHOOL IN ALTONA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

#### CAREERS

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Life Long Learning

Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

### TERM BASIC FRENCH & MUSIC TEACHER (1.0 FTE)

FOR ÉCOLE WEST PARK SCHOOL IN ALTONA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

#### CAREERS

BORDER LAND SCHOOL DIVISION  
Life Long Learning

Border Land School Division invites applications from exemplary leaders for the position of

### ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

#### CAREERS

BORDER LAND SCHOOL DIVISION  
Life Long Learning

Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

### TERM SENIOR YEARS TEACHER (0.75 FTE)

FOR W.C. MILLER COLLEGIATE IN ALTONA, MB

This term position is from March 22, 2022 - May 2, 2022, with the possibility of an extension.

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

# take a break

> GAMES

## SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

Sudoku Answer


Crossword Answer



## CROSSWORD

#### CLUES ACROSS

- Central mail bureau
- Member of the family
- Partner to flow
- \_\_\_ Angeles
- Military mailbox
- Patriotic women
- Shallow lake
- Tear apart
- Middle Easterner
- Eat to excess
- Stained
- Certain peoples of equatorial Africa
- 1st day of month
- Skin disease
- Skating figure
- Annelids
- Gracefully slender
- Kids need it
- Swiss river
- Indents
- A sheer fabric of silk or nylon
- Belgian River
- \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- Originate from
- Rugged mountain ranges
- Made less clean
- Professions
- 3s
- Scarf
- Yellow light
- Bird noise
- Opposite of start
- Bar bill
- Northeastern Mass. cape
- American rocker Snider
- Midway between northeast and east

#### CLUES DOWN

- Scandinavian drink
- Washington river


- Fast-running flightless bird
- Flat-bottomed boat
- Nerve conditions
- Go-between
- Indicates near
- This (Spanish)
- Immediate relevance
- A plot of ground where seedlings are grown before transplanting
- Receptacles
- Retired Brewers great
- Small waterfall
- Month
- Modern tech necessity (abbr.)
- Happy New Year!
- Utter repeatedly
- Exclamation to convey truth
- One of the bravest
- Passports and licenses are two
- Sun up in New York
- Ebert's partner Siskel
- Space station
- Long skirt
- Chilean seaport
- Part of company name
- Hasidic spiritual leader
- Drugmaker \_\_\_ Lilly
- They \_\_\_
- Electronic countermeasures
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Klutz
- Single unit
- Chinese statesman
- Stir with emotion



# Classifieds Announcements

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## CAREERS



LA DIVISION SCOLAIRE  
BORDER LAND  
L'apprentissage tout au long de la vie

La division scolaire de Border Land invite les candidats pour combler le poste

## ENSEIGNANTE EN IMMERSION FRANÇAIS À LA MATERNELLE À L'ÉCOLE ELMWOOD SCHOOL À ALTONA, MB

POUR DE PLUS AMPLES RENSEIGNEMENTS VISITEZ : [WWW.BLSD.CA](http://WWW.BLSD.CA)

## CAREERS

### WE'RE HIRING!



## ACCOUNTING & PAYROLL CLERK FULL-TIME POSITION

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See our website  
[www.gardensontenth.ca](http://www.gardensontenth.ca)  
for full job description and requirements.

THE GARDENS ON TENTH  
140 10th Ave NE ALTONA MB  
[hr@gardensontenth.ca](mailto:hr@gardensontenth.ca) or  
204.324.8945

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### THE SURVEYS ACT PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Section 11 of the above Act notice is hereby given that the original monument establishing the 1/4E Sec 6, NE corner Sec 6, 1/4E Sec 7, NE corner Sec 7, 1/4E Sec 18, NE corner Sec 18, 1/4E Sec 19, NE corner Sec 19, 1/4E Sec 30, NE corner Sec 30, 1/4E Sec 31, 1/4N Sec 7, 1/4N Sec 18 in Township 2-8WPM and 1/4E Sec 1, NE corner Sec 1, 1/4E Sec 12, NE corner Sec 12, 1/4E Sec 13, NE corner Sec 13, 1/4E Sec 24, NE corner Sec 24 in Township 2-9WPM have been lost. New monuments to perpetuate the original locations has been planted by Arno Stoffel, Manitoba Land Surveyor on March 2, 3 and 4 2022.

Any person wishing particulars about the re-establishment of this monument is advised to contact the following:

Arno Stoffel Manitoba Land Surveyor Stoffel Surveys M.L.S. Ltd. 3-39 Rue Principale La Salle, MB R0G 0A2 Phone No. 204-736-2099	OR	Examiner of Surveys Brandon Land Titles Office PO Box 50030 Brandon South East Brandon MB R7A 7E4 Phone No. 204-726-6854 <a href="mailto:tim.cassan@teranet.ca">tim.cassan@teranet.ca</a>
--	----	---

Any persons having any objection to or having any evidence which he desires to give against the confirmation of the re-establishment of this lost corner is to submit any such objection or evidence in writing verified by affidavit to the Registrar-General within thirty days from the publication of this notice in *The Winkler Morden Voice*.

Where no objection to or evidence against the confirmation of the re-establishment of this lost corner is received by the Registrar-General within thirty days after publication of this notice, or where any such objection is subsequently withdrawn in writing, the Registrar-General shall confirm the re-establishment of this lost corner.

Office of the Registrar General  
Registrar-General  
1203-155 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8

### The Aurora Plus

#### 1648 SqFt RTM

3 bedrooms, ensuite, huge kitchen, quartz countertops, walk-in pantry, island. 9 ft walls and double cathedral ceiling. James Hardie Siding.

Pictures available  
[www.wgiesbrechthomes.ca](http://www.wgiesbrechthomes.ca)

Taking orders for Spring 2022  
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McSherry Auctions  
12 Patterson Dr.,  
Stonewall, MB

Online Timed Auctions  
@ [iCollector.com](http://iCollector.com)

Estate & Moving  
Closes Wed Mar 16 @ 7:00PM

Estate & Moving  
Closes Wed Mar 23 @ 7:00PM

Future Auction featuring  
Guns & Ammo ends Mar 30  
Consignments Welcome!

(204) 467-1858 or  
(204) 886-7027  
[www.mcsherryauction.com](http://www.mcsherryauction.com)

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**1-888-685-3127**  
[www.kaldecktrailers.com](http://www.kaldecktrailers.com)



### Human Resources Director

Are you looking for an exciting career in Human Resources? Look no further than the H5 Group of Companies (Automotive Industry). The future you want is within reach! In conjunction with the Executive Team, you will lead and direct all aspects of Human Resources for our businesses located in Manitoba (The Pas, Thompson, Flin Flon, and Dauphin). Contact Karen at [karen.haukaas@twinnmotors.ca](mailto:karen.haukaas@twinnmotors.ca)

Full details of this opportunity can be found at: <https://hr4.com/careers/h5group/>



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[www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

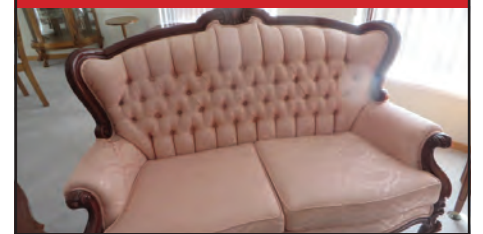


### Williment/Brooke

Big brother Grayson is pleased to announce the safe arrival of his baby brother Benjamin Lorne-George born on February 17th at 9:42 p.m. weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. and 20 inches long. Proud parents are Morgan Brooke and Taylor Williment.

## AUCTION

Estate Auction for the late Gerty Giesbrecht, 7th Floor Cedar Estate, 4th Street, Winkler, MB - closing Friday, March 11, 6pm payment and pickup Saturday, March 12, only 9 am to 2 pm. See [www.billklassen.com/nextlot](http://www.billklassen.com/) to Bid timed online auction 204-325-4433 or 204-325-6230



See our website [www.billklassen.com](http://www.billklassen.com) for list and pictures!

**Bill Klassen Auctions Ltd.**  
Ph: (204) 325-4433  
Cell: (204) 325-6230  
Fax: (204) 325-4484

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### WINKLER POLICE BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE

The Winkler Police Board quarterly meetings will be held on **April 13, July 13, October 12 & December 7 at 12:45 p.m.** Meetings are open to the public and will be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB. Anyone wishing to come forward with a delegation is asked to contact the City of Winkler Administration Office a minimum of one day prior to the meeting.

## COMING EVENTS

### GRACE VALLEY MENNONITE ACADEMY Fundraiser

GVMA is a Non Government Funded Christian Private School

### \*\*\*Drive Thru\*\*\*

## Enchilada Supper

With Rice, Beans, Chips and Dessert

March 18 2022  
5pm - 7pm

Tax receipts available for donations of \$20.00 or more

Meal  
3 Enchiladas,  
Rice, Beans & Chips  
Dessert Included

WINKLER SOMMERFELDER CHURCH  
189 2ND ST, WINKLER

## CAREERS



### NOW HIRING

Boyne Lodge in Carman is looking to hire motivated individuals for;

Part Time Cooks  
Part Time Kitchen Stewards

Send resume to:  
[tyler@townofcarman.com](mailto:tyler@townofcarman.com)

Join our Team!  
No experience necessary  
Training is provided



**OBITUARY**



**Henry J. Pauls  
1922 - 2022**

Henry Jacob Pauls was born October 21, 1922, to Jacob J Pauls and Anna H. Neufeld in Southern Russia (Ukraine- Village of Nikolajewka No. 5). In June 1929 they emigrated to Canada, settling in the Manitou, Manitoba area. He attended the Archibald, Hazel and Willowdale School and the Winkler Bible Institute. Henry professed faith in Christ and was baptized and became a member of the Manitou M.B. Church in 1942.

In March 1955, Henry married Helen Janzen. They raised their five children: Ernie, Katherine, Mary Anne, Susan and James on a farm in the Crystal City, Purves area. Henry retired from farming at the age of 80 and in 2006 they moved to Morden into Oakwest Estates. Here they had many good years of retirement living with

friends and family and enjoying hobbies. Henry's health began deteriorating in December of 2020 and in January of that year, he and Mom went into Personal Care together. We have many memories of our family times there, as family was still the most important thing to him. The week before his passing, as his body was giving up, his spirit was alive as he communicated his love and care for his children and grandchildren both in person and on the screen. Early on Friday, February 25, Henry went home to be with his Lord and Saviour whom he had loved and served.

Henry leaves to mourn his passing, his wife of 66 years, Helen and his children Ernie (Alvina) and Renee Peters (Kyle) with Lauren, Isabelle and Cohan; Ryan (Tara) with Roy and Chey; Katherine Wiebe (Rocky) and Jennifer Battisson (Scott) with Theo and Reece; Andrew and Jillian; Mary Anne Friesen (Aron) and Nicholas (Carmen), Jeremy (Renae) with Jace, Lindsey and Stephanie; Susan Pauls; and James (Shawna) and Kristin (Max) Behl with Kaden, and Matthew Pauls. Henry was predeceased by his parents, his brother, John and sister, Liese and is survived by his sister, Anne Dyck and brother, Jake (Mary) and sister-in-law, Verna Pauls.

Private funeral service was held with interment at the Manitou Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank the St. Claude Care Home staff and the Tabor Home staff for their excellent care and compassion.

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



**OBITUARY**



**Abram Janzen  
1926 - 2022**

On Friday, February 25, 2022 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Abe Janzen, 95 of Morden, MB formerly of MacGregor passed away.

Abe was born May 29, 1926 on the family farm in the Wakeham District, south of Morden to his parents, Diedrich and Anna (Niebuhr) Janzen. Dad was the second youngest in a family of eight. He attended Wakeham School and was baptised upon the confession of his faith in the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church. Dad married Tillie Letkeman on May 29, 1950 in the Rhineland Sommerfeld Church. To this union were born three daughters. They started their married life in the Wakeham District, then made a move to north of Austin in 1962. After a few years, they moved

east of MacGregor to be closer to their church. Their last move was into Morden for the last 14 years. It was here that Mom passed away in June 2018. Dad missed mom tremendously but made the decision to remain in the house. That meant many long hours of solitude. We girls did our best to spend time with him. He received many calls from us. We made sure the house was clean and that he had lots of food and necessities. He loved to putter in his small garden and yard. He loved to share his produce with the neighbours. He had so many stories of earlier years, some we will forget and others are etched in our minds. He was ordained as Pastor of the Sommerfeld Church in 1978 and retired after 38 years of ministry. He spent many hours preparing and driving miles to fulfill God's calling.

He was predeceased by his parents in 1950 and all his siblings and their spouses, his wife, Tillie and three children in infancy. He is survived by three daughters: Barbara of Portage La Prairie and her family, Steve and Crystal Dyck, Jonathan and Carter of Morden, Julie and Dan Friesen of Ninette, Barrett of Landmark, Aliyah and Tiana of Alberta, Tanya and Lyndon Vrooman and Xavier of St. Norbert, daughter, Mary and Ben Harder of Portage La Prairie and their family, Vicki and Jordan Thiessen and daughter, Jaimee of Burns Lake, BC, Sabrina, Michael Jones and baby, Ashlyn, Dylaen, Tammy and Craig Guinn, Jessica and Brittney all of Portage La Prairie, daughter, Hannah and Pat Blair of Portage La Prairie and their family, Chad and Adrienne, Melissa and Ryan Draycott, Ethan and Abigail all of Portage La Prairie. He is also survived by his in-laws, Henry and Mary Siemens, Helen Wolfe, Helen Letkeman and Agatha Letkeman.

The last while he spoke a lot about being ready to leave this world for his heavenly home. He reached the age of 95 years, nine months and a few days. We are thankful for the new relationship we developed with him and for his appreciation of us. We will miss him so much but are so thankful that he is now with Jesus.

Private funeral service was held with interment at the Haskett Cemetery.

We, the family, would like to thank everyone for the prayers and the love during this time. A special thank you to all the nurses on the surgical and medical wards and a huge thank you to Chaplain Larry.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
In care of arrangements  
wiebefuneralhomes.com



**Classifieds  
Announcements**

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Today - Call 467-5836

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**STANLEY SOIL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting**

Topics : Cover Crops and Soil Health,  
Soil and Water Management  
Projects, Shelterbelts

**Keynote Speaker- Joe Gardiner**

*Elections of Board members  
For Meeting ID and Passcode:  
email stanleysoil@outlook.com  
or call or text 204 362-0352  
before March 14*

Book Your  
Classified Ad Today -  
Call 467-5836 or Email  
ads@winklormordenvoice.ca

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



You are invited to attend  
The Town of Altona  
2022 Financial Plan Hearing  
Tuesday, March 22, 2022 - 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 2022 financial plan for the Town of Altona at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 in the Council Chambers of the Altona Civic Centre. The presentation will include the 2022 operating costs, the 2022 capital budget and a five year capital expenditure program. The presentation will be followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed financial plan will be available after March 15, 2022 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.ferh@altona.ca  
Box 1630, Altona MB R0G 0B0  
February 24, 2022**

**CELEBRATE THE SPECIAL MOMENTS!**  
*Don't forget to send your special  
wishes to your friends and family.*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE PLANNING ACT**

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

**CITY OF MORDEN BY-LAW 04-2022 Being  
an AMENDMENT to the CITY OF MORDEN  
ZONING BY-LAW 08-2017**

**HEARING:** Morden Civic Centre  
**LOCATION:** 195 Stephen St., Morden, MB

**DATE & TIME:** Monday, 28 March 2022 at  
7:00 pm

**From :** "CR" Community Reserve  
**To:** "MG" Industrial General

**AREA:** 325 Mountain Avenue South  
Lot 10, plan 2069 MLTO  
Morden, MB

As shown outlined in red lines on the map attached hereto to Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law.

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Santokh Randhawa, M. Eng., P. Eng.  
133 7th Street, Morden, MB. R6M 1V3  
Phone: (204) 822-2567



A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, 9:00 AM-4:30 PM Monday to Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom upon request. If you wish to be present at the hearing, please contact Michelle Braun, Executive Assistant at 204-822-4434 ext. 2004. or email mbraun@mymorden.ca a minimum of 2 business days prior to the scheduled hearing so that we can ensure we can meet the physical distancing requirement. Anyone attending the office may be required to wear a face mask.



# Classifieds Announcements The Winkler Morden Voice

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**OBITUARY**



**Anne Wiebe (nee Loewen)  
1928 – 2022**

On Monday, February 28, 2022, Mom went home to Glory peacefully in her sleep at Salem Home Winkler, MB at the age of 93.

Anne was born May 17, 1928 to Henry G. and Elizabeth Loewen in Winkler, MB. She was the second youngest of seven siblings, all who have gone before her. Anne married Frank Wiebe October 1, 1949. They settled on Dad's home farm and raised two children, Rick and Margo. Dad and Rick raised horses and Mom took care of us all. She loved her vegetable garden and her many beautiful flowers. She had such a talent and she passed that on to her daughter and granddaughters. Her granddaughters were her pride and joy. After Margo started high school, Mom worked for a few

years at the T. Eaton catalogue office in Winkler. Then someone suggested she should apply at Salem as a Health Care Aid. So, she did and that started her on an 18- year career at Salem, which she loved so much. When Dad passed on April 15, 2008 it was very hard on Mom but she kept her pain close to her chest, never complaining. Then, when Rick passed on September 6, 2020, that was even more difficult. But she took it in stride, as she did all difficulties in her life, leaning on her Lord and Savior for her strength. Thankfully, the dementia helped with her not always remembering, easing the pain of that loss. Due to eventual memory problems and everything just getting harder to take care of herself, she requested to move to Salem Home, where she lived contentedly the last three years and five months.

She leaves to mourn her passing her daughter, Margo and Larry Friesen, two granddaughters, Tanya and Bryan Gerbrandt and Dusty and Bert van der Steen and great-grandson, Layne as well as daughter-in-law, Barb Wiebe, mother of Tanya and Dusty, Wendy Holenski, sisters-in-law, Alvina McLaughlan and Marjorie Hildebrand as well as many nieces, nephews and many friends. She was predeceased by her husband of 58 years, Frank Wiebe, her son, Rick Wiebe as well as many family members.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Winkler, MB with interment at the Winkler Cemetery.

We would like to thank the staff on Cottonwood and Maple North of Salem Home for the loving and compassionate care of Mom. We cannot thank you enough. We would like to thank Pastor Alex Klages for his faithful visits to Mom. She looked forward to the visits so much. We would also like to thank Marie Doell for visiting Mom at Salem before the lockdown, bringing her the church mail and bulletins.

If friends so desire, donations may be made to the Salem Foundation or the charity of one's choice.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
In care of arrangements  
wiebefuneralhomes.com



**OBITUARY**



**Daisy Catherine Watchorn  
(nee Criddle)  
1920 - 2022**

It is with great sadness that we announce Daisy Catherine Watchorn, aged 101 passed peacefully the evening of Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at Tabor Home in Morden, Manitoba.

Daisy was born to Charles and Grace (Buchanan) Criddle on April 28, 1920 in Miami, Manitoba and had one younger brother, James. She went to school in Miami and helped her Mom and Dad on the farm. As a young adult she helped many neighbour ladies with their daily chores and children. This is how she met Norman Watchorn. They married on June 25, 1945 on the family farm in Deerwood.

Norman and Daisy bought the farm from Norman's dad and farmed raising three children: Wendy Follett, James Watchorn and Joyce Dawson. In 1966 they moved to Blight Street in Miami. Mom started working at the Rosebank Co-op store and then part time at the Solo store in Miami for Jack and Florence Moorey and later Dennis Boulton. She met many local children as they came for candy, forming a close bond with them. Mom was a CGIT (Canadian Girls in Training) leader and played recorded music for the Miami Figure Skating Club practices and performances.

In 1974 Dad and Mom moved to Norton Avenue in Miami. Mom loved her four grandchildren and provided special grandma care while Wendy and Joyce worked. The girls have many precious memories of camping, building snow forts, baking, tea parties, going to quilting parties, gardening and planting flowers, cards, crokinole and other board games. Mom and Dad retired in 1986 and enjoyed camping, fishing, snowmobile riding, travelling, cards and board games. Mom was an active member of the Miami United Church, Miami UCW and sang in the Miami Church Choir. She was also the treasurer of the Miami Park Board and spent many hours welcoming and visiting campers across the street from where they lived. Mom was also an avid quilter and enjoyed embroidery making sure we all had keepsakes of her work. Mom and Dad moved to Miami Leisure Apartments in 2003 and made many new friends. In 2014 they moved to Homestead South in Morden where they made yet more friendships with fellow residents and many of the employees. Mom and Dad were fortunate to celebrate their 50th, 60th, 65th and 70th wedding anniversaries with friends and family. They were married for 71 years. In November 2021 Mom moved to Tabor Home in Morden. Daisy was a strong, inquisitive, and loving woman, mother and grandmother. She lived a full life, had a great memory, and was always interested in her family and community. She loved unconditionally and everyone got a big hug. Mom was always there to lend a hand, share some wisdom, and was always grateful to be included in her family's lives by regular phone calls and visits. We all knew how much she loved us, and she often reminded us of everything we have to be grateful for. She even got to meet her newest born great-grandchild and cuddle him in her bed a few weeks before she passed. She saw many events in her life - war, poverty, epidemics, droughts, floods and many inventions, all of which made her wiser, kinder, empathetic and loving. She always stressed the need for love and compassion in her family and world.

Daisy was predeceased by her parents and brother, husband, Norman, daughter, Wendy Follett and son-in-law, Reg Follett. She leaves to cherish her memory son, James and his wife, Dagmar Watchorn, daughter, Joyce and her husband, Allan Dawson and grandchildren, Lisa (Danny) Dyck, Jill (Joel) Lautenschlager, Stacey Dawson (Ryan) Young and great-grandchildren, Seth and Zachary Dyck, Kasyn and Adalyn Lautenschlager, and Errington, Fletcher and Krofton Young and many nieces and nephews and their families.

We thank the many doctors, nurses and home care workers and staff at Homestead South and Tabor Home who so lovingly took special care of Mom over the past few years. Thanks to her many close friends and relatives who continued to visit or phone her, and for the kind messages her family has received at this time. Thanks also to Wiebe Funeral Home for their care and support.

A private family service will be held at a later date with interment at Miami Cemetery. Donations may be made in Mom's memory to Community Cancer Care through the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

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



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**Remember Your Loved Ones with an Announcement in the**  
*The Winkler Morden*  
**Voice**  
Call 204-467-5836 or ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

**CAREERS**

BORDER LAND SCHOOL DIVISION  
Life Long Learning

Border Land School Division invites applicants for a  
**TERM GRADE 5/6 FRENCH IMMERSION TEACHER (1.0 FTE)**  
FOR ÉCOLE WEST PARK SCHOOL IN ALTONA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

**CAREERS**

LA DIVISION SCOLAIRE BORDER LAND  
L'apprentissage tout au long de la vie

La Division scolaire Border Land invite les candidatures pour combler le un poste  
**ENSEIGNANT(E) EN IMMERSION FRANÇAISE DE DE 5<sup>E</sup> ET 6<sup>E</sup> ANNÉES (1.0 ETP)**  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for Central Manitoba Tourism Board**  
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**52 years of quality vision care, community involvement**

What is now Focal Point Comprehensive Vision Care has come a long way since its beginnings in Morden 52 years ago.

Founded by Dr. John Friesen, the practice was a two-doctor one for many years once Dr. Earl Lautenschlager became a partner in 1979.

Dr. Tio Bellisario became a partner after Friesen's retirement in 2011. A family connection then came when Lautenschlager's daughter Jessica came on board following her father's retirement in 2017.

"It's grown to five optometrists here full-time, and it just shows the growing need for eye care in the area," said Bellisario.

"Optometry itself has really evolved ... to checking to see the whole health of the eyes and how that ties into people's general health," said Lautenschlager. "We're diagnosing diseases way sooner with all the technology now. I think our scope has expanded so drastically."

Focal Point operates from a state-of-the-art, 7,700 square foot facility in Morden. It has also had a presence in Carman since purchasing Carman Vision Services in 2016.

Leaders in vision care technology, Focal Point provides comprehensive eye health exams with its leading-edge diagnostic instrumentation.

In addition to diagnosing and treating various eye health diseases, its services have expanded to include prescribing topical and oral pharmaceuticals.

Both Bellisario and Lautenschlager said Focal Point remains very much committed to the original aim for the practice to be able to provide the best possible eye care close to home.

"It has been a huge focus to do as much as we can here," said Lautenschlager, who added that level of commitment also extends to Focal Point being involved in the community and supporting organizations, events, and fundraisers.

Most importantly, there is an ongoing aim to continue to advance the level and scope of eye care that they can provide, said Bellisario.



*Dr. Tio Bellisario and Dr. Jessica Lautenschlager are proud of how Focal Point Comprehensive Vision Care continues to grow to meet the vision care needs of the region.*

"The biggest thing we're seeing now with increasing prevalence across all age groups would be dry eye disease," he noted. "It can be impacting your vision as well, not just how they feel. That's one thing technologically we've invested in; there's new equipment and treatments to diagnose and treat dry eye disease."

"Eye disease in general is increasing rapidly with the aging population," he continued. "Combine that with our population growth in the area ... eye care is a huge need in the area, and we're always trying to stay on top of the most current treatments and trends and trying to buy the latest equipment so they don't have to go to Winnipeg for everything."

"It's also for eye wear as well ... having the most current frames and lens technology available to help people see," said Bellisario.

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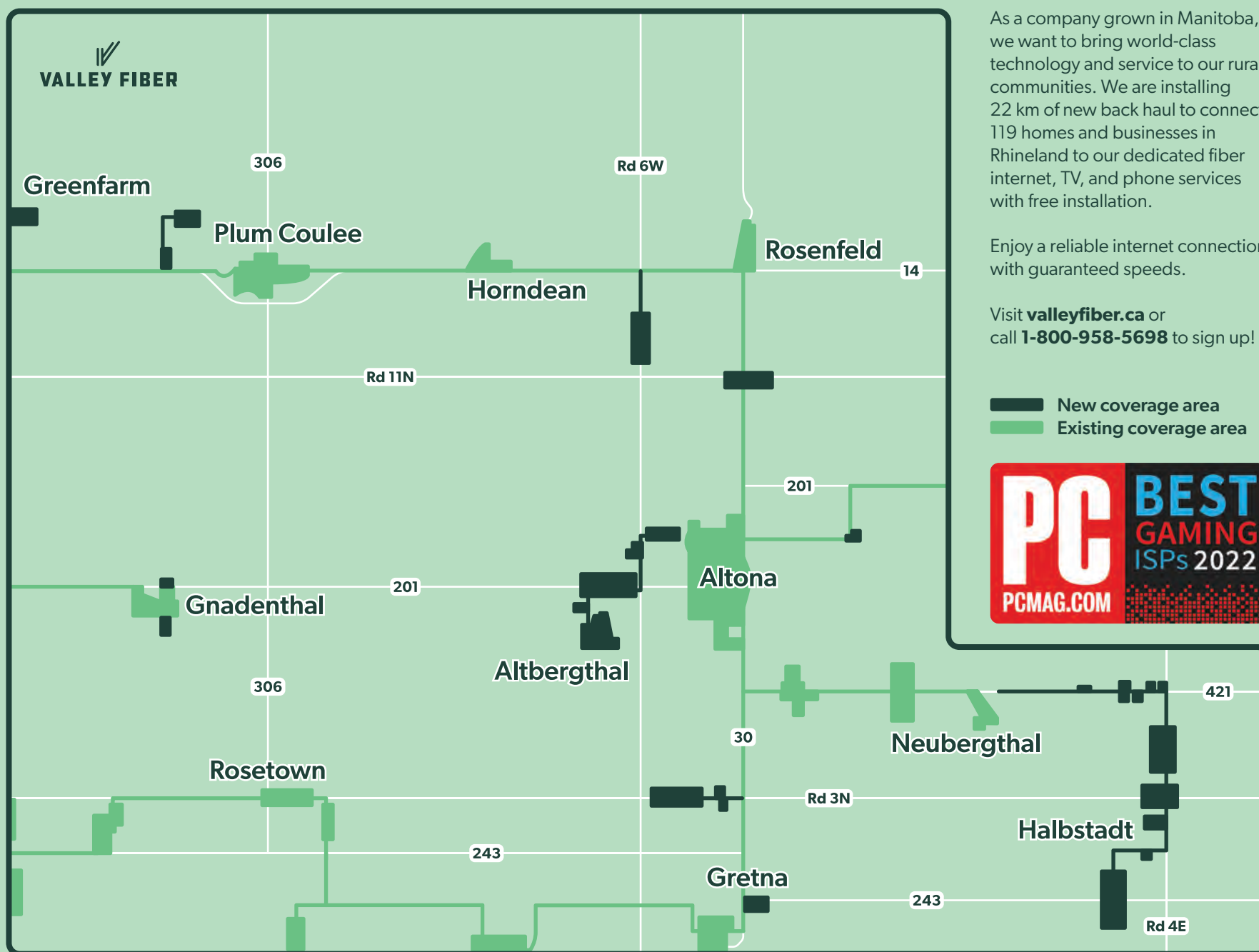
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## tops up investment to **\$8 Million** in the RM of Rhineland and Town of Altona.



\*Map is an approximate representation of coverage; please call 1-800-958-5698 to inquire about coverage if you are in or near highlighted portions of the map.

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