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VOLUME 2 EDITION 11

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Voyageur music mix

Douzie, a guest at École West Park School's Festival du Voyageur celebrations Friday, walks a group of students through how he used a DJ controller to mix the cultural music he performed. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

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Celebrating a local Festival du Voyageur

By Lori Penner

École West Park School decided to host their own version of Festival du Voyageur last week, with a huge variety of cultural activities for students to enjoy.

Teacher Stephanie Fortier says busing all the Grades 4-5 kids to the actual festival was not possible, so they got creative and brought the festival to

the students.

"We had a wide variety of activities spread out in various classrooms and a number of outdoor events, and the weather was absolutely beautiful."

West Park students were divided into grade groups for the day, with Rosenfeld students invited to join in the fun as well.

"We plan different activities for each grade, so that

students can experience something different each year," Fortier explains.

Each group got a food-related activity, such as bannock on the fire, pea soup and stories, or maple syrup on a stick. Other outdoor activities included sled races, snow sculptures, lacrosse, and voyageur games.

There were also craft stations in the classrooms, where students could design voyageur puppets, make soap carvings, and create their own toques.

The school also invited Franco-Manitoban Metis storyteller and performer Rob Malo (also known as TiBert le Voyageur) to share some of his passion for history and culture with the students.

He engaged students with a mixture of juggling, storytelling and humour, and often includes historical musical instruments and traditional costuming.

Malo's apprentice Douz-ie performed some traditional songs on his violin and on the piano as well, and even taught the students how to produce

PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

École West Park School students celebrated their very own Festival du Voyageur on Friday. The day included crafts and music indoors and fun and games in the snow outside.



their own music in a digital format.

Fortier says it was a lot of work to bring all the pieces together for the over 200 students, but it was worth it.

"It really brings our social studies curriculum to life. In Grade 5 they learn a lot about Canadian history and the voyageurs crossing Canada. This is a chance to see it in more of a hands-on way. It also helped them understand why we learn French in school. We also made sure we included the Franco-Manitoban and Métis cultures in the day's activities and stories."

This is the first time the school has been able to truly enjoy the annual event since the pandemic began.

"We did a modified version last year, but this was so much better," shares Fortier.

Hands-on learning is vital to the teaching experience, she adds.

"They're making all kinds of connections between the textbook and the actual events. If you asked them, they wouldn't even realize this had to do with social studies. It was just a fun day, and they learned a lot.

"At the end of the day I asked them which activity was their favourite and they all had a different answer. I guess that was a sign that we had enough variety, and we planned the day well."

"IT REALLY BRINGS OUR SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM TO LIFE."

2023 Financial Plan

It's budget time! You can review the full financial plan on our website (QR code below) or by stopping by our office during regular business hours.

The Financial Plan will be presented on March 28, 2023 at the Altona Council Chambers in a Public Hearing at 6:00 pm. We look forward to answering your questions about how we plan to put your tax dollars to work.

Altona
www.altona.ca



getinformed

Women's Health Expo tackles wide variety of topics

By Lorne Stelmach

Even with a late winter storm likely impacting attendance, organizers were pleased with the response to the first South Central Women's Health Expo this past weekend.

The Saturday event brought together by Genesis House at the Access Event Centre in Morden still had up to 50 people taking in some of the sessions.

"We were doing it in conjunction with International Women's Day," noted Ang Braun, executive director of Genesis House. "The turnout and the response that we had and the support from the community makes me think that this is something that there was need for it."

The sessions were varied and covered such topics as childbirth and the pelvic floor, stress and trauma, sexual assault and supports, endometriosis and pelvic pain, menopause nutrition, and a question and answer session with female physicians as well as a general session on Genesis House's work.

"When we started talking about it, we said we wanted there to be something for all women of every age," said Braun, who noted there was even a Low German speaker as well as a session on supporting the local



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Genesis House brought people together in Morden Saturday for the first South Central Women's Health Expo, which included information booths from local service providers and speakers such as counsellor Julia Stoesz (right), who in her session discussed stress trauma.

LGBTQ+ community.

"It's about self-esteem, and it's multi-generational—it hits all of us differently at different times in our life," said Braun of the wide array of topics selected. "We felt like there was some way for people to plug in no matter what stage they were at in life, and that was our goal."

"The overall idea was that knowledge is power, so we are giving women more information about their bodies, about their mental health ... and the opportunity for them is more doors will open because they are more aware. So that was the goal to move them along the empowerment path."

Braun felt encouraged enough by the response to believe that this could become an ongoing event.

"I think there is potential for it to grow," she said. "I'm not sure, because it is such a large undertaking, whether it's something we could do every year or every other year or share it with another organization."



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Like Us On

Maria and the Mennos films on location in Winkler, Altona

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The cast and crew of *Maria and the Mennos* were in the Winkler-Altona area last week for location shooting as the sitcom wraps up filming of its first season.

Maria and the Mennos takes a comedic look at the family dynamics at play when a Mennonite son and his Filipino-Canadian wife move in with his parents (played by Reinfeld native Erna Peters and Morden's own Chuck Fefchak).

The show, which has been shooting interior scenes at a house in Winnipeg the last few months, was here to film at the MCC Thrift Shop in Altona, Sunny Day Products and the art gallery in Winkler, and a few local farmyards.

Co-creator, writer, and Winklerite Tina Fehr Kehler says it was important for them to shoot on location in the area the show is set.

If they're trying to accurately depict a Mennonite community, then filming in an MCC Thrift Shop was a given,

she says, noting they wanted it to be Altona's because that was the very first MCC thrift store in Canada.

Similarly, Sunny Day, with its shelves and shelves of Mexican products, was the perfect location for a scene revolving around Mennonite cooking.

"Audiences who aren't from here don't realize how intrinsic Mexican and Mennonite culture is together," says executive producer Orlando Braun. "Everyone here just accepts it as normal, but we're pointing it out."

The past few months of shooting have been an exhausting whirlwind, but everyone is pleased with how the show is shaping up.

"It's has been a marathon, but it's been a really delightful experience," says Braun. "The crew has come with this delightful attitude every single day and brought fantastic energy to the set, and I think it really shows in the quality."

"It looks like a real TV show," quips Fehr Kehler. "It's kind of freaky."

Fehr Kehler is certainly no stranger to seeing the words she put on the



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The cast and crew of *Maria and the Mennos* set up shop at Sunny Day Products in Winkler last Wednesday to film a few scenes. The store remained opened throughout, with production working around the presence of customers.

page brought to life, but this is her first TV sitcom.

"It's so cool, especially when the actors get it and a joke really lands," she says.

"I think the actors have each embodied these roles in ways we didn't al-

ways [envision] when we were writing it," adds Braun, explaining the act of filming is very much a collaborative exercise. "So we've done a little bit of tweaking as we've gone along."

Continued on page 5



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> MARIA AND THE MENNOS, FROM PG. 4

It's truly a multicultural set both behind the camera and in front of it, Braun shares.

"We've had Mennonite and Filipino writers on the show and Mennonite and Filipino directors," he says. "They're all bringing their own authentic backgrounds. None of this is just surface level—we're actually exploring these cultures and how they clash together in the most Manitoba way possible."

"That part is beautiful. I love it," says Fehr Kehler. "It's totally authentic because it comes from our lived experiences."

"And it's not just Mennonites and Filipinos," she adds. "I think anybody from any cultural background will be able to connect with it."

Playing the titular Maria is Winnipeg actress Victoria Exconde. Her husband, Nate, is played by Steinbach's Kenton Dyck.

During a break from filming scenes at Sunny Day on Wednesday, the duo reflected on the experience they've had bringing this cross-cultural story to life.

"It's been absolutely amazing," says Exconde. "Everyone's been so fun and supportive throughout this whole process. It's sad it's coming to an end in a few days."

The cast and crew have truly become a family, observes Dyck.

"Most of us hadn't met before we started, and then it's like putting together a whole workplace all at once

and then hoping that they all work well together," he says. "We've had such a great time with this."

While they'll have to wait along with everyone else to see the finished episodes, they have high hopes for the show based on the amount of laughs they've had just reading and performing the scripts.

"We don't even know what the end product looks like," Dyck says. "But if the fun that we're having on set comes through, it's going to be a great show."

Reflecting on the depiction of both the Mennonite and Filipino communities, Exconde notes it's representation she wished she'd seen more of growing up.

"It's so great to see that represented," she says. "And it's not just leaning into the stereotypes."

"I think both of us haven't really had the chance to see our cultures in media like this," Dyck adds. "I mean, growing up in Canada you get to see the whole Canadian thing, but you don't see Winkler and Steinbach represented very often."

"And in many communities like Winkler, there are a lot of Filipino and Mennonite folks ... it's been really fun to see those two mix."

Maria and the Mennos will air this fall on Yes TV, an Ontario cable channel, and the Castle streaming platform. Details for whether it will air on a Manitoba or perhaps even a national network have not yet been released.

"IT'S TOTALLY AUTHENTIC BECAUSE IT COMES FROM OUR LIVED EXPERIENCES."

Miami, Morden community celebrations receive funding

By Voice staff

Two local community celebrations are receiving funding boosts from the Manitoba government.

The province last week announced the recipients of \$323,000 in grants through the Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund's Community Celebrations program.

A total of 67 community celebrations received funding, including Morden's Multicultural Winterfest (\$5,000) and Miami Recreation & Playspaces for a community social in fall celebrating the legacy of the Miami Fun and Fiddle Festival (\$5,000).

The government is pleased to be able to support these important community celebrations, Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Obby Khan said in announcing the grants.

"From winter and seasonal celebrations to feasts, fairs and festivals to cultural concerts and performances, community-based events offer Manitobans exciting opportunities to come together to celebrate their own heritage and experience their neighbours' heritage."

Khan noted department staff evaluated grant applications based on project goals and eligibility, feasibility, and community impact.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

"This is a really cool experience, for sure ... it's a little surreal," Sunny Day's Ben Plett said as Maria and the Mennos shot scenes in the Winkler store last week.

HISTORIC HELP FOR MANITOBANS

Budget 2023 provides tax breaks, education property tax rebates and carbon tax relief fund cheques. That's more than \$5,000 more in the pockets of the average family.

Budget 2023 also remains on track with deficit reduction, due to higher than expected economic growth.

Budget 2023

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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



Driving me crazy

I have always been fascinated by the psychology of driving.

The best place to observe and ponder differing driving habits is on the highways between Morden, Winkler, and Altona. In this short stretch of adventure, we find all sorts of interesting characters.

One standout is the driver who remains in the left lane (you know the fast lane) for the entire stretch because they plan on turning left in 12 kilometres and want to make sure they don't have to merge with traffic later.

Typically this driver reaches the astounding speed of about 82 km per hour and no amount of tailgating, high beam flashing, honking or hand gestures will change their decision. Their will is one of iron and they are bound to this lane like a fish to water.

Interestingly, when they enter city limits they tend to remain at 82 km per hour suddenly becoming a speed demon through the community despite warnings to reduce speeds to 60 km per hour through Winkler or 50 km per hour through Morden.

"I have one speed and that's 82 km per hour so suck it," one imagines they are saying to whomever would listen.

Another type of driver is the Formula 500 type that typically flies along the highway at approximately 167 km per hour. This driver does not care if

the previous driver has locked up the fast lane as they will simply move into the slow lane and careen past them in their import without a thought or concern.

Most often you find this driver after sunset and well past the high commuting hours because their goal is simple: to go as fast as possible without interruption as they seek to arrive in Altona or Winkler slightly before they left Morden.

During rush hours when vast numbers of people are heading to jobs and commuting between the cities in the morning and afternoon there is a certain other type of driver. We will call them the Legalistic Driver.

This type drives exactly 100.0 km per hour. They set their cruise control the moment they reach that sacred speed and never again adjust it until they get to the next speed limit sign.

This driver can also often be found in the fast lane ... in fact they often intentionally sit there with the logic that since they are driving as fast as legally possible they have a right to be there and too bad for the ne'er-do-wells who attempt to get around them.

Typically this driver finds a kindred spirit and they drive next to each other in the left and right lanes thus creating a long parade of anger and frustration in their wake as they journey from one city to the next.

A special subcategory of driver is the one who always turns left off of Thornhill at the intersection of 1st Street and Thornhill in Morden (either side). This driver, knowing well in advance that they will be turning, prefers to wait until the light turns green before they waste valuable energy on their left turn indicator, thus building up an impressive line of vehicles behind them who thought they would be going straight without delay.

Which of these am I, you might ask? Well, I am that category of driver who absolutely detests all of the above categories. I suspect I am not alone in this category and there are peers out there.

There are many additional subcategories that we do not have time to go into here but it would be cool if you chose to write us about them in a Letter to the Editor.



By Peter Cantelon

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

• FAITH FOCUS

Won't you be my neighbour?

What does it mean to be a good neighbour in the Pembina Valley in 2023?

I don't know about you, but when I hear the word "neighbour" I think of two people: Jesus and Mr. Rogers.

Fred Rogers starred and produced the childhood classic TV show, Mr. Rogers Neighborhood. He invited a man by the name of Francois Clemmons to be regular on the show. It was a very unlikely friendship. Francois Clemmons was a gay black man and Mr. Rogers was a buttoned up conservative Presbyterian pastor.

Rogers asked Clemmons to come on the show to play the role of the neighborhood Officer Clemmons. It was a role that at first Clemmons rejected because his view of the police was not very positive because of the violence he'd experienced in the Civil Rights movements. And at that time, it was probably a risky decision on his part to play that role and portray that character. He was the first African American with a recurring role on a kid's TV program.

There's one particular episode in 1969 where Mr. Rogers is cooling his



By Terry Dueck

feet in a kid's swimming pool and Officer Clemmons comes by. Mr. Rogers invites him to cool his feet in that same pool. "Here, share my towel" he says. It was a monumental moment that played out on a kid's television show, a white and black man, sitting together with their feet splashing in the water. Two men making a gentle but very powerful statement in the midst of the violence in the Civil Rights movement. Two men with a prophetic imagination and a willingness to live differently.

It's an incredible picture that sparks my imagination for the church today. What does it look like to love our neighbours? That regardless of background, ethnicity, personality, orientation, we are going to live out a lifestyle of including and inviting others to truly be a part of our lives in the community in which we live and raise our families— because it is the way of Jesus.

Jesus was once asked the question, "Who is my neighbour?" And in response, he tells a story of an unlikely hero, a despised Samaritan, who goes on to take care of a man beaten and left for dead on the side of the road,

when the religious are too busy to stop.

If you've never read the Jesus' story of "The Good Samaritan" it might challenge your understanding of who Jesus is. The answer Jesus gives to the question, "Who is my neighbour?" calls us as the church to radical love.

As our region grows in diversity (religion, cultures, languages) how will the church respond? In talking with one local vice-principal in Winkler recently, he told me 15 per cent of their school has come to Canada within the last year, and English is their second language.

We have an incredible opportunity to welcome the stranger among us. To show hospitality and throw better parties, build friendships with those from other cultures. We have an incredible opportunity as the church to love our neighbors and together build a strong and vibrant community.

To do so is to be the good news that reflects the call and way of Jesus.

—Terry Dueck is the lead pastor at the Winkler MB Church

Letters

A STEP TOO FAR

This is a message to my fellow Christians in the community:

I know there are a lot of you who read about Morden's drag brunch in the March 2 Voice and were disturbed, as I was. Wondering when drag shows became child-appropriate. Wondering how it became widely applauded seemingly overnight. Feeling that drag events for children are a step too far. And you feel too afraid to speak up against it.

You're afraid for good reason. Canada is increasingly producing laws and policies restricting so-called hate speech, which includes criticism of the LGBT community. Just a few weeks ago a pastor was arrested for protesting a drag queen story hour in Calgary*. People have lost their jobs and had their children taken away for opposing the LGBT ideology.

But I want you to know you're not alone if you question the morality of events like this. Taking issue with burlesque performers reading to, dancing for, and influencing young children does not make you hateful. There are some forms of diversity that kids do not need to be exposed to. I encourage you to start speaking up because the Canadian government, as well as the civilians who oppose us, need to see how many of us there are.

Cassandra Schaeffer, Morden

**Editor's note: To provide some context, the pastor in question was charged with hate-motivated offenses (including mischief and creating a disturbance) after attending a drag storytime event being held at a public library and allegedly shouting homophobic and transphobic slurs at the young children and parents taking part.*

Helping Manitobans Make Ends Meet

Carbon Tax Relief Fund

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The Manitoba government is helping Manitobans ease the financial strain they are facing this winter.

As part of ongoing efforts to help Manitobans make ends meet, the Manitoba government is providing a much needed financial benefit cheque.

To see how the new Carbon Tax Relief Fund will help you and your family, visit:

Manitoba.ca/helpingMB

The **Voice**

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Manitoba

Bowl for Kids raises \$25K for Big Brothers Big Sisters

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Bowl for Kids Sake made a triumphant return at VB's Entertainment Center in Winkler last weekend.

The pandemic has foiled Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley's plans for their biggest annual fundraiser for the past three years, making the 2023 edition extra special, said executive director Jenelle Neufeld.

"We're so thrilled to be able to have it again," she said, noting they had over 30 teams sponsored, with only a few not able to make it in due to the weekend storm.

Financially, the day was a solid success, bringing in over \$25,000 before expenses.

"Considering the weather and the fact it was our first year back, I'm very



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Bowl for Kids Sake returned to the Winkler bowling lanes Saturday in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley and its mentoring programs.

happy with it," Neufeld said. "It's so great to be able to have events in person again and to see people that have been supporting our organization all through the pandemic."

The funds go to support the agency's various mentoring programs, which include one-on-one community matches between adult volunteers and kids, in-school mentoring between teens and younger students, and various group mentoring sessions.

"All of the funds that we raise in any of our fundraising, especially Bowl for Kids, goes right back into our programming," Neufeld stressed.

If you'd like to support Big Bros. or get involved as a volunteer, head to peminavalley.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca to learn more.

PVHS reports on a year of challenges and growth

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year presented challenges for the Pembina Valley Humane Society, but there was also much cause for optimism.

The organization is now well positioned to move forward and keep growing, board chairperson Audrey Wiebe suggested after the organization's recent annual meeting.

"We definitely faced some challenges this past year, but it was different than what we went through with COVID and the restrictions," she said.

"The number of intakes went way up; the number of adoptions were also way up ... and unfortunately we saw a huge increase in vet expenses then as well," Wiebe noted. "It was a busy and record-breaking year in many ways

... unfortunately, the intakes is not a record you really want to beat ... but sometimes unfortunate circumstances come up for people."

Intakes overall jumped to 190, but that was at least offset by adoptions, including 89 cats and 74 dogs.

In the end, the humane society came out of it all in good shape financially with revenue of \$240,654 and expenses of \$217,136 for an operating surplus of \$23,488.

Total revenue exceeded the budget by 35 per cent, and while fundraising activities were slightly under budget, there was strong donor revenue that exceeded the budget by 57 per cent.

The organization was able to hire additional staff dedicated to animal care while cutting administrative costs. The 28 per cent increase in revenue also allowed for things like investing in the shelter building with enhanced safety measures.

The challenges though started early in 2022 with a cat intake freeze due to a severe ringworm outbreak at the shelter. The organization worked with its veterinary partners to identify the best course of action and implement a proactive improvement plan that will allow them to control outbreaks like this in the future.

"This project was the largest capital investment in 2022, taking a total of seven months at a cost of almost \$20,000," Wiebe noted in her formal report. "This allowed us to set up a quarantine room for new intakes and sick cats, complete with state-of-the-art equipment allowing fresh air to circulate where infected air was contained."

"Later in the year, this new investment were put to the test with two cats with ringworm," she noted. "The cats were in quarantine for a total of eight weeks, and during that time the disease was fully contained with no further spread."

The humane society also made adjustments to its staffing structure in 2022. Wiebe feels they now have team members who are more able to focus on specific areas such as animal care, intakes and adoptions, volunteer recruitment, training and scheduling, community education and outreach programs as well as animal enrichment.

"I saw the need to kind of do a little bit of restructuring specifically with our board and our staffing and amalgamating those two together so that we could work together as a complete team and engage the community."

Another priority for them is engaging with the community. As part of that aim, they are planning some educational classes such as teaching young children safe ways to approach an unfamiliar dog.

They have also heard community concerns about stray cats, so they are launching a pilot TNR (trap-neuter-return) program this spring.

"TNR programs like this play a huge part in cat overpopulation by humanely trapping stray cats, having them neutered and returning them to their stray communal ground," said Wiebe. "Through research we have found a program like this to be a major benefit to both the community and to the cats. We're hoping to be able to help the community out by being able to launch programs like that one this year."

"We have some pretty awesome programs that we are wanting to launch in 2023, so that is exciting," she concluded. "One thing we really want to focus on for 2023 is just really improving the community education and support. We feel at this point we need to really start giving back to our community and focusing on how we can serve our community and how we can support our community."

Notice of Environment Act Proposal

Manitoba Environment and Climate invites public comment on the following proposal:

CITY OF WINKLER – WASTEWATER TREATMENT

FACILITY EXPANSION – FILE: 2708.30

The City of Winkler proposes to construct and operate an expansion of the City's wastewater treatment facility. The facility is located on SW 23-3-4W and SE 22-3-4W. An additional wastewater storage cell would be constructed on part of SW 22-3-4W, and a submerged attached growth reactor system would be installed to provide additional treatment. Effluent would continue to be discharged to Deadhorse Creek.

Anyone likely to be affected by the proposal and who wishes to comment, should contact Bruce Webb, Senior Environmental Engineer, in writing or by email at Bruce.Webb@gov.mb.ca not later than April 17, 2023. Further information is available from the Online Public Registry: www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries

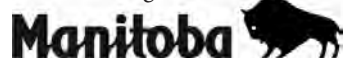
Information submitted in response to this proposal will be made available to the proponent and placed on the public registry per Section 17 of The Environment Act.

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TEDx Morden is at the Kenmor on March 30

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden is getting on board with the TED Talks movement with its own local version this month.

TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) Talks are influential presentations and videos from speakers on such topics as education, business, science, tech, and creativity.

TEDx events are independently organized under a free license to organize TED-format events in local communities. TEDx Morden will host speakers March 30 at the Kenmor Theatre.

It is an opportunity to bring together local, passionate individuals to help spark dialogue about innovation and ideas, and a couple of the participants voiced their excitement recently at the opportunity to be involved.

"I love TED Talks. I do listen to them, and I love the nuggets ... and the book Ted Talks, which I just went through, is excellent. I'm so glad for it. It's helped me," said Morden physiotherapist Rebecca Atkinson, who will be one of the five featured speakers here.

"There's lots of local people who have interesting stories to tell and have done lots of really cool stuff," said Marcus Wiebe, founder of the Dead Horse Cider Company and a fellow speaker. "I listen to Ted Talks myself too, and I'm just hoping I can provide something of that

"THERE'S LOTS OF LOCAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE INTERESTING STORIES TO TELL AND HAVE DONE LOTS OF REALLY COOL STUFF."



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

From left: Speaking at the first Morden TEDx event is David Daniels, Larry Davey, Marcus Wiebe, Rebecca Atkinson, and Tricia Dyck.

similar quality."

Joining Atkinson and Wiebe on stage will be Larry Davey, president and CEO of Access Credit Union, art historian and fine arts professional Tricia Dyck, and David Daniels, a traditional knowledge holder and ritual leader from the Long Plains Reserve. They will all be speaking around the theme *Wind of Change*.

Wiebe and his team at Dead Horse Cider have worked to create award-winning ciders showcasing the uniqueness of Manitoba apples, a prairie fruit that was forgotten and going to waste.

"I'll be talking about opportunities you face in the business sector ... sometimes they come from places you don't normally expect," he explained. "It's the first time I've done something like this, so I'm a little nervous, but it should be fun.

"I hope people will get just, not even necessarily be inspired but perhaps realize sometimes things don't go the way you planned, but that's okay."

Atkinson was drawn to be part of the TEDx Morden because of how different experiences and perspectives can all tie together for a common good. Her presentation is entitled "Tai Chi and Tea as Therapy."

"It's about trying to create a sense of self ... and community, the reliance upon community and accepting and using the influence of change to our benefit," she said. "Tai chi is all about change; that's what tai chi means; the interplay of Ying and Yang, this dynamic ever changing universe.

"I'm trying to offer a way that people can feel empowered for their health with others because you need others; you cannot do anything alone in our world."

The evening kicks off with networking from 4-4:30 p.m. followed by speeches from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 each or four for \$140. You can find more information and bios for all the speakers online at www.tedxmorden.ca.

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Manitoba

Conservatives loosen purse strings in election-year budget

By Lorne Stelmach

The new provincial budget was touted last week as delivering both historic help for Manitobans and record levels of funding for services.

It delivers \$1.8 billion in affordability and tax measures while bolstering vital programs and services with a record-setting investment of \$2 billion, said Premier Heather Stefanson and Finance Minister Cliff Cullen.

"I think this is a significant and very bold step in the right direction ... in fact, this is historic in our province. We have never before seen the kinds of tax relief that we have in this budget," said Stefanson. "We are getting back to our roots as progressive conservatives—progressive on social issues and conservative on fiscal issues."

"This budget is about doing everything possible for Manitobans at a

time when they need it most," said Cullen.

He went on to stress that the spending increases were not coming at the expense of fiscal responsibility.

"I wouldn't say it's out the window at all. I think the focus initially when we came into office was on the bottom line," he said. "We're in a pretty good place economically from our recovery ... that allows us additional money to make additional investments."

"It's really finding a balance. We only have so much money to deal with."

The financial plan got a big thumbs up from Borderland MLA Josh Guenter.

"This budget is about providing historic tax relief for Manitoba families. It's about putting the open for business sign in the window in a way like never before ... and it's not only the tax relief, it's also the increased



SCREENSHOT

Premier Heather Stefanson and Finance Minister Cliff Cullen unveiled the Conservative government's 2023 budget last week in Winnipeg.

spending on the services that Manitobans rely on."

He also emphasized their plan to return towards a balanced budget.

"This budget puts us solidly on that

path ... we're seeing the deficit come down," Guenter said. "This is all very good news. We're making these important investments in things like

Continued on page 11

Critics slam Tory budget as too little, too late

By Lorne Stelmach

The provincial budget introduced last week delivered a range of measures touted by the government as historic, but the tax relief and investments, though welcomed, also had critics suggesting the government didn't go far enough in providing more relief after years of falling short.

"I recognize where they're coming from; we recognize, sure, there's more to do, but I think that today this is a historic day in giving and providing much needed relief to Manitobans," Premier Heather Stefanson emphasized after unveiling the budget.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation supported the much touted income tax cut but was calling on the government to speed up its timeline and immediately provide more full relief.

"Today's tax relief is good news and will let Manitobans keep more of their

money when it's needed the most," said prairie director Gage Haubrich. "But families are struggling to afford groceries today, so why is the government waiting until after the election to provide the full tax cut?"

"The government needs to balance the budget and stop throwing more debt on the backs of future Manitobans."

Dougald Lamont and the Manitoba Liberals observed that the PCs were trying to buy back trust from Manitobans with a big promise budget that will not make up for their seven years of cuts and freezes to health care, education, municipalities, and people in need.

"The PCs seem to think they can foul up as badly as they want, and it doesn't matter because they'll just buy their way out of trouble," Lamont said. "Even where the budget makes

big promises, how can you trust the PCs to fix health, education or infrastructure when they just spent seven years trashing these sectors?"

"Manitoba needs a plan to rebuild and recover after a pandemic and decades of neglect by both the PCs and NDP. This is more of the same that we've heard for decades, and it hasn't worked," he added. "If we're really going to tap into Manitoba's potential, we need to invest in our own people, our own businesses, our own public services and in environmental renewal for the long-term."

An increase in funding for universities is a step in the right direction, but it fails to repair the damage inflicted on the post-secondary education sector since 2016, suggested the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations.

"After seven years of cuts, this has

left Manitoba's universities struggling to recruit and retain faculty, support student success and invest in the future of our province. One year of good news will not fix seven years of bad choices," said vice-president Allison McCulloch. "Public funding for higher education has been cut by nearly a quarter in real dollars, shifting the burden on to the backs of students."

Manitoba's largest union was also not convinced the budget is anything more than an attempt to bury the harm the Conservatives have caused to public services.

"After two terms of active attacks on public services, the Conservatives think that they can buy themselves the next election," said Gina McKay, president of CUPE Manitoba.

"The damage that Stefanson's government has done to our public services isn't going away because of an election-year budget," she emphasized. "People are struggling across Manitoba to make ends meet, and this government has spent its time in office cutting health care, privatizing services and failing to meet the needs of our schools and universities."

"The government tried to freeze workers' wages and push Manitobans further behind. How can anyone trust them to provide real support that keeps up?"

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Winkler Heritage Soc. reports on past year, looks to the future

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was a return to normal, for the most part, for the Winkler Heritage Society in 2022, members heard at the agency's annual general meeting last week.

Chair Randy Rietze in his formal report shared they were able to relaunch many of their activities as pandemic restrictions eased, including various fundraisers and outreach events like the fall crokinole tournament after a few years' pause.

"The banquet did not happen last year, but we hope to get back to it this year," he noted of the annual fall heritage banquet, which hasn't been able to go ahead since 2019.

As always, the focus of the society is on the preservation of historical artifacts and records relating to Winkler and area.

It houses those items at its museum in the Southland Mall and the archives room at the Winkler Centennial Library.

The museum saw its visitation numbers return to something more akin to normal in 2022. They welcomed 557 people—way up from the 166 of the year before.

Curator Joanne Bergen shared in her report that they received many donations to the collection, including two windows from the former Mennonite Brethren Church building (which is now the concert hall) and an array of items related to local policing over the years, among other artifacts. The museum's collection has now reached 5,385 items either on display or in storage.

The archives room, meanwhile, had a quieter year due in part to the after-effects of the pandemic and staffing challenges, though archivist Ed Falk noted he has continued his work translating documents into English and they continue to welcome people looking to research local and family history.

Falk took a few moments at the meeting to reflect on the society's function in the community and how it may grow in the years to come.

"First of all, we are not the Mennonite heritage society—we are the Winkler and District Heritage Society," he said, stressing their mission is to preserve the stories and artifacts of all the cultures who built the community into what it is today. "If you walk into the civic centre you'll see the flags of the people who have come to this community, and there are hundreds of them."

Looking to the future, Falk noted the museum's lease is a year-by-year agreement, and there is some question as to whether the space will continue to be available to them long-term.

The Winkler library, meanwhile, has asked the society to find another location for the archives in the year ahead, as they intend to use the room for their own programming.

"So we will have to find a new space," Falk said.

The society has been putting some money aside for a few years now for a standalone location that could house both the museum and the archives, but it still has quite a ways to go to see that dream become a reality.

"We need all of you and many more to help us in dealing with the local heritage," Falk stressed, urging history buffs to get involved with the society. "If people don't help, then we're stuck."

"If you have any ideas, don't hesitate to talk to any of the executive."

The society's membership totals around 100 people. They're always looking for more volunteers to join the board (which currently has a couple vacant positions on it) or help out at the museum or the archives.

Financially, the society ended the fiscal year with a deficit of \$6,329. Access to various pandemic-related government grants saw the agency's revenue drop



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

At its AGM last week, Winkler Heritage Society archivist Ed Falk noted they'll be looking for a new home for the archives in the year ahead.

significantly in 2022, while expenses such as wages increased.

Secretary-treasurer Tonille Peters presented a 2023 break-even budget of \$85,000.

The evening also included a presentation from Regional Connections Immigrant Services on their programming for newcomers and detailing the assistance they've provided specifically to the Ukrainians who have moved to the area over the past year in the wake of the war with Russia.

> PROVINCIAL BUDGET, FROM PG. 10

health care and education while providing historic tax relief and doing it in a way that doesn't mortgage the future of our children.

"It's a responsible budget but it also responds to the needs of Manitobans ... we've got to balance multiple priorities here," he continued. "I think it really is about balancing all of the priorities and making sure that we do things in a balanced way."

BREAKING IT DOWN

The budget projects a \$363 million deficit, which would be down \$15 million from the current 2022-23 forecast of \$378 million.

It will leave more than \$5,500 in the pockets of the average family by 2024 while delivering across-the-board funding increases in all 19 government departments, officials say.

The budget includes the largest personal income tax reduction in Manitoba history. Changes to the provincial basic personal amount will ensure Manitobans do not pay tax on the first \$15,000 they earn in 2023.

This measure alone will save the average two income family over \$1,000 and will remove 47,400 low-income Manitobans from the tax rolls, the government says.

At the same time, the government says its redoubling efforts to help heal the health care system with an investment of \$7.9 billion. It is an increase of \$668 million to help shorten wait times and rebuild the front lines. The budget also initiates a \$1.2 billion multi-year capital campaign that will add capacity to nine health care facilities.

"Budget 2023 is making significant investments to heal health care in our province to help people get the care they need, when and where it's needed," Cullen stressed. "We're making foundational investments to reduce diagnostic and surgical backlogs, hire more health professionals and support health infrastructure needs, but we're also expanding coverage for diabetes insulin pumps and glucose monitors and creating a new hearing aid program for Manitobans."

The budget provides funding of more than \$100 million to address the challenges of violent crime and homelessness and \$1.7 billion for public schools.

The Manitoba government says it is also well on its way to creating 23,000 affordable child care spaces and will invest \$76 million this year to introduce affordable child care three years ahead of plans in other provinces.

The budget will also provide more help for Manitobans with disabilities, as funding increases there to \$640 million. Municipal operating funding is also increasing \$47 million to a total of \$217 million.

The financial plan will also invest \$65 million more into post-secondary institutions and cap university tuition increases at 2.75 per cent, and it assists small business growth and supports the creation of new made-in-Manitoba jobs by increasing investments in loans and guarantees by \$27 million to spur private-sector investment. It also includes \$15 million for the community economic development fund and \$20 million to support economic development.

"Our message to investors is simple: Come grow in Manitoba," Cullen said. "We are investing more than \$2.5 billion in trade-enabling highway infrastructure over the next five years and making investments to spur economic development opportunities and generate well-paying jobs."

"Combined, the opportunities that lie ahead will support vital services, strengthen the government's fiscal position and provide historic help for Manitobans."

PHAC puts call out for trail art submissions

By Lorne Stelmach

A fourth installment of a unique eco-art project is in the works for this summer.

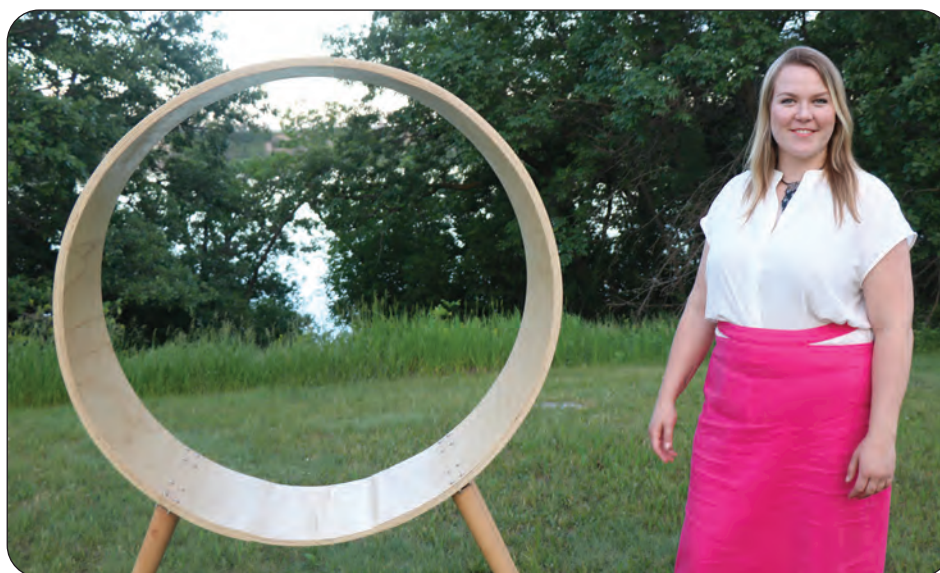
The Pembina Hills Arts Council has called for submissions for the Art on the Trail initiative at Lake Minnewasta.

The aim is to create and place public art amidst the natural beauty of the lake, and the challenge for artists is to design, plan, create, and install art that is both sustainable and land-conscious.

"We're so happy to see the different submissions that we've gotten each year," said Tye Dandridge-Evancio, PHAC programs and outreach coordinator

"It's a platform for the artists to show off their art, but it's also to kind of activate the environment with art works that prompt visitors and passersby to re-evaluate their relationships to the surroundings and maybe even enhance the experience of enjoying the trail at Lake Minnewasta.

"So we're looking for something that can be out there that is one with the environment," he continued. "What



VOICE FILE PHOTO
Artist Lauren McLean with her submission for Pembina Hills Arts Council's trail art project, which is now accepting submissions for new pieces for 2023.

we're looking for in the artwork is that it is eco-friendly, sustainable artwork that preferably are made from natural materials that speak to or interact with the surrounding environment."

Three pieces have been done to date, each taking a different approach to the challenge.

Jen Martens created a piece called

Technology Takeover which featured a lifesize figure made out of everything from sticks to wire. The piece, called Lily, offered the contrast of the figure made from natural materials being overtaken by the technology represented by wires and a phone in her hand.

The second work by David by Peters

was what he described as a rammed earth structure using natural materials that formed a benched area designed to become gradually overgrown so it would blend into the surrounding landscape.

The third artwork installed last year was by Lauren McLean, whose piece features a circular wooden frame-like structure that looks like a lens and acts as a frame for the beauty of the surrounding area.

It was unfortunate that the piece by Martens was eventually damaged enough that she had to remove it, but Dandridge-Evancio said they realized that would be a risk with this project.

"I know vandalism can be an issue," he said, noting that is part of why they emphasize the art should blend in with the surroundings as much as possible and even be designed to degrade over time. "But I just wish people would respect the art that is on the trail and not tamper with it."

He observed that the first three pieces were all unique, and he sees it as a reflection of the artist community here.

Continued on page 14

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the Bunker youth ministry, I would like to thank the following businesses for their support in the past year:



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Thank You,
Kevin Hildebrand Executive director



The 6th Global Recycling Day | March 18, 2023

Countdown to Global Recycling Day 2023

Every year, the Earth yields billions of tons of natural resources and at some point, in the not too distant future, it will run out.

That's why we must think again about what we throw away – seeing not waste, but opportunity.

The last decade has been the hottest on record, and we are now facing a climate emergency of unparalleled proportions. If we don't make significant and rapid changes, we will see continued rising global temperatures, the melting of icecaps, continents on fire and rapid deforestation.

This directly affects humanity with increased poverty, immigration from displaced communities, job losses, waste mountains and natural habitats disappearing. We have the power to make lasting changes to combat this, and with recycling being recognized in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2030, we are already seeing many individuals, governments and organisations taking direct action to support the global green agenda.

Recycling is a key part of the circular economy, helping to protect our natural resources. Each year the 'Seventh Resource' (recyclables) saves over 700 million tonnes in CO2 emissions and this is projected to

increase to 1 billion tons by 2030. There is no doubt recycling is on the front line in the war to save the future of our planet and humanity.

The Global Recycling Foundation is pleased to announce the theme of Global Recycling Day 2021 as #RecyclingHeroes. This will recognise the people, places and activities that showcase what an important role recycling plays in contributing to an environmentally stable planet and a greener future which will benefit all.

Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 to help recognise, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet. It is a day for the world to come together and put the planet first.

The mission of Global Recycling Day, as set out by the Global Recycling Foundation, is twofold:

1. To tell world leaders that recycling is simply too important not to be a global issue, and that a common, joined up approach to recycling is urgently needed.

2. To ask people across the planet to think resource, not waste, when it comes to the goods around us – until this happens, we simply won't award recycled goods the true value and repurpose they deserve.

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To help celebrate Earth Day, here are a few Recycling Do's and Don'ts:

Do Recycle:

- Any plastic container with a recycling triangle on the bottom (except with the #6 includes bottles, pails, tubs and jugs) and any steel food and beverage containers: soup and pet food cans
- Drink cans & bottles, juice boxes
- All paper products including cardboard boxes, newspapers magazines

Don't Recycle:

- Products containing multiple material types packaged together, like most coffee pods or toys containing both plastic and metal
- Takeout containers or pizza boxes with food remnants
- Household hazardous waste containers

Recycle Facts: Did you know?

- When you recycle just one aluminum can, you save enough energy to power a 100-watt light bulb for 20 hours or to listen to a full album on your iPod!
- When you use recycled paper instead of "virgin" paper, you are contributing to saving 7,000 gallons of water per ton of paper produced. Save water not just trees...



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arts & culture

Local author releases first book

By Lorne Stelmach

Joel Grey has taken the next step in a creative project that has drawn on all of his talents.

The recent publication of his novel *Moki and the Erased Ones* has been in the making for a number of years during which he has also created art and music that is linked to the idea.

"It's been many different things over the years. It's really exciting to finally be able to launch something like this ... it gets it out to a wider audience," said Grey.

This is the first book in a larger young adult series called *Harnessing Chaos*. The idea for the series started back in 2011 and has undergone many iterations since then.

It began as a concept for an open-world role-playing game in the vein of *Skyrim* and *World of Warcraft*, Grey explained.

"I was just out of university and had been wanting to get into game development. I had a role-playing game in mind, and I pitched it to a couple people in the industry but nothing really came of it."

His world-building during this period filled entire notebooks with writing prompts, maps, alphabets, lore and calendars. It was around this time that he was also getting into watercolour painting and made a collection of concept art.

"I started doing some short stories and then I started doing some concept art with watercolours," said Grey. "While working on the pitches to video game developers, I also wrote some music for inspiration which became a 2013 instrumental concept album called *Sol*."

"In 2014 I penned a few short stories set in the world of *Harnessing Chaos*. After that, there was a large gap where nothing really happened except for a few brief entries in notebooks until a flash of inspiration reminded me about the project."

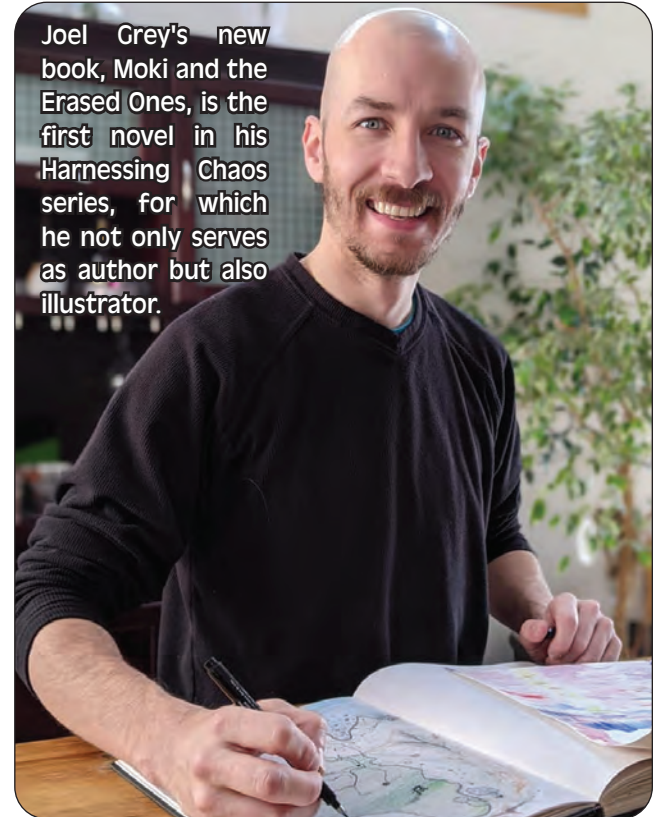
The next step in the process came with a November National Writing Month Challenge where participants try to write 50,000 words by the end of the month.

"The first book in the series was one of those books, and then book two and book three were the following years," said Grey.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Joel Grey's new book, *Moki and the Erased Ones*, is the first novel in his *Harnessing Chaos* series, for which he not only serves as author but also illustrator.



"Afterward, it was easier then to edit and kind of finetune some things, but those November months were really great for just getting lots of stuff out and then building the series."

Then the pandemic happened and Grey found himself laid off from his day job, giving him the opportunity to focus all of his time on his fictional world.

"I wrote the first draft of *Moki and the Erased Ones* while binge-watching *Xena: Warrior Princess* and *Avatar: The Last Airbender* with my wife and our pets."

He released the novel on Amazon in January. It recently been ranked 259 on the magical fantasy bestseller list and 578 on the dark fantasy horror fiction bestseller list.

Moki and the Erased Ones is centred around the only blue-haired Y'nari in a repressive culture that fetishizes racial purity.

Educated in secret about a world before Imperial rule, Moki is discovered by the

Inquisition before she can complete her heretical studies. She is forced to flee into the mountains where she is captured by slavers who are using a workforce called the Erased Ones to exhume an ancient structure entombed beneath the rock.

Growing up, Grey was always interested in magical fantasy worlds like *Lord of the Rings* and *Dungeons and Dragons*, so it is not surprising he would be drawn to the creating something with the "otherworldness" of the fantasy genre.

"There was an escapist element to it that helped me through COVID," he said, noting he plans to continue with the series. There are several books more in various stages of development.

His hope is the series will simply resonate with people who share his love for the genre.

"I really hope that they fall in love with the world and the characters as much as I have in creating and working with them over the years."

You can learn more about Grey's work at harnessingchaos.ca.

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> ART ON THE TRAIL, FROM PG. 12

"We have a selection of artists in the area who are all very different and unique, and that is something that is coming out of this that we are really excited to show, just how diverse the arts community really is here in Morden," he said.

"So far it's been great. I think people have responded really well. We've gotten some nice feedback

on it ... and from the artists as well, we've gotten some positive feedback."

The deadline for submissions is April 1. Accepted pieces will need to be installed at the lake by June 1. More information and an application can be found online at www.pembinahillsarts.com.

Chamber gala to honour business builders and leaders

By Lori Penner

The Altona & District Chamber of Commerce annual awards gala has been a much-anticipated event for decades, honouring a host of well-deserved businesses, groups, and individuals through the years.

And now it's back, with a variety of new award categories for local businesses, entrepreneurs, and not-for-profit organizations.

Altona economic development officer Stephanie Harris says the chamber is excited to host the event again on Thursday, April 20 after a three-year break because of the pandemic.

"It's great to be able to honour the individuals and business owners of our community," she says, explaining four awards will be presented this year.

The Business Excellence Award will be presented to two different businesses: one with 10 employees or less and one with 11 employees or more. Both must demonstrate exceptional customer service, positive business growth, and overall positive impact in the community.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award

will celebrate an entrepreneur that has been in business for at least three years. They will be recognized for their staffing and employee quality growth, quality control, marketing strategies, expansions/innovative ideas, overall contribution, and impact on the community.

The Non-Profit of the Year Award will be presented to an organization that is fulfilling its mission in the community and making contributions to its well-being socially, culturally, physically, economically, and ethically.

Harris says they decided to change the awards categories this year to better reflect the purpose of the gala.

"We used to have a Volunteer of the Year and a Citizen of the Year award, as well as a Youth Recognition Award. These are more community focused awards. This year we decided we wanted to be more business focused, which is why we created the Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

"Also, the chamber has a lot of not-for-profit members, so we thought this was a great opportunity to highlight them and the great work they do in the community."



FILE PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Altona chamber was last able to hand out its awards in 2019. Winners included Ryan Penner on behalf of Buffalo Creek Mills, Melvin Klassen, Jossie Yan, Ben Dueck, and Daniel Maguet on behalf of CrossFit Outland. Nominations are now open for this year's awards, which will be handed out at a gala April 20.

Nomination forms can be found online at www.shopaltona.com or at the chamber office. The deadline for nominations is Monday, March 20.

Guests can also expect to do a bit of laughing at this year's gala, as comedian Andrew Parker takes the stage as the night's entertainment.

"We're very excited to be hosting this event again, and we're really

looking forward to a great night of celebrating the success stories of our community," Harris says.

The gala takes place at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre in Altona. Ticket information is available by calling 204-324-9549 or emailing chamber@shopaltona.com.

Everyone welcome at March 29 Roaring '20s Party

By Lori Penner

If you love the music and the dance moves of the 1920s, this is the event for you.

Altona's First Roaring 20's Party featuring music from the era courtesy of the River City Syncopators takes over the Rhineland Pioneer Centre on Wednesday, March 29.

The event is being organized by Altona's Roxanne Hillman, who plays saxophone and clarinet with the 11-piece 1920s style dance band based out of Winnipeg.

"We've been looking for opportunities to perform and I thought why not in Altona?"

"The music we play consists of tunes written in that era that our band leader has transcribed

from old recordings," Hillman says. "Think of the Charleston or ragtime style."

She adds the evening will have a family-friendly, social-type atmosphere. No alcohol, but coffee, tea, pop, and a variety of snacks will be available for people to munch on as they dance, visit, and listen.

"I hope for it to be a casual event where people can just have fun."

Hillman says there will be a dance floor in front of the stage, so hopefully people will feel free enough to get up and kick up their heels.

"If not, we'll have tables and chairs for people to sit and enjoy. We just want to bring people in the community together to enjoy a genre they may not be used to hearing."

The night will open with a performance by the

W.C. Miller Sr. Jazz Band.

"We're super excited to have them join us," Hillman says. "We're also hoping to bring out a couple of dancers from a Winnipeg Swing Club to possibly teach a couple of 1920s dances. People can practice while the band plays."

"We're also encouraging people to dress up in 1920s style. The band will be dressed up and I definitely will have my flapper dress on."

"Come to dance. Come to visit ... there is no age limit, everyone is welcome!"

The doors open that night at 6:30 p.m. The music starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available (cash only) at the door for \$25 for adults (age 13+) and \$10 for kids age six to 12. Children five and under are free.

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Concert in support of HANDS Canada March 25

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A benefit concert in Winkler next week is raising funds to provide medical care to youth living in poverty half a world away.

Glory Bound and Waldina Reimer perform at the Winkler EMMC (600 Southview Dr.) on Saturday, March 25 on behalf of HANDS (Hope for All Nations Developments and Sustainability) Canada.

It will be an evening of praise and worship music and fellowship, says Assani Muhanuzi, HANDS Canada founder and program director.

"It will be all the good, old gospel songs," he says.

As always, proceeds from the evening go to support HANDS Canada's school in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which currently has over 300 students enrolled.

"These are kids who are from less fortunate families with limited resources," Muhanuzi says. Families pay a modest tuition to have their children attend classes, and foreign donations help to ensure kids whose families are struggling are able to stay in school.

The past few years have been busy



SUPPLIED PHOTO

A concert at the Winkler EMMC next week is raising funds to support a school built by local donors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Over 300 kids living in poverty are attending classes there this year.

ones for the school, which celebrated the completion and opening of its second storey of classrooms last fall.

The biggest project on the school's horizon right now is adding a small clinic to the facility.

"It will be a place where we can as-

sist the kids at school if there's any problems during classes, but it will also be open to the public outside school," Muhanuzi says, noting there is a hospital in the area but many people cannot afford to get care there. This will be another option for them

for minor ailments. "We're hoping to build this soon because the earlier the better—it is an urgent need."

The school is just one part of HANDS Canada's work in Congo, Muhanuzi notes. In a bid to make the school sustainable, they're also operating a small pig farm, a garden, and a sewing operation, all of which are generating income for the school while also helping to feed and support local families.

Newer initiatives of HANDS in the country include a giant soccer tournament for the kids last summer and a porridge program the last two school years to ensure students aren't going to class on an empty stomach.

"I've very, very proud of what we've done there," Muhanuzi says. "My dream has come true."

"I'm so grateful to the communities of Winkler and Morden for being there for us through all this," he adds. "Every time we do a concert they come out and support us. They've been so good to us."

Next week's concert starts at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but goodwill offerings will be accepted. Donations of over \$20 will receive a tax receipt.

Liz Reimer now running for Morden-Winkler Tory nomination

Drops bid for Portage-Lisgar nomination

By Lorne Stelmach

A candidate who had been seeking the Conservative nomination federally for the Portage-Lisgar riding is instead turning her attention to provincial politics.

Liz Reimer had been seeking the Conservative Party of Canada nomination to succeed Member of Parliament Candice Bergen, who is not running for re-election.

Shortly after Reimer announced her bid for the nomination, though, Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen stepped down from his provincial seat to do the same.

Now Reimer has decided to pursue Friesen's old job instead.

"Sometimes situations change," said Reimer. "If that opportunity would

have been there in November or even hinted at the possibility of it being available, I would have definitely waited for it.

"I had to take some time to really deliberate and think about what I should do," she continued. "With Portage-Lisgar as a whole, I've got so many connections there too. Ultimately, it came down to if both doors had been open, which one would I have pursued? And my automatic answer is provincial."

Reimer brings a range of experience to the table including having been an assistant to Friesen as well as regional director for the party in Manitoba. She has worked not only as a staffer but also as a volunteer for the provincial party for about 11 years. She currently works as business development spe-

cialist for the Morden Community Development Corporation.

She is excited about the potential of representing a region as strong and vital as Morden-Winkler.

"Here in Morden-Winkler, to be able to work specifically for my community, it is very exciting," Reimer said. "I have worked in both communities and worked with people in both communities, worked on boards that represent both communities ... both of them are very unique, and I think both have very unique strengths."

"I think we're a force to be reckoned with in the province of Manitoba," she added. "I think our municipal leaders are also starting to see that and wanting to work together, and I see the next MLA needing to recognize that and work with the municipal leaders."

"I do feel once the leadership starts working together and people start seeing that, we could be bigger and

better."

Also in the running for the provincial Conservative nomination for Morden-Winkler is Winklerite Carrie Hiebert.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Liz Reimer has decided to seek the provincial Conservative nomination in Morden-Winkler instead of the federal one for Portage-Lisgar.

The Voice

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Searching for Kleinstadt

By Lori Penner

The Manitoba prairies are filled with stories. The wide-open fields we see today may have once been the site of thriving communities a century ago.

This was the eventual fate of the Village of Hochstadt, northeast of Altona. In 1880, the Mennonite village boasted two rows of farmyards, with housebarns, livestock, crops, a school, and a church. Many of the residents had moved there from the East reserve in search of better farmland.

In 1892, after the formation of public schools, Hochstadt was forced to change its name to Kleinstadt, as it was designated as part of the Kleinstadt School District. This district also included the nearby village of Eigengrund.

Eventually, most of the families moved on. Today, what was once the main village street is the driveway for a single farm. While a few of the original yards are still there, it's hard to imagine the village that it once was.

Now an Altona couple, along with a committee made up of former Kleinstadt residents, are searching for information about the village, with the hope of creating a history book to preserve its memories and stories.

Joe and Lois Braun have put a call out for material like written historical accounts, genealogies, school records, family stories, anecdotes, photos, maps, and cemetery records, from 1880 to present day.

Joe's memories of growing up in Kleinstadt are rich with family and community activities and learning in a one-room schoolhouse. Those community baseball games and adventures with village friends still linger in his mind.

Years later, after he and Lois were married, they developed their own property in the Kleinstadt district.

Through his involvement with the

Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society and the local History Seekers lecture series, he became excited about the stories that people shared about their ancestors, about the political situations that created unique events, and the forces that shape people and cultures.

Through these organizations he also got to know a man named Adolph Ens, a college history professor and Mennonite historian who became a strong influence on him.

"Adolph Ens really encouraged the descendants of all pioneers who settle east and west reserves to collect and record the histories of their villages and communities," Joe says. "And it occurred to me that Kleinstadt also holds an important place in history and should also be remembered."

Lois adds, "Many books about local villages have already been created from the research ordinary people have done—Neubergthal, Sommerfeld, Schoenthal, Rosenfeld, and more."

Although the couple has already reached out to many present and past residents of the Hochstadt/Kleinstadt area, they are still looking for anyone who is a descendant of the early settlers.

To jog a few memories, some family names from Kleinstadt included: the Krueger clan (Ben Krueger had the strawberry farm), the genius Funk brothers (chess players, musicians, and mathematicians), and the Hochstadt Quartet consisting of Ben J. Krueger, George W. Sawatzky, Jake Hoepfner, and John Hoepfner, who sang together for 61 years.

There was also Gail Martel Braun, the phenomenal gardener who gave tours of her flower gardens in Kleinstadt called Blooming-Gail's; a large Kehler clan that included local historian W. J. "Bill" Kehler; Walter Hamm and Stan Funk, known to anyone who



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

In the 1940's, Jacob Hoepfner of Kleinstadt built a model of the original Hochstadt village, labelled with the name of its original residents. Hoepfner passed the model along to brothers Ken and Joe Braun (pictured) in 2007. Ken added additional historical notes on slips of paper.

visits the MCC store; and the G. A. Braun family—he was an Elim Bible School teacher, and two of his sons, Albert and Joe, also taught at one time in Altona.

Kleinstadt is also the location of long-time resident Wes Martens' business, WesMar Seeds; the home of the Wiebe sisters, who sell their baking at the Altona Farmers' Market. Other former residents who Altonans might know who taught at Kleinstadt School in the olden days were Al Schmidt, Pete Hildebrand, Mary Froese Siemens, and Melvin Klassen.

There is one particular piece of Kleinstadt lore that Joe and Lois are searching for.

"We want to find out if anyone has a

picture of the survey tower that stood two miles east of Hwy. 30 between the 1920s and possibly the 1940s," Joe says.

The geodetic triangulation survey tower was one of three located in Kleinstadt, St. Jean, and Roland. Each had lamps on top and were used for surveys.

"It was about 60 feet tall and some of the old timers remember climbing it for fun. Maybe someone has a photo, but so many of the photos have disappeared," Joe says.

If anyone has any information or stories to share about Kleinstadt, contact the Brauns at 204-324-6259 or by email to owltree76@gmail.com

Applications open for 'Spruce Up Your Story' funding

By Voice staff

Red River Mutual has put a call out for communities to share their stories for a chance to receive funding to upgrade vital public spaces.

Applications are now open for the company's fourth annual Spruce Up Your Story sponsorship initiative, which is making \$150,000 available to help restore well-worn but well-loved spaces that are at the heart of communities across Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

"The goal of Spruce Up Your Story is to ensure the places where communities gather continue to

thrive for generations to come. It's not about replacing these spaces, but rather breathing new life into them," says Jennifer Ewankiw, vice-president of strategy and business development. "We're committed to helping make a change in the communities and neighbourhoods we do business in. Red River Mutual is part of the community, a neighbour, and we want to be there for our neighbours."

The submitted renovation or beautification projects will be evaluated based on community use and significance, commitment to sustainability, aspects of volunteerism, and connections to a local Red

River Mutual affiliated insurance brokerage.

In addition to financial support, selected projects will also have access to additional volunteer hours from a crew of Red River Mutual and local brokerage staff members.

Since 2020, Red River Mutual has awarded more than \$450,000 to support 30 spaces in communities across Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

For an application or the full list of past winners, head to SpruceUpYourStory.com

The deadline for entries is May 31.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Luck o' the Irish Mint Pie

chopped mint chocolate candies into filling.

To make frosting: In bowl of stand mixer, whisk remaining heavy cream and remaining powdered sugar. Add remaining vanilla extract and mix until stiff peaks form.

Pour filling into crusts and smooth tops. Fill decorating bag with frosting and pipe thick band around edges of pies. Then pipe circle dollops evenly around edges of pies.

Scatter 1 cup chopped mint chocolate candies in middle of pies. Place whole mint chocolate candies into each dollop of frosting around edges of pies.

Refrigerate until firm, 5-6 hours.



Makes: 2 pies (9 inches each)
3 3/4 cups heavy whipped cream, divided

8 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 1/4 cups, plus 2 tablespoons, powdered sugar, divided
5 drops green food coloring
1 1/4 teaspoons vanilla extract, divided
1/4 teaspoon mint extract
1 bag mint chocolate candies, chopped, divided

2 chocolate cookie crusts (9 inches each)
1 bag mint chocolate candies

To make filling: In bowl of stand mixer, whisk 2 1/2 cups heavy cream until stiff peaks form. Transfer to bowl.

In separate stand mixer bowl, beat cream cheese on high 2 minutes. Gradually add 1 1/4 cups powdered sugar and green food coloring; mix until smooth. Add 1/4 teaspoon vanilla and mint extract; mix well.

Fold prepared whipped cream into cream cheese mixture. Fold 1 cup



Minty Shake

chopped sugar cookies, for garnish (optional)

pistachios, for garnish (optional)
mint chocolate candy, for garnish (optional)

Using mixer, whisk whipping cream until soft peaks form. Add peppermint extract and powdered sugar; mix until well blended. Set aside.

In blender, blend milk, liqueur and ice cream until smooth.

Drizzle chocolate syrup inside soda glass. Pour ice cream mixture into glass. Top with whipped cream and garnish with cookies, pistachios and mint chocolate candy, if desired.

Serves: 1
1 cup whipping cream
1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
2 teaspoons powdered sugar
1/2 cup milk
1 3/4 ounces Baileys Irish Cream liqueur
3 scoops mint chocolate chip ice cream
chocolate syrup



St. Patrick's Day Sandwiches

fresh cilantro leaves
lemon juice
lemon slices, for garnish (optional)
In bowl, mix cream cheese spread, mozzarella cheese and salt well.

Split English muffins in half. Cut each muffin half into shamrock shape.

Spread cheese mixture over each muffin half.

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

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

Yield: 8 sandwiches
8 ounces plain cream cheese spread, softened
1 cup finely shredded mozzarella cheese salt
4 English muffins
24 slices cucumber
8 thin slices green pepper

Ask the Money Lady

Dear Money Lady: I can't believe the high price of groceries nowadays. Any advice? Grace.

Dear Grace, you are so right – the cost of groceries has gone up 12.4% according to Stats Canada from January 2022 and with the continued trend that we are to experience a "mild recession" this year, we can expect the costs to rise a little more. Let's go through five quick tips that will help lower your food expenses.

1. Go back to the old way of shopping – clip those coupons.

There are many coupons on-line that you can print off and use from retailers or product manufacturers. I just went on-line to: "Kellogg's Coupons Canada" and found many printable coupons for all their products. Why not try this with other items you always buy. It's like getting free money with a few clicks on your laptop.

2. Use points cards to redeem cash towards your next grocery bill.

A lot of grocery stores these days have incentives to shop with them. Some examples are using your cash back credit cards, Scene cards, Air Miles cards, or even proprietary shopping cards to earn points and redeem as cash towards groceries. Why not make the store help you pay?

3. Try not to shop with those giant silver "wheelbarrow carts" designed to get you to spend more. Instead opt for the much smaller carts – not the two-tiered monsters that make you feel like a chariot driver. Subconsciously when you see very few items in those giant shopping carts, we tend to easily say "yes" to an extra few items not on our shopping list.

4. Stay out of the boutique sections of the grocery store. The outer aisles will always have the produce, dairy and meat sections you need with all the inner aisles favouring more expensive favorites that entice you to spend more. There is a science to grocery store layouts. Popular food brands pay more to be shelved at eye level to get you to easily spot them. Often cheaper options are on the lower shelves out of your line of sight. This is the case for everything except food and snacks for kids, especially cereal. Often you will find the more expen-



Christine Ibbotson

sive foods catered towards children on the lower shelves at a child's eye level. Some stores may even put colourful stickers on the floor or on the shelves to capture the attention of your little shopping helpers. Aisle endcaps are another prime location to lure you in with more expensive name brands always on display to entice you to pick up just one more item before you leave.

5. Lastly, I want you to consider starting a DIY plan in your kitchen. Make fresh bread: throw 3-5 ingredients into a bread machine and viola you have bread healthier and cheaper than buying it. Plant a garden of indoor pots with herbs, lettuce, or small vegetables. Make cookies from scratch instead of buying them, (your kids will love it). Buy larger servings (like a whole chicken) or produce and meats in bulk to save more and then divide food up into single or family meal portions.

Remember, paying for convenience and ambiance is the easiest way to overspend. If you spend a little more time and effort in planning your groceries, you most likely will be a lot healthier with less on your waistline and more in your wallet.

*Good Luck & Best Wishes,
Christine Ibbotson*

Written by Christine Ibbotson, National Radio Host, YouTuber, and Author of 3 finance books plus the Canadian Best-Selling Book "How to Retire Debt Free & Wealthy" www.askthemoneylady.ca or send a question to info@askthemoneylady.ca

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Your FARM



GrainFox launches game-changing agtech platform

By Raegan Hedley

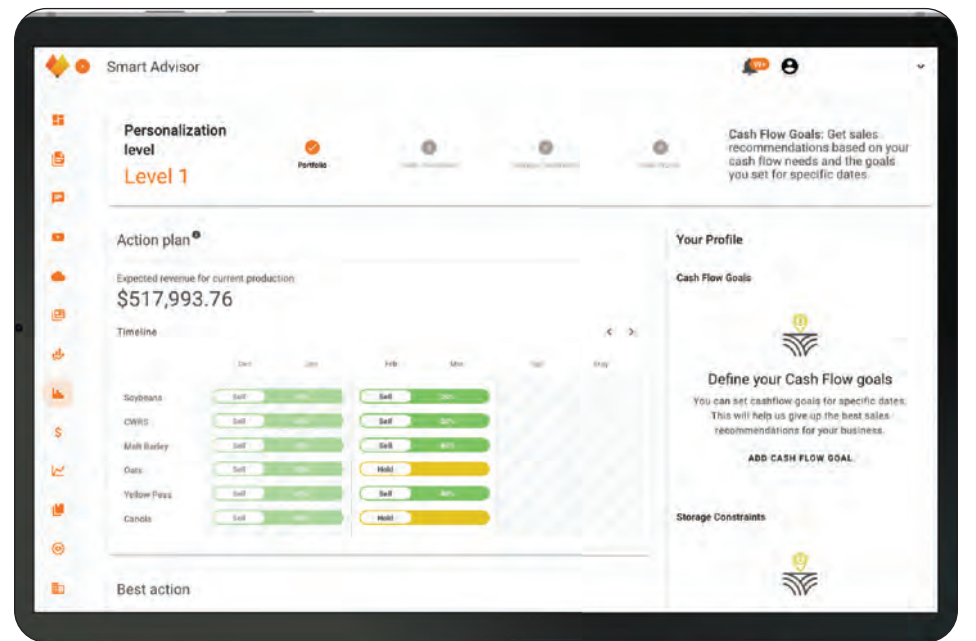
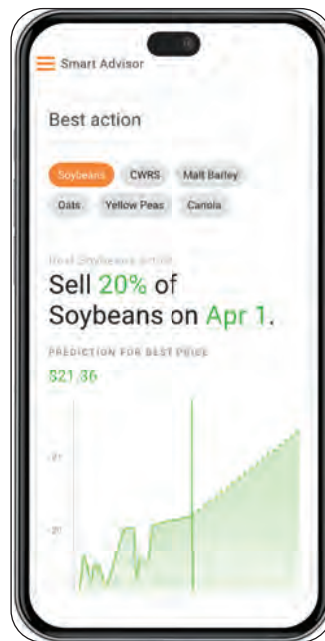
The future of grain and commodity marketing is personalized. On Feb. 21, GrainFox launched a new virtual platform that will help producers keep up with the markets, plan and track their cash flow, tabulate expenses, calculate returns, track sales and inventory, and make sales decisions.

“The process of grain marketing is very complex. There’s a lot on the line and a lot of factors that go into making that selling decision,” said Liz Pham, Chief Growth Officer at GrainFox. “We’re really there to guide them through that complexity, and remove the emotion of that selling decision.”

GrainFox doesn’t sell or broker the sale of grain or commodities. According to the company, the platform uses machine learning and AI, input from analytical teams, and insights from their network of Customer Success Managers to provide recommendations. It all came about because Lepp said they identified a gap in the market: small-to-medium-sized farms were being underserved when it came to marketing support for their operations.

“In these times of heightened volatility and uncertainty in the markets, personalization has never been more important to a producer’s sales strategy,” said Mark Lepp, Founder and CEO of GrainFox.

“We wanted to create a platform that’s cost-effective and has a self-serve option to bring more value and support to help producers make more



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Smart Advisor will help producers keep up with the markets, plan and track their cash flow, tabulate expenses, calculate returns, track sales and inventory, and make sales decisions.

informed grain selling decisions as they go through their journey on their operation of taking their crop from the bin to the bank.”

Lepp said the goal with GrainFox is to offer a “single source of truth for all things grain marketing,” where producers can connect all their data that are relevant to the grain marketing decision to help them make the best strategies possible.

“Farmers typically have at least a dozen different apps and different data silos within their operation,” said Lepp. “What we’re working on is bringing all those data silos together so if the produc-

er wants to use that information from their operation to help power their wealth management tools, they can.”

At the core of the GrainFox platform is a tool called Smart Advisor. The first of its kind in North America, it provides personalized sales recommendations based on how the sale of each crop in a farmer’s portfolio interacts with one another. It synthesizes historical and current market data, along with producers’ cash flow goals, storage constraints and risk tolerance to deliver advice that helps growers get their bins empty by harvest.

“There are literally dozens of key features that producers take into consideration when they make that decision to sell,” said Lepp. “The amount of data that we’re able to synthesize and bring to each individual operation is incredible.”

Richard Surendrakumar, Chief Product Officer of GrainFox, said Smart Advisor pulls from an ever-growing bank of over 20,000 data sets.

“Every day we discover new data sets that could be potentially relevant to the trends, the prices, and some of the decisions that we make in the algorithms. Now, these data sets could be things like your macroeconomic



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The APP is a federal program administered by CCGA. It offers Canadian farmers marketing flexibility through interest-free and low-interest cash advances.



MHHC hires habitat conservation specialist for our area

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) has expanded its network of habitat conservation specialists to include our region.

The non-profit conservation organization last week announced it has hired Kathy Murray to fill this position at its new office in Treherne. This office covers all the communities south of Portage la Prairie to the Canada-U.S. border.

"Kathy is an excellent fit for the position and the Treherne office," said MHHC field manager Curtis Hullick in a statement. "She brings a wealth of agricultural, botany and conservation experience to the position. That experience will help support the delivery of MHHC programming throughout south central Manitoba."

Established in 1986, MHHC was formed to work in partnership with Manitoba landowners to maintain and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. It offers a variety of programs focused on those goals, including Conservation Agreements designed to provide long-term protection of natural habitats.

Raised on a livestock farm south of Portage, Murray today calls Treherne home. She is a professional agrologist with a plant science degree from Brandon University.

Her previous work includes assessing agricultural field trials and crop appraisals and work as a mixed grass prairie biologist conducting grassland inventories and pasture management projects in south-western Manitoba.

She's also no stranger to MHHC and its work—two years ago she was hired by the agency as the coordinator for the Trans Canada Shelterbelt Project between Oakville and St. François-Xavier, which aims to plant 30 kilometres of trees to improve winter driving safety by reducing blowing snow.

Murray will continue with this project while also working with area producers to deliver MHHC's grassland



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Kathy Murray is the new local habitat conservation specialist for the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

and habitat conservation programming.

Among the projects Murray is excited to be spreading the word about is MHHC's Grassland Stewardship Agreements. These agreements provide cattle producers with up to \$13,000 per quarter section or \$50,000 per landowner.

"Those are 10-year agreements based on grazing infrastructure, Murray explains. "So we'll pay for fences or solar watering systems, things like that ... to keep pastures under grazing management versus being considered for cultivation."

Murray notes she'll be busy reaching out to area producers who perhaps haven't heard about MHHC or don't know much about their programming. She's passionate about promoting habitat conservation.

"It's about the long-term resilience of our land, environmental goods and services, protecting species at risk and biodiversity," she says.

MHHC's offices in Treherne are located at 208 Railway Ave., beside the bowling alley. Murray can also be reached at 204-871-1569, via email to KMurray@mhhc.mb.ca.

"IT'S ABOUT THE LONG-TERM RESILIENCE OF OUR LAND, ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS AND SERVICES, PROTECTING SPECIES AT RISK AND BIODIVERSITY."



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OF MANITOBA

Morden's Katia Peters shoots for the skies

By Lorne Stelmach

It may have seemed predestined for Katia Peters to end up flying in her life and for a living.

Now that her career path is taking flight with a commercial licence, the daughter of a Morden pilot fondly remembered by many people feels her father would be proud of what she's accomplished.

"Being the best in our field was what he wanted us to do," Peters said recently during Women of Aviation Week, an event where aviation enthusiasts across the globe celebrate the 113th anniversary of the world's first female pilot licence and encourage more women to get into the field.

Having recently graduated from the highly regarded aviation program at the University of North Dakota (UND), where Peters now serves as a flight instructor, she thinks often of her father Jim Peters, who operated Mountain City Aviation in Morden until he died in a crash last year.

She very much grew up around aviation and flying, but it wasn't necessarily something she at first saw herself taking up.

"I definitely remember as a kid my dad encouraged me and all of my siblings ... not just to get at least a private pilot's licence, he wanted us to be involved in aviation at least a little bit and do it for fun.

"I remember being the kid who went no, dad, I'm not going to do it," she recalled. "And now, I'm the kid who is actually pursuing it as a career, so I thought that is kind of ironic.

"He always encouraged us to at least hang out at the flight school ... and he always even recruited us just to be summer workers," said Peters, who then recalled one summer going through a bunch of flying magazines and seeing photos of a HondaJet that got her attention.

"I thought that would be kind of cool to fly one of these," she said. "So it was then maybe I will go into aviation."

Peters then discovered that UND was known for having a top aviation school, so it seemed like a perfect opportunity.

"It was kind of a no-brainer. Even though it's in the States, it was only a few hours away from Morden, so I could easily come home to visit or my family could come to see me."

It quickly became a passion for her, and she often thinks of her father now



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Katia Peters, shown above with her late father and fellow pilot Jim Peters, recently completed her aviation training at the University of North Dakota, where she now works as a flight instructor.

as she takes to the skies.

"My dad drew me to flying, so it makes me feel connected to him," said Peters. "I also just thought it's something different ... it's liberating just to be able to go up in the air and have that skill that I have now, and I can take people up. I love going for flights with my friends.

"I love showing that it's really not that difficult ... that anybody can be a pilot, and I just love sharing that with other people.

"Also travelling is another thing that I really want to do," added Peters, who now has a number of career options ahead of her, including flying for an airline or another corporate company. For now, she's enjoying be-

ing a flight instructor.

"Typically before you go to an airline, you need about 1,500 hours. But UND, since it is such an accredited program, they'll make us have about a thousand hours," she noted. "Once I get about 2,000 hours, that's when I can be looking at airlines or some sort of corporate job."

Peters didn't necessarily encounter a lot of barriers to getting into the industry, but she did observe that she was clearly in the minority as a woman.

"There's definitely challenges ... there definitely is a bit more of a focus for women," she suggested. "When I started at UND, the percentage of women who were involved in avi-

ation program was maybe five per cent, and now it's up to about 13 per cent.

"There are some struggles. It's a balance between am I being hired by this company because of my skill or is it because I am a woman and they need more diversity," she observed. "We want it to be because we're skilled."

Peters would encourage any girl or woman with an interest to give aviation consideration.

"I know the cost always is something that might turn people away ... but if you can, I would recommend to anyone who has even the slightest interest to go for it."



> GRAINFOX, FROM PG. 19

data trends, data events, news articles, financial data and more" said Surendrakumar.

"It's the algorithm that's really doing the heavy lifting here. It finds patterns, correlations and causality relationships between all of these types of information and marries them to the farm's operational constraints."

Surendrakumar said they are always striving to make their algorithms better.

He said they're always asking, "what are some some of the ways in which we can understand the user better, understand the user's farm operations better, and then integrate

that into the algorithms and the decision-making?"

Pham said they often get asked about data privacy and security, and clarified that they do not sell or solicit individual client data.

"We know that clients are inputting that data to get the most out of the tools in GrainFox, and we know they're entrusting us with protecting it," said Pham.

"GrainFox clients own their data. The farm data information that is inputted is really for the benefit of the client. The more specific the information, the deeper the personalization."

GrainFox (formerly FarmLink)

acquired DePutter Publishing in 2022. Lepp said they were excited to bring together two of the leading brands in Canada that provide farmers grain marketing strategies. GrainFox features analysis from two in-house teams that work together: FarmLink and DePutter Publishing.

"Those two different strategies are fed into GrainFox and pushed out to our clients, making it a really efficient channel for real-time information gathering," said Lepp.

GrainFox is currently only available to Canadian growers, but they have plans to expand to the U.S. in the near future.

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

Staffing agency for Ukrainian refugees reaching out to Manitoba employers

By Lorne Stelmach

A company that specializes in matching Ukrainian workers with suitable employers in Manitoba is reaching out further across the province and is hoping to make inroads into the Morden-Winkler area.

Myrowich Staffing Agency grew out of the needs of Mark Myrowich, a Canadian entrepreneur with Ukrainian roots who was facing serious worker shortages at his manufacturing plant in rural Manitoba.

He started to establish connections with Ukrainian newcomers online and offering them jobs, and the idea took off from there.

"There is a talent shortage in Canada and a talent surplus coming from Ukraine. I cracked the code and figured out how to connect the two for the benefit of all," said Myrowich.

"We find skilled relevant candidates, and we try to understand the needs of the business and try to match the two," said Andrii Podyma, marketing coordinator for Myrowich Staffing Agency. "We launched a marketing campaign across all of Manitoba. We work a lot of companies both in

Winnipeg and in rural areas, and we match the two."

Myrowich came to see the opportunity with the Canadian government having brought in measures to admit thousands of Ukrainians to Canada under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel Program.

The opportunity for Ukrainians to obtain a three-year open work permit through the program was the perfect opportunity to match need with helping Ukrainians in Canada.

With 25 successful placements in his two factories, Myrowich learned the talents, knowledge, skills and experience of some of the Ukrainians he hired far exceeded the requirements of the jobs.

After a few conversations with some of his key hires, Myrowich Staffing Agency was born from this need to get people into the right seats with the right companies. Now, with a team of 12 Ukrainians, most of whom are fluent in several languages, he has created an online tool to connect incoming Ukrainians with local businesses.

He even came up with an idea on how to break the language barrier: the Myrowich crews are vetted and similar skilled candidates grouped together for rapid deployment to a target company. They match the synergy of such a group in accordance with the job requirements and duties while making sure there is at least one skilled crew member who speaks fluent English and is able to lead the crew and communicate both with an employer and other members.

Podyma said they recognize that there is a real need for more intensive



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Myrowich Staffing Agency founder Mark Myrowich (left) with Artem Zhovtovskiy, who is now working at ECB Verdoyl in Riverton.

support and assistance.

"He knew at that time about the hardships of a business owner like himself to find reliable people for his business in a rural area specifically."

And there is especially interest among many clients to settle in the country, Podyma noted.

"Moving to rural Manitoba is more beneficial for Ukrainians," he suggested. "I've talked to lots of Ukrainians here, and most of them are willing to stay and learn the language and settle in the communities."

"I can say from my experience ... I lived in Gimli for some time ... it was great living there in rural Manitoba. We got lots of help from people, help from the community."

A couple of Myrowich's employees at ECB Verdoyl (Erosion Control Blankets) in Riverton spoke highly of what it has meant to them.

"Having worked for his company for more than seven months now, I can say that he's a great boss and a kind-hearted person," said Artem Zhovtovskiy. "I'm very thankful to Mark for giving me a permanent job and helping me along my way of settling in Canada."

"We moved and stayed in the small rural town of Gimli, which is a nice and quiet place with extremely powerful help from the local community," said Roman Okhrym. "I thank Mark as well as local volunteers and the community for helping us settle in the area and giving us a permanent job."

"Without the language and understanding of how to properly create a resume, I reached out to Myrowich Staffing Agency to help me," said Iryna Kliushnyk, who works at Best Care Dry Cleaners in Winnipeg. "Within less than a week, together with another girl from Ukraine, we were invited for an interview at Best Care Dry

Cleaners, and we got the job. We are very thankful to Myrowich Staffing and their recruiters for continuous help in finding a good job."

Her co-worker Liudmyla Mysnyk echoed that sentiment.

"They were very helpful, and now I have a full-time job and am very thankful for an opportunity to stay and work in Manitoba."

Other work placements across southern Manitoba have ranged from Sisson Farms in Portage, Red River Forage in Morris, and Treherne Collision and Glass to Haskett Growers in Rathwell, Pilot Mound Hockey Academy, and Philgo Farms in St. Claude.

Myrowich recalled his own family's story as inspiration.

"I remember the stories my grandparents told me about the challenges they experienced settling in Canada just after World War I. They told me how tough it was, not knowing the language, not knowing the culture of the place, but knowing that they had a new life ahead of them for their children," he said.

"They got a little piece of land, started a farm and that's where my father was born. I was born on that same farm. And now, with this new generation of Ukrainians that are coming to Canada, I want to pay it forward, for the help that my grandparents got, to this generation."

"I can see more and more opportunities coming from rural areas, particularly from the western area," said Podyma. "I believe there's potential for much, much more."

"You get a feeling of fulfillment. You're helping people and also helping address the staffing problems of companies in Manitoba, so it's kind of a win-win situation."

For more information, head to hireukrainian.ca.

"WE FIND SKILLED RELEVANT CANDIDATES AND WE TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF THE BUSINESS AND TRY TO MATCH THE TWO."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Liudmyla Mysnyk got a job with a dry cleaner in Winnipeg with the help of the Myrowich Staffing Agency.

sports & recreation

Hawks must win game three to continue

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Hawks are on the brink of elimination from the Manitoba male U18 playoffs this week.

The third ranked Hawks are down two games to the second place Winnipeg Bruins after suffering a pair of shutout losses this past weekend.

Game one Friday in Winnipeg saw the Bruins earn a 4-0 victory. Game two in Morden Sunday afternoon went even worse for the Hawks as they were blanked 7-0.

The Bruins went two for four on the powerplay in the series opener as they took period leads of 2-0 and 3-0 on Pembina Valley before putting it away with an empty-net goal. Raiden LeGall made 43 saves in goal for the Hawks, who were outshot 47-27.

Things fell apart for Pembina Valley in the second period of game two when Winnipeg expanded on a 1-0 lead with five more goals, and the Hawks failed to capitalize on seven powerplay opportunities.

Dimitri Fortin got his second straight shutout on 38 saves. LeGall stopped 31 of 37 shots through two periods and then Bryson Yaschyshyn allowed one goal on eight shots in the third.

Pembina Valley will try to keep their playoff hopes alive Friday in Winnipeg. If the series is extended, game four will be in Morden Sunday and game five in Winnipeg Tuesday.

In the other semi-final, the first place Brandon Wheat Kings and fourth ranked Winnipeg Wild came into the week even at a game apiece.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Pembina Hawks are in a do-or-die situation this week after losing games one and two of their playoff series against the Winnipeg Bruins. Game two in Morden Sunday was a 7-0 rout for the Bruins.



Morden Bombers take games one and two

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Bombers are narrowing in on the SEMHL title.

Morden downed Ste. Anne by a wide margin in the first two games of the league's final playoff round.

Playing at home Friday night, the

Bombers took game one 4-1.

Mike Rey opened scoring with two goals in the first period. Tyler Peers made it 3-0 early in the third and then Jory Mullin put in the final nail in the third. Ste. Anne managed their lone goal midway through the second.

Reed Peters stood tall in net for Mor-

den with 40 saves off 41 shots on goal. His teammates fired back 43.

Sunday's game saw Morden score four goals once again, but this time they kept Ste. Anne off the scoreboard entirely.

Contributing to the tally was Jay Fehr, Keane Boucher, Adam Hughes-

man, and Peers with an empty-netter in the game's final minutes.

Peters made 35 saves for a shutout in goal as Morden outshot Ste. Anne 56-35.

Game three is Wednesday night in Morden. Game four is in Ste. Anne Friday.

Flyers post two losses as season winds down

By Ashleigh Viveiros

As the clock ticks down on the regular season, the Winkler Flyers found themselves on the losing end of two games this past week.

On March 8 in Portage, the Flyers fell to the first-place Portage Terriers 3-2.

After a scoreless opening frame, the Terriers drew first blood at 2:56, only to lose that lead 17 seconds later when Zach Nicolas scored for Winkler.

Nicolas then pulled the Flyers into the lead 2-1 in the 11th minute; Portage managed to tie things up before the second intermission.

The tie held until eight minutes into the third when the Terriers got what ended up being the final goal of the night.

Portage just barely outshot Winkler 27-25. Malachi Klassen made 24 saves

in net for the Flyers.

The Neepawa Titans then handed the Flyers their second loss of the week Saturday in Winkler.

Nicolas scored the home team's lone goal of the night in the final minute of the otherwise scoreless first period. The Titans tied it up in the second and then scored two more in the third to take the game 3-1.

Aidan Comeau was in net for Winkler this game. He made 28 saves off of 31 shots. His teammates had 41 shots on goal.

With that, Winkler's record sits at 33-15-6-1 for 73 points, which is good for third place in the MGEU East Division behind the Portage Terriers in first (87 points) and the Steinbach Pistons in second (81 points). In fourth place are the Niverville Nighthawks (52 points). The top four teams in the division have all earned playoff



FACEBOOK.COM/WINKLERFLYERS

The 1997-1998 MJHL championship Winkler Flyers team were back in town Saturday to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their win with an alumni game.

berths.

The Flyers play two of their final three games at home, hosting Steinbach this Wednesday and Dauphin on Saturday. They then travel to Niverville on Sunday to close out the season ahead of the playoffs.

As they prepared to embark on their own playoff run, the Flyers last week-

end took some time to acknowledge the success of a past roster.

Saturday afternoon saw the 1997-1998 championship-winning Flyers team return home for a 25th anniversary alumni game that pit them against other Flyers alumni in a friendly exhibition match.

Zone 4 hockey league hands out season-end awards

By Voice staff

As the Morden Thunder and the Portage Collegiate Trojans battle it out to see who will be the Zone 4 High School Hockey League champs, the regular season's award winners have been announced.

Tanner Anderson of the Pembina Tigers was named the Heavy Metal Designs Most Valuable Player. The Tigers' team captain is their leading goal scorer and current points leader. He had four hat tricks in five games in the regular season.

Receiving the Lew Mueller Defenceman of the Year Award is Portage's Maddox Shindle. Shindle is both the highest point producing defenceman in the league as well as the primary penalty killer and shut down defenceman for his team.

The Top Goaltender Award went to Logan Mazinke of the Morris Mavericks for his .941 save percentage (among the best in the league). He's allowed just 31 goals in 15 games, which at 2.01 GAA puts him at fourth best in the league.

The Lloyd C. Orchard Most Sportsmanlike Player Award winner is Ethan Wilde of the Carman Cougars. Wilde was lauded as a hard workers

and a positive mentor for younger players.

Taking home the Top Scorer Award is Portage's JJ Oke, who finished the regular season with 37 goals and 23 assists for a total of 60 points in 23 games.

The Morris Mavericks were named the Top Defensive Team for having the least goals scored against them in the regular season.

The Morden Thunder received the Charlie Maykut Fair Play Award for accumulating the least penalty minutes.

Official of the Year is Johl Swedlo.

Finally, the Morden Thunder's coaches received the Coaching Staff of the Year honour, as voted on by each member team in the league.

The league also announced its All-Star roster for the game taking place in Altona this Saturday, March 18. The top Zone 4 players will be taking on the Winnipeg Elite.

The Morden Thunder coaching staff will lead a team made up of forwards Alex Van Deynze (PCI), JJ Oke (PCI), Owen Vanrobaeys (Morden), Josh Ryckman-Guilford (Morden), Rylan

Keck (Morris), Awstin Suwala (Morris), Ty Tarnick (WC Miller), Tanner Anderson (Pembina), Brayden Froese (GVC), Ryan Orchard (Carman), Brett Lesage (Mountain), and Noah Bergen (NPC); defencemen Maddox Shindle (PCI), Nick Wiebe (Morden), Noah Maynard (Morris), Xander Dyck (WC Miller), James Young (Pembina), and Hudson Friesen (GVC); and goaltenders Logan Mazinke (Morris) and Rowan Cherkas (PCI)

Puck drops at 3 p.m.

Twisters fall to Hawks, down Riels

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters had mixed results this past weekend as the MMJHL regular season draws to a close.

Pembina Valley fell 7-1 to the Charleswood Hawks Friday but rebounded for a 7-2 victory Sunday over the St. Boniface Riels.

With two games remaining, the Twisters are at 21-16-3-3 for 48 points and are guaranteed to finish at least sixth but with a chance to possibly

edge past Fort Garry Fort Rouge, which had one game left and were at 51 points.

Against third place Charleswood, the Twisters gave up five unanswered second period goals and then a pair of power play markers in the third period. Merek Degraeve scored the lone Pembina Valley goal while Logan Enns made 22 saves as the Hawks outshot Charleswood 29-28.

The Twisters connected for three power play goals and held period

leads of 1-0 and 4-0 against St. Boniface.

Caelen Russell scored twice while Degraeve, Cody Clark, Kyle VanDeynze, Nico Vigier, and Slade Sotheran contributed singles.

Shots on goal were 36-31 for the Twisters, who got a 29 save performance from Enns.

The regular season concludes this weekend with Pembina Valley visiting Transcona Friday and then hosting the Raiders Sunday.

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

Memories of Morden-Winkler hockey days gone by

By Lorne Stelmach

He only spent his growing up years in the Winkler and Morden area, but an Ontario resident still has some fond memories of his time here over a half century ago.

A few of Hal Grunau's recollections revolve around hockey, with a favorite tale involving the former Morden arena back in the day; it offers up a small slice of local history.

Born in Winkler in 1936, Grunau played hockey as a substitute goaltender, and he fondly recalls a time back in 1948 at the old arena that used to be downtown immediately south of Confederation Park.

"I recall, at that time, there was kind of an open rink with open rafters and wooden boards around it ... and I remember as a child I would often look at the horse that was in there in the summertime eating grass," says Grunau, who recalls there was a small building nearby with a makeshift stove where one could warm up.

Grunau recalls he didn't see much ice time as a young player thanks to the skill of the starting goalie at the time.

"I do remember that Ron Leiding was the lead goalie, and I was second ... I don't remember ever actually being in the net though, so I guess that says something about how much Ron was the goalie.

"What I remember is getting into a truck and all of us sitting in the back of a flatbed truck with a couple of benches on each side ... this was in Winkler, and we were going to play a game in Morden.

"I don't remember much else about it except the building itself," continues Grunau. "What I do remember is I somehow got right up there over centre ice [in the rafters], and I guess I just sat there. I remember being there for much of the game."

"I remember I was watching Ron Leiding [play] ... I remember hoping that I could get in. But he was the goalie of choice for Winkler for many, many years.

"What is surprising though is there was nobody that had any interest in me being up there. No one said hey, get off there or anything like that," he notes. "Eventually, I got down again ... people must have noticed me, though but no one said anything about it."

It is among just a few recollections from those days for Grunau, who also recalled one story from Dave Petkau, another player he knew at the time, who had an encounter with the player who came to be known as 'Black' Jack Stewart.

Originally from Pilot Mound, Stewart went on to play in 12 NHL seasons for the Detroit Red Wings and Chicago Black Hawks. He won two



The old Morden arena downtown, circa the mid-20th century. Right: Ron Leiding, who was a top Winkler goalie for many years.

Stanley Cup championships with the Red Wings and was named to the post-season all-star team on five occasions.

Back at the time, though, Stewart had been checked hard by Petkau, recalls Grunau.

"And Black Jack said something like, 'You do that once more and you're going to wind up in those rafters.'"

All in all, it obviously was different times, says Grunau, who also recalled a story from Petkau that they "actually went to a hockey game once somewhere in a sleigh ... to play in this other town.



"I definitely have good memories from my time there."

Zodiacs bring home banner



FACEBOOK.COM/GVCZODIACS

The Garden Valley Collegiate junior varsity girls team brought home the banner from the provincial championships held in Winnipeg last weekend. The Zodiacs kicked the weekend off with a 72-39 win over the Linden Christian Wings. They went on to beat the St. James Jimmies 59-44 and then defeated the Lorette Scorpions 40-30 in the final. Receiving individual accolades for their skills on the court was Mekdes Wall, provincial tournament all-star, and Maria Bergen, who was named tournament MVP.

The Funnies

PLANET GARRY By: Harrison Doll
Inspired By: Bill Watterson
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PUBLIC NOITCE

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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:

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY BY-LAW 3-23
Being an AMENDMENT to the R.M. OF STANLEY
ZONING BY-LAW 8-18, AS AMENDED.

HEARING

R.M. of Stanley
Council Chambers

LOCATION:

1-23111 PTH 14, SW 7-3-4W

DATE & TIME:

March 30, 2023 at 10:05 a.m.

GENERAL INTENT:

To amend Appendix 1 Use Table within Zoning By-law 8-18 to allow for the use of "School" as a conditional use in the Stanley Corridor Zone

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa Groening,
Planning and Development Officer
Rural Municipality of Stanley
1-23111 PTH 14, Stanley MB R6P 0B1
Phone: (204) 325-4101
Email: mgroening@rmofstanley.ca

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from, upon request.



CAREERS



MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

Bunge Altona has an opening for a Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright. Work involves process equipment installation, maintenance and repair, lubrication, steel fabrication and welding.

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible.

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Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

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UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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:

THE TOWN OF ALTONA ZONING BY-LAW 1810/2023
Being an AMENDMENT to the TOWN OF ALTONA
ZONING BY-LAW 1792/2021, AS AMENDED

HEARING: ALTONA CIVIC OFFICE
LOCATION: 111 CENTRE AVENUE EAST, ALTONA, MB

DATE & TIME: March 28th, 2023
at 6:00 PM

GENERAL INTENT: To add greenhouse/garden centres as a conditional use in the "INDUSTRIAL GENERAL" Zone, to add large free-standing signs in "COMMERICAL NEIGHBORHOOD" Zones and to include requirements when "INDUSTRIAL" & "COMMERICAL" Zones are abutting residential zones.

AREA: TOWN OF ALTONA

FOR INFORMATION

CONTACT: Susan Stein, General Manager
RPGA PLANNING DISTRICT
Box 270, Altona MB R0G 0B0
Phone: (204) 324-5357 manager@rpgamb.ca

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from, upon request.

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CAREERS

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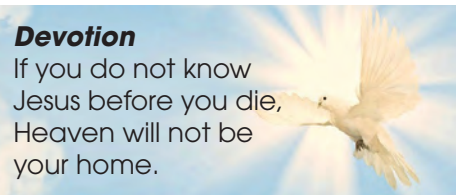
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Sudoku Answer

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

take a break > GAME

SUDOKU

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

Level: intermediate

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We are looking for someone who is both motivated and passionate about being the best outlet of interesting and breaking news stories and event coverage in the Carman-Dufferin area and surrounding area communities.

Qualifications:

- A post-secondary degree/diploma in journalism or equivalent experience in a related field
- Strong photography and writing skills with an interest in social media
- Self-starter with the ability to exercise solid news judgement
- Ability to establish professional relationships to consistently source and write a wide range of stories and cover events in a fair, balanced and accurate manner
- Able to work both independently and as a team on a flexible work schedule including both evenings and weekends to meet our weekly editorial deadline
- Experience covering council and school board meetings
- Knowledge of CP Style and about the Interlake and its surrounding communities would be an asset

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to:
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Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca

The Carman-Dufferin
STANDARD

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM
Linda Mary Alberta Butler
March 13, 2018

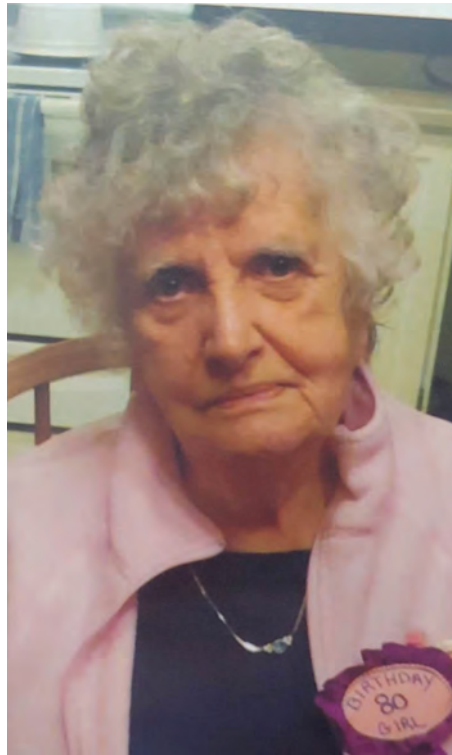


In Loving Memory
Of my wife, Linda
Who left us March 13, 2018

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day;
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.
Across the distance that separates us,
We whisper your name in the wind.
God Bless You Treasure.
We love you and miss you.

-Claire, Rob, Jay, Kim,
Emma, Luke, Jacqui and Bob.
Forever in our hearts.
I love you, Moe

IN MEMORIAM



Lydia Neufeld
February 6, 1933 – March 15, 2022

Mom,
It's been a year since you joined Dad in
heaven,
And our family is forever changed.
We love you beyond words,
And miss you beyond measure.

-Your family
XOXO

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OBITUARY

Ruth Susanne Letkeman
(nee Giesbrecht)
1944 – 2023



Ruth Letkeman passed away peacefully on Monday, March 6, 2023 at Boundary Trails Health Centre with her children by her side. She was born February 8, 1944, making her 79 years and 28 days old. We cherish the last birthday party we had with her and what a sweet and kind person she was.

She is survived by her children: Bob (Eva) and their children, Daphne (Mac) and Jason; Kathy (Don) Fehr and their children, Nicole (Dan) and their sons, Orrin and Ezra, Justin (Brittany) and their son, Smith, Colin (Danika); Karen (John) Hildebrand and their children, Travis (Stella) and their children, Logan and Chloe,

Jeremy (Janelle) and Krista; Rick (Tina) and their son, Ashton; Ruth (Jake) Neufeld and their children, Zac and Nic as well as her sisters, Norma and Erma and their husbands and many nieces and nephews whom she called friends.

Ruth was predeceased by her husband, John C. Letkeman on December 25, 1998; her sister, Darlene and husband, Jake; her parents, Dave and Helen Giesbrecht; parents-in-law, Cornelius and Maria Letkeman and her brothers and sisters-in-law on the Letkeman side.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at the Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church with interment prior at the Reinfeld Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Ruth's memory to the Sommerfeld Church.

Special thank you from the family to everyone for all your prayers and support. Thank you to the wonderful staff at The Villages at the Buhler Active Living Centre, Boundary Trails Health Centre, Dr. B. Kroeker and Wiebe Funeral Home.

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In care of arrangements
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Deadline for submissions is April 4th, 2023

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OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

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 04-2023
Being an **AMENDMENT** to the **CITY OF MORDEN ZONING BY-LAW 08-2017**

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

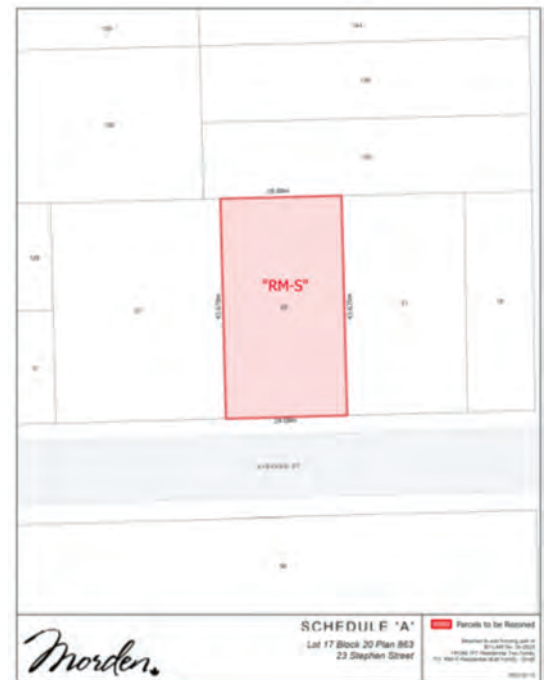
DATE & TIME: March 27, 2023
7:00 pm

From : "RT" Residential Two Family
To: "RM-S" Residential Multiple Family – Small to construct a 6 Plex apartment building

AREA: 23 Stephen Street
Lots 17 Block 20 Plan 863
863 MLTO
Morden, MB

As shown outlined in red lines on the map attached hereto as 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 office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

Announcements Classifieds The Winkler Morden *Voice*

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OBITUARY



**Nettie Janzen
(nee Derksen)
1935 - 2023**

It is with broken hearts that we announce the passing of our dear mom, grandma and great-grandma, Nettie Janzen, at the age of 88. It gives us peace knowing she was reunited with her beloved husband, Menno and son, Doug in Heaven on the evening of Saturday, March 4, 2023.

Mom will be deeply missed by her children, Gary Janzen and his wife, Michelle, Randy Janzen, Darryl Janzen and his wife, Alexandria, daughter-in-law, Connie Reimer and 12 grandchildren: Michael Janzen (Sarah), Jordan Janzen (Megan), Austin Janzen (Darien), Shaiya Anderson (Paul), Jamila Wall, Mark Janzen (Sonja),

Katrina Reimer, Chloe Reimer (Lincoln), Joel, Lucas, Seth and Isabella Janzen and one great-grandchild, Olive Janzen. She will also be missed by her in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mom was born in Winkler on January 21, 1935. This 12-pound, dark haired sweetheart grew up as the second youngest of 14 siblings. At age five, her parents, Isaac and Katherina Derksen were able to buy their own homestead in Neuenberg. Mom worked hard in the garden and learned the ways of homemaking from her mom and older sisters. Mom was very close with her siblings, spending good times together as families and leaning on each other for support during the hard times. In May of 1953 at age 18, Mom was baptized upon confession of her faith. A few years later Mom met Dad while working at Janzen's Red & White and were married on June 14, 1959. These two were hardly apart for their 63 years of marriage. Through thick and thin they stuck by each other and supported each other in everything. Their marriage has been an inspiration to all of us. Five years into their marriage they started their family together, which would eventually expand to four sons. As you can imagine her boys kept her busy, but she still made time for others. She helped in the church and volunteered in the community. Mom served as a Sunday School teacher, in the choir and in the Ladies Fellowship. She was also involved in the store until her and Dad went into ministry. She supported Dad in his pastoral duties which she thrived at. She was compassionate and selfless and everyone loved her. It was evident throughout her life that her faith was important to her and God was her strength. Mom loved to garden. They lived in town, but she still managed to have a big garden and do lots of canning and preserving, right up until the summer that they moved. If Mom wasn't in the garden, you would find her in the kitchen. She was known for her buns, pickles and paska. But every meal, whether for a gathering or not, she went above and beyond. And she would always be the last one to eat making sure everyone else had more than enough. Mom's pastimes since moving to the condo included reading, puzzling, watching sports with Dad and hours and hours of coloring! Mom always put family and friends' needs before herself and was never one to complain. She had the biggest heart. Her favorite thing in the world was being a Grandma. She loved babysitting and taking care of them. Whenever possible she would attend their Christmas concerts and sporting events. The time she spent with her grandchildren was very special to her and she just couldn't get enough of them! Thank you, Mom, for your amazing example to all of us and for all the love and time you poured into each of our lives.

Funeral service was held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 12, 2023 at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church with interment at the Winkler Cemetery.

Special thanks to all the care workers at Silver Lining who showed so much compassion and love for our Mom. You made us all feel welcome and at home.

Donations may be made in Nettie's memory to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba and Diabetes Canada.

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



OBITUARY



**Jean Leona Ching
(nee McDonald)
1932 - 2023**

Jean passed away on Wednesday March 8, 2023 at the Pembina Manitou Health Centre at the age of 90.

Jean was the second daughter of Don and Elva McDonald of Darlingford. Growing up she enjoyed sports such as baseball and curling. On April 10, 1954 she married Murray Ching and they lived on the Ching family farm South of Darlingford. In November of 2022 Alzheimer's disease made it necessary for her to move to the Care Home in Manitou. Murray and Jean raised four children on the farm. Jean was active in all aspects of the farm life, spending many hours talking to the horses, cattle, chickens, pigs, geese and turkeys. She assisted in seeding and harvesting while maintaining a home and their beautiful yard. Jean loved to garden and took great pride in her yard. The outdoors was Jean's favourite place to be, joining or spearheading snowmobiling, birdwatching, fishing, picnicking, and going for drives, always keeping an eye out for wildlife.

Jean will be remembered forever by: Terry (Larry) Klein, Pam Maxwell, Hal (Karen) Ching, Mark (Cathy) Ching; grandchildren, Amanda Leland (Craig), Adam Klein (Kristy), Angela Coreau (Brent), Megan Maxwell Titizian (Raffi), Jennifer Ching Faux (Curtis), Eric Ching (Tiffany); great-grandchildren, Cole and Carter Lelond, Christian and Natalia Coreau, Fortune and Maxwell Aknin, MacKenzie, Kiera and Hailey Klein, Kip and Sienna Faux, Payton, Paisley and Remington Ching; as well as sisters, Anne McDonald, Bernice Morin, Heather (Len) McKenzie; sister-in-law, Evelyn Ching; brother-in-law, Ron Schultz and many nieces and nephews.

Jean was predeceased by her husband, Murray; parents, Don and Elva; brother, Jake; sister and brothers-in-law, Ruth and Bill Nichol, Helen and Orville Johnston; son-in-law, Bill Lone; brother and sisters-in-law, Harry and Isobel Ching, Frances Schultz, Marge and Lawrence Lumley, Morley McDonald, Norman Morin.

A Memorial Service was held Monday, March 13, 2023 at Wiebe Funeral Chapel. Interment will be held at the Darlingford Cemetery at a later date.

If friends so desire donations in Jean's memory may be made to either the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba 120 Donald St. Winnipeg, MB R3C 4G2 or the Darlingford Memorial Park Box 46 RR #1 Darlingford, MB R0G 0L0.

We, the family would like to express our heartfelt thank you to Lavenia for making it possible for Mom to stay in her home for the two additional years, Pembina Manitou Care Home for their care and support, Rev. Carrie Martens and Wiebe Funeral Home for guiding us through this difficult time. Our deepest gratitude to friends and family for their love, support and kind words.

-Terry, Pam, Hal, Mark and families

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



OBITUARY



**Kalvin James Warkentin
1962 - 2023**

With great sadness we announce the recent and sudden passing of Calvin Warkentin on Friday February 24 2023. A beloved father, grandfather, son, brother and uncle.

He was loved and is remembered by his two children, Dustin (Shannon) and Abby (Brent), one granddaughter, Zoey, mother, Ella, two sisters, Barb and Val (Jeff) and one sister-in law, Cheryl.

He was predeceased by his father, Lawrence, brother, Wayne and brother-in-law, Rick Wiebe.

A private memorial has taken place.

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In care of arrangements
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The news of an unexpected pregnancy can be overwhelming, impacting many aspects of a person's life.

That's where the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre (PVPCC) can help. Their team is committed to offering safe, non-judgmental, compassionate care for many aspects of pregnancy.

The faith-based organization began in 1987 by three visionary people who wanted to provide a place of safety and support for anyone experiencing an unexpected pregnancy, and all the challenges that go with it.

Since then, their staff and volunteers, working under the direction of a volunteer board, have assisted thousands of women, men, couples, students, and families in this journey.

There are three centres across the region, Altona, Winkler and Morden, offering one-on-one supports, group programming, and prenatal learning sessions.

Linda Marek has been the director since 2006. She says while a lot has changed with culture, technology, and attitudes towards pregnancy since the PVPCC was established, their focus remains.

"We support women facing an unexpected pregnancy so that she can make an informed decision, free from pressure, that is in line with her values."

The PVPCC provides care for anyone impacted by pregnancy—whether you need a pregnancy test to find out, are unsure of your options, are being pressured to make a decision, or are struggling with the reality of two little pink lines. Services are free and confidential, and clients can stay connected as long as they need.

"Everyone will have a reason why they want you to make a certain choice, and making life changing decisions under pressure never goes well," Marek says. "Take your time, ask questions, understand the facts, and get the support



Executive director Linda Marek says a lot has changed in the world since PVPCC started in 1987, but their commitment to providing support and understanding to women and couples experiencing unplanned pregnancy remains the same as always.

you need for these significant moments." "We have seen joy, healing, despair, regret, hope and so much more. Having someone walk with you on this unexpected journey is so important, inspiring even—someone believes in and cares for you, answers all your questions, gives a new perspective and loves you unconditionally."

Their resources fulfill an important need in the community, she adds, noting that the Altona & District Chamber of Commerce has been welcoming and supportive.

"The Chamber has been helpful in sharing about the centre, the new mall location, and connecting with the community.

"Our hope is to not only be a support for women, but also an organization in the community where we can contribute, collaborate, or bring a new perspective."

For more information on PVPCC's programs and services, head to www.pvpcc.com. If you need support, connect with the care team at 204-304-6757.

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