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# The *Altona Rhineland • Morris* *Voice*

THURSDAY,  
MARCH 21, 2024

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LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY



**NEW ALTONA  
LOCATION**



After years of dreaming and planning, the community of Rosenort cut the ribbon on the new Small Town Kids Daycare Centre last week. For the full story, see Pg. 12.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

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# Altona chamber reflects on a year of growth and engagement

By Lori Penner

The Altona & District Chamber of Commerce looked back on the progress and challenges of 2023 at its annual meeting last week.

President Cal Smith said in terms of growth, last year was a success for the organization.

"Through our partnership with SEED, we really gained some traction on our plans. We refocused on a more connected business community, making sure we can provide the best value for all our members."

There are currently about 200 members benefitting from chamber programs. Smith said networking with them was a big focus last year.

"There have been numerous discussions with the new and current businesses and the services both the Chamber and SEED can offer to help them navigate the challenges of starting their business. This dialogue has led to many new Chamber members we worked with throughout the entire business cycle, so it's been a fantastic continuation of our plan between those two."

He emphasized the importance of engagement within the business com-

munity.

"Talking to people, face to face. Being able to solve problems together. We held several Lunch and Learn and network events last year. They were all very well attended with lots of good dialogue, and many new connections being made."

Local growth has seen several new business starts, as well as new ownership of existing businesses.

"Expansion has been good, too. The new industrial park has gained some traction. Things are looking good. But it's not all roses. There are still some challenges." Smith said, pointing to the rising cost of doing business, including the increase in minimum wage. "There are rising interest rates and new financing coming up next year. Staffing has also always been an issue over the last year. As the community grows, we need more staff, and as they come in, where are they going to live?"

Smith says he's confident that the local business community is strong enough to meet these challenges.

"Being able to pivot and adapt to change is nothing new for us. Our entrepreneurs in the town and municipi-



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

SEED CAO Stephanie Harris, Altona & District Chamber of Commerce president Cal Smith, and the chamber's events coordinator Chloe Driedger at the chamber's annual meeting last week.

pality will work together and we're here to help them out."

Meanwhile, existing programs are still gaining traction.

"Our Chamber Bucks program is still going strong. It keeps the funds in town, making sure that the money is spent here. Roughly \$150,000 in Chamber Bucks were sold over the past year. And promotions such as Burger Week brought in thousands of dollars to our retail and hospitality sectors."

Supporting Entrepreneurs through Economic Development (SEED) CAO Stephanie Harris hailed 2023 as a fantastic year.

"We saw a growth in new business,

we saw a growth in new membership, and we've been doing events and promotions every single month. We've been super busy."

Harris noted that there were also meetings with over 80 new and existing entrepreneurs over the last year.

"Those meetings have resulted in 36 new opportunities created, including new business start ups, business expansions, business grant funding, and hiring employees through the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Program (RNIP)."

RNIP supports economic development within the community and strengthens local businesses' capacity to develop and retain skilled workers.

Since the program launched in 2018, over 130 job offers have been provided, which created a total population increase of approximately 355 people, including spouses and children.

"The federal government announced last week to eventually make the program permanent, based on the success and response and the advocacy that has been taking place," Harris said. "In the interim, the federal

## Wishing you a Blessed Easter

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners,  
***Christ died for us.***

ROMANS 5:8

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### Public Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that the Municipality of Rhineland intends to conduct the following **Pesticide Control Program in 2024**.

- To control noxious weeds on road allowances, boulevards, public drains and golf course within the Municipality of Rhineland. The projected dates of application will be from May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024. *Herbicides to be used may include the following: 2, 4-D, Banvel II, Dyvel DSP, Milestone VM, Par III, Round UP Weather Max, Tordon 22K, Vantage Plus Max II.*
- To control insect pests, including grasshoppers, mosquitoes, etc. The proposed dates of application for this program will be from May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024. *Insecticides to be used may include the following: Aquabac 200G, Decis 5EC, Malathion 85E, Malathion ULF, Pyrate 480EC, Sevin XLR Plus.*
- To control fungus at the golf course. The proposed dates of application for this program will be from May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024. *Fungicides to be used may include the following: Banner Max, Daconil 2787, Trilogy 5C, Vectobac 200G*
- To control rodents. The proposed dates of application for this program will be from May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024. *Chemicals to be used may include the following: Ramik Green, Ratak.*

Any person wishing to make representation in this matter may send written submissions **within 15 days of the publication** of this notice to the following:

Manitoba Sustainable Development  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Pesticides Program  
1007 Century  
Winnipeg MB R3H 0W4

Dated this **21st day of March 2024**  
Michael Rempel, CAO  
Municipality of Rhineland



Continued on  
page 11

# CFDC eager for this summer's dig season

By Lorne Stelmach

The excitement never lessens for an avid fossil hunter like Gerry Peters.

The longtime volunteer and now technician for the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in fact may have almost never been as excited as he was last summer when not one but two new mosasaur fossils were uncovered north of Morden.

"These things have been sitting under the ground just waiting for somebody to come and expose them ... and I've been collecting fossils since 1975, but I always get a big kick out of it," Peters said last week as he looked over pieces of the most recent finds. "Both of them are perhaps the best finds I have ever found for sure. I often find individual bones or maybe a handful from one animal, but to find hundreds of bones from one is special."

The finds were made early last season on the museum's property near what is commonly known as the Mount Nebo and Twin Sisters sites. The CFDC had purchased an excavator which could be used to more quickly clear out the top layer in look-

**"EVERYBODY WHO WAS OUT LAST YEAR FOUND AT LEAST ONE FOSSIL."**

on the discovery. The museum's fossil crew only found maybe a dozen or so of the 300 bones—the rest were found by visitors.

"We dug there basically all summer. Every time we brought a tour out there, they all got down on their hands and knees and started slowly moving stuff away," said Peters. "It's exciting for people to find the fossils. We left a lot of the fun for them. We wanted to do it ourselves, but this was better. It

ing for possible new places to dig.

"I think it was maybe the second or third day out clearing. I had picked a few areas that I thought were likely to have good exposure," recalled Peters. "I was scraping off some of the over-burden, some of the loose shale, from on top very carefully in just thin layers.

"I saw one of the bones just peeked out. It was a different colour than the surrounding shale. So the tractor stops, and you get out with the paint brushes immediately. I could tell there was a few of the vertebrae there, so there was a good chance there would be more."

The early June timing was perfect as it meant the influx of dig tours could be put to work



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The CFDC's Gerry Peters with one of two mosasaur fossils they found last year. They're looking forward to getting back at the dig site this summer.

was an exciting time. Everybody who was out last year found at least one fossil."

While working on that first find, Peters noted he then found traces of yet another mosasaur nearby.

"I actually was digging a little drainage ditch ... I think it was the second scoop of dirt I took out and came upon another little fossil. I could see right away it was a different colour."

The finds have been given the nicknames of Baratheon and Stark, two family names from *Game of Thrones*. The first fossil so far has perhaps 320 bones while the other one is up to about 50.

"Both of them are ongoing digs," Peters said. "This is just what we have found so far."

With the first find, they have found pieces all the way from the neck bone back to the tip of the tail, so it is enough that they can make a good guess at the possible size. Peters estimated both of them probably would have been in the six-metre (20-foot) range in length, much smaller than their most famous mosasaur Bruce (who is 43 feet long), but still significant.

"We have better ones, but these were near the surface for a long time, so they have had to survive a lot of freeze and thaw cycles ... they were breaking up a lot, so we have had repairs to do," said Peters. "They're decent. We have far more pristine fossils, but we also have ones that are way worse."

Continued on page 4

## Supreme Court denies churches' request for appeal

By Voice staff

The Supreme Court of Canada has decided not to hear the appeal of several churches who challenged Manitoba's lockdown restrictions during the pandemic.

Five Manitoba churches, a pastor, and a deacon were seeking a Supreme Court ruling after two lower courts ruled against their assertions that public health orders in 2020 and 2021 closing in-person religious services and restricting outdoor gatherings violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

A Manitoba justice had ruled in 2021 that the restrictions were necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

That decision was then upheld by the Manitoba Court of Appeal last year.

"Our clients are disappointed in the Supreme Court's decision not to hear their appeal," Allison Pejovic, lawyer for the applicants, said in a statement issued by the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms. "Governments urgently needed the Supreme Court of Canada's guidance as to the degree to which they should accommodate Charter rights during a future pandemic or other emergency proclaimed by government. Leaving that issue undecided at the highest level is a grave injustice for all Canadians."

As is its usual practice, the Supreme Court did not explain its decision.

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## > CFDC, FROM PG. 3

"We've got quite a ways to go," he explained. "It's a slow process ... if you don't do it right, you can lose the scientific information."

"You take time; you take a lot of notes. I've got pages and pages of notes and maps. We've plotted where every single bone was found in relation to all of the others ... everything is very meticulously written down."

Peters has had a lot of help in the dig from Will Kalinowski, a recently retired teacher who was helping out with a class last year and then joined the CFDC as a volunteer.

"He did almost all of the opening of the field jackets and cleaning out the fossils," shared Peters.

Peters sees the ongoing work as being a big boost again this year for the upcoming field season.

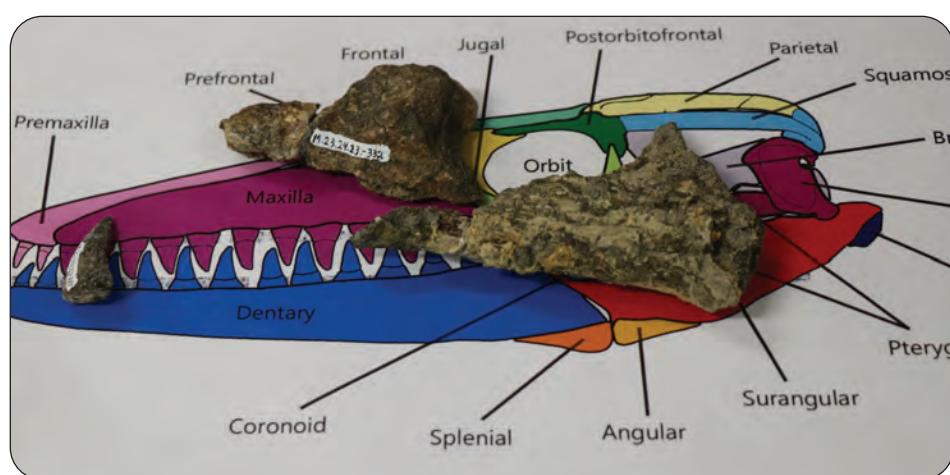
"It's good for the museum. It's good for the fossil centre because we have researchers from the University of Manitoba coming out ... and tourists are coming from far and wide," he noted. "Last summer, we had people from down in Texas and California, from all over the States and from Canada. Actually, we had far more people from far and away than we did from the local area."

"We're already taking bookings. I know by the end of last summer, we were completely booked up, and the space ran out."



**SUPPLIED PHOTO**

With two major fossil finds last summer, basically everyone who took part in a dig tour got to have a hand in discovering a fossil, says the CFDC's Gerry Peters.



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[assiniboine.net/nursing](http://assiniboine.net/nursing)

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# Winkler council puts \$4.5M in surplus funds into reserves

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler city council got the chance to do some welcome financial house-keeping last week.

At its March 12 meeting, council approved the transfer of the 2023 surplus to its reserve funds.

A little over \$3.6 million went into the general reserve fund and just over \$994,000 went into the utility fund.

City manager Jody Penner explained to council where the surplus money came from.

"We had an unexpected amount of income from interest, which was \$1.3 million," he said. "That's because of some delays on our major projects for which we've put funding aside but haven't started."

That includes both the water treatment plant expansion and the new wastewater treatment facility. Both those projects are in tendering phases and are expected to start later this year.

"And then there's \$2.2 million that comes from a change that the province made in 2023," Penner continued. "For quite a number of years, municipalities were frozen as to the funding we got per capita from the province, both for municipal operating and for our police service. In 2023 they decided to try to get us caught up on that funding."

There was also an increase in water sales for the year.

"The reason that water sales were up in 2023 is that we had that drought here the previous year, where we asked our residents to do a fair bit of water conservation, which they did, and that resulted in lower water

sales," Penner explained. Water usage then jumped back up in 2023, resulting in the surplus.

Mayor Henry Siemens noted the City of Winkler is not legally allowed to run a deficit, but a surplus of this size is unusual.

"When we do our budgeting, we're always careful to work towards a small surplus, that three to five per cent range that allows the city to do business and be prepared for unexpected," he said. "And quite often we get maybe a little closer to 10 per cent."

"This number is significant," Siemens said of the over \$4.5 million in excess funds. "It's a very welcome number because in 2016 our grants for policing and operating were frozen [by the Conservative provincial government] and didn't change for seven years."

"During that time, we wanted to continue to operate our community as we did ... we had to use from our own operating funds from our own reserves to be able to do that."

The NDP provincial government that took office last fall has a different approach to municipal support, Siemens noted.

"So now to see the province coming back with an intention to hopefully make us whole and keep us whole, allows us to take these monies, put them back into reserve and allow us to come closer to funding our asset management plan and maybe making some opportunity to not have as significant a [tax] increase in the future because it allows us to get closer to where we need it to be."

"So very welcome news. Terrific numbers. Happy to see it."

# getinformed

## Minnewasta Golf's clubhouse is on track for fall opening

By Lorne Stelmach

Construction of the new clubhouse at the Minnewasta Golf and Country Club is progressing nicely, putting the building on track to open this fall.

After some initial delays with the project, favourable weather over the winter has helped work to keep pace, head pro and general manager Greg Hesom said last week.

"We're moving along now, and I would imagine September or October we will be finished, and it is starting to look beautiful," he said. "It is looking like we have envisioned."

"I think we have to remember it's a big building. It's a very customized building, so it's not cookie cutter ... and we did have some delays right at the beginning of the project. When you start digging, you always find stuff you didn't expect to find underneath, so we had to work around that," Hesom said. "If we get finished by September or October, a 16-month build on a building of this scale in our area is actually a pretty quick build."

A fire destroyed the old restaurant and clubhouse in late 2021. Minnewasta worked with LM Architectural Group of Winnipeg on the design and plans for the new facility being built by Triple E Developments.

There were a couple key elements that became a focus with the design, including capitalizing on the view of the course. There will also be a section of the patio area that will be raised to serve as a stage, as they hope to bring back special events like the Friday Night Lights concerts.

The hope is also to have the restaurant be a year-round facility operated by Santa Lucia. There will also be golf simulators to help attract people in the off-season.

**"IT IS STARTING TO LOOK BEAUTIFUL..."**

The priority early on was to get the roof up and windows in so that the building was sealed to allow the interior work to get started, noted Hesom.

"Lots of the door framing is finished, and electrical is busy, plumbing is busy, and lots of mechanical stuff is already in the basement," he said. "They'll continue to work away at all of that ... you can't see progress from the outside, but you know how much is going on in the inside."

"There's lots of traffic that comes driving by to check it out on a daily basis. I think we'll really get a good sense of the excitement once the golf season starts and we've got people here on a daily basis and visitors coming from outside the city who haven't seen it or haven't looked at it on a daily basis."

Minnewasta was working from a funding base of about \$3 million through insurance coverage, and the fundraising campaign has so far brought in \$1.4 million, including a \$300,000 grant from the province, but Hesom said the final overall price tag is not entirely set in stone.

"It's a bit of a moving target whenever you have a project of this size, but we're where we expected to be," he said, estimating the building itself is around \$5.5 million, but there is then all of the extras including extensive landscaping and patio space as well as all of the furnishings, media components, kitchen, and golf simulator rooms.

"All of that stuff adds up on top of the actual building project," Hesom

Continued on page 7

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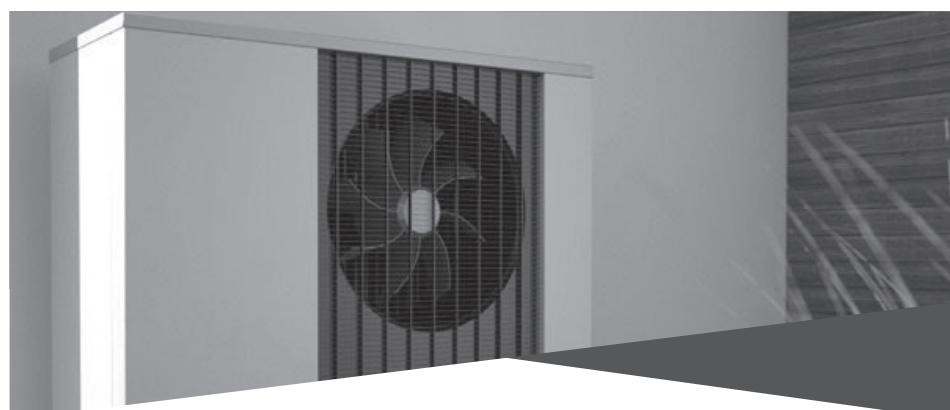
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PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The roof is up and windows have been installed in the new clubhouse at the Morden golf course, allowing workers to spend the rest of the year focusing on getting the interior done in time for a fall opening.



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# get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## The loss of a voice

**S**tarting a business is not for the faint of heart. Many people question if the stress and anxiety related to such an endeavour is even worth it.

But starting a newspaper in the 21st century? I mean, no one starts newspapers anymore. Newspapers are supposed to be shut down by big, impersonal corporate entities after they've been sucked dry of every last possible cent of profit and the staff have been fired without so much as a thank-you. What kind of person would start something like a newspaper?

Well, Rick Reimer did.

Rick passed away March 9 after battling a long illness and since learning of this I have been dwelling on his impact in my life and the lives of people throughout the Pembina Valley and, more broadly, throughout Manitoba.

A long time ago in the impossibly distant past of 2010, in the land of Morden and Winkler, Rick, along with his business partners Lana Meier and Brett Mitchell, started the *Winkler Morden Voice* as part of a new community newspaper initiative in Manitoba that included the *Selkirk Record* and the *Stonewall Teulon Tribune*.

There were MANY who questioned the initiative. There were many who predicted the endeavour would not

last the year. Well, here we are 14 years later and this small group of community newspapers has grown to include the *Express Weekly News*, the *Carman Dufferin Standard*, and the *Altona Rhineland Voice*.

To be frank, the *Voice* was a lifeline to me back when I was going through an incredibly difficult time in my life. It started right in the middle of my "what the heck am I going to do now?" phase and became the critical foundation for rebuilding.

If not for Rick, there would be no *Voice*. If not for Rick, there would have been no editor in Ashleigh Viveiros to take a chance hiring a guy like me as a full-time reporter. A guy who didn't have an article in his portfolio newer than 1996.

I liked Rick. It was hard not to like Rick. You have to understand many journalists do not get along with their publishers. In fact, many have downright hostile relations with their publishers. This is mostly because a lot of publishers are meddlesome and so focused on revenue that they seem to have lost sight of the point of journalism in the first place.

Rick was not like this. If the dictionary had an entry for "Nice Guy" it would be Rick's picture next to it.

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.

He was open, friendly, supportive and had a near permanent enormous smile. He actually cared about people.

Don't get me wrong, Rick was human like the rest of us. He was also a good businessperson. I think part of his success was due to the fact that he was a genuinely likeable guy. He didn't ignore the need to drive sales and create revenue because he understood that without it, the newspaper vanishes. But he kept an appropriate distance from the content.

Without Rick, community journalism in Manitoba would be less. Without him, you would not have had to hear me whine and pontificate for the past 14 years (don't be too hard on him for that).

Rick helped to create opportunities for journalists and journalism in Manitoba. His efforts have contributed to creating and saving careers. He made a difference, and he did it mostly from the background, quietly working to ensure there was a community newspaper that connected people and kept them informed.

You may not have known Rick, but if you've read the *Voice* or any of its family of newspapers he has had an impact on your life.

Rick made a difference. I'm sad that he is gone, but his *Voice* continues.

## Letter policy

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

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

*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](http://www.winklermordenvoice.ca) or [altonavoice.ca](http://www.altonavoice.ca)

## &gt; MINNEWASTA, FROM PG. 5

said. "We'll still be under the \$7 million mark by the end of the day ... we have all of the financing in place for what we don't have from insurance and raised money."

"We'll continue over the next number of years with fundraising as much as we can," he added, emphasizing how much this building will be a benefit to Morden and the surrounding area.

"I think we are building a fantastic asset for the city of Morden ... we are really excited about what this will

do for the community," Hesom said, noting how often the club hosts significant fundraising events. "That's a half million dollars a year flowing straight back into a lot of social needs in the city ... it is coming through the course, and it is a continuous flow of funds, which I think is really important."

## SUPPLIED IMAGE

A concept drawing of what the new Minnewasta Golf & Country Club building will look like when it opens later this year.



## Winkler Family Resource Centre hosting trivia night

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Calling all trivia buffs: the Winkler Family Resource Centre's annual Trivia Night fundraiser is coming up in a few weeks.

The WFRC has put a call out for teams of four to eight people each to square off in their space at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church on Thursday, April 4.

A local quizmaster will be leading the night with questions that will

span the knowledge spectrum, says executive director Chantal Human.

"We're going to do various categories, a little bit of everything," she says, stressing there will be something for just about everyone.

Space is, however, limited.

"We have room for up to 20 teams," Human says, noting last year's registration filled right up.

All proceeds from the evening go to the centre's free early childhood education programs designed to help

pre-schoolers hone their literacy, numeracy, and social skills.

"Our big thing right now is that all of our programs fill up super quick," Human says, explaining they hope to look at expanding their programming in the future, but need the financial support to do so.

The night also serves as a way of reaching out to people who might not otherwise know much about WFRC.

"I keep hearing from people in the community that they didn't know

we exist, so we're putting some effort into getting our name out there, really growing the organization and being able to hopefully provide more programs," Human says.

The night begins at 7 p.m. at 750 15 St. Deadline to register is March 29. You can do so online at [winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com](http://winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com) or via email to [director@winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com](mailto:director@winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com).

## Carman Gun and Hobby Show returns on April 6

By Ty Dilello

The Carman Gun and Hobby Show will return for their 33rd year on Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Carman Hall (60 1st St NW). Admission is \$7 daily, with children 12 and under free.

The organizer for the event is Bruce Reid, who can be contacted at [carmangunshow@gmail.com](mailto:carmangunshow@gmail.com).

"We plan on having the Carman Hall full with 80 tables with some new and interesting stuff for sale," said Reid. "Back for another show, will be food served by Crazy Lady's Cafete-

ria. We are having two draws this year with the prizes supplied by Kel-Lea Outdoors out of Homewood. This show is generating a lot of interest from all over the area as there will be guns, ammo, a gunsmith, and a few knife makers in attendance. Also, one vendor will have info about acquiring your gun license."

The Gun Show has a special charity portion to the event as they raffle off an item and donate 100 per cent of the proceeds to a different charity every year. This year, the proceeds will go to Katie's Cottage.

"It's a very special place to stay near the Boundary Trails hospital," said Reid. "And it's

a place that some of my family stayed at in the past when my wife was a patient there at the hospital."

Continued on page 10

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## Pesticide Control Program

Public Notice is hereby given that the Province of Manitoba intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2024 within the province right of way.

1. To control invasive plants and noxious weeds on Manitoba Provincial right of way.
2. The herbicides include: Dicamba, 2,4-D amine, 2,4-D Choline, 2,4-D Ester, 2,4-D, Mecoprop-p, Dichloroprop-p, Aminopyralid, Metsulfuron-methyl, Diflufenzoxypr, Fluroxypyr, Imazapyr, Triclopyr, Picloram, Aminocyclopyrachlor, Chlorsulfuron, Saflufenacil, Iron (as FeHEDTA), Glyphosate, Clopyralid, Bromacil, Acetic Acid, LI 700, Non Ionic Surfactant, Flumioxazin, Indaziflam, Florpyrauxifen, mineral oil, Methyl Ester & Ethyl Ester.

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

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Blvd  
Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6



## Tories shuffle shadow cabinet

By Voice staff

Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert has some new responsibilities on her plate.

The Manitoba Progressive Conservative Shadow Caucus did some shuffling last week as the spring legislative session got underway.

As a result, Hiebert sees mental health added to her existing portfolio of housing, addictions, and homelessness.

Other changes include Caucus Whip Doyle Piwniuk taking on responsibility for Manitoba Public Insurance and Efficiency Manitoba; Bob Lagassé (Francophone affairs critic) adding sport, culture, heritage and tourism to his du-

ties; Obby Khan (finance and Manitoba public service) getting Manitoba Hydro and the Public Utilities Board; Grant Jackson assuming responsibility for the education and early childhood learning portfolio; and Konrad Narth (Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation critic) adding transportation and infrastructure.

"With the wisdom of our veteran MLAs and the energy of our newly-elected members, we have a strong team bringing new ideas to the table, challenging Wab Kinew's tax-and-spend ideology, and being a voice in the legislature for all Manitobans," said Conservative leader Wayne Ewasko in announcing the changes.

# Taking the plunge

By Lorne Stelmach

Over two dozen participants braved the icy waters of Lake Minnewasta Saturday for the annual Polar Plunge.

The 28 plungers collectively raised close to \$18,000 for Special Olympics Manitoba, and a representative of the organization sang Morden's praises for the strong support.

"It's a great amount of money," said Adell Gauthier, director of fund development with Special Olympics Manitoba. "Morden is our frontrunner at the moment for sure, and that is often the case."

This was the eighth year that people were "freezin' for a reason" in support of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special O.

The Morden plunge has raised close to \$170,000 since its start in 2015. It is one of four such events held throughout Manitoba each year.

Kara-Jean Miller of Portage la Prairie is now a seasoned pro at it, having done the plunge about 20 times. She estimates she's raised more than \$20,000 in donations over the years.

Her motivation is a brother who is a Special Olympian, and she was excited to be coming to Morden for the first time.

"I thought I would come out and come try something a little different and plunge into the lake," she said, calling it a different sensation from the tanks used at other events.

"It's just pretty much a big shock. It's well worth it though," she said. "I also do it because I love seeing how the Special Olympians faces are so happy we're representing them and helping them."

Candace Collins was part of a team of five participants from Access Credit Union.

"We were told it will take our breath away. It will be a shock, but it will be worth it. It will be exhilarating," Collins said shortly before jumping into the lake. "I think it's cool to be able to do it here at the lake for sure."

Access Credit Union is also a provincial sponsor for the Polar Plunge, and they presented a donation of \$7,500 for the cause.

"We're just thrilled to be able to give back to our community, and one of



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Twenty-eight people took part in this year's Polar Plunge in Morden Saturday in support of Special Olympics Manitoba.



The team from Access Credit Union brought along a corporate donation of \$7,500 for the event, which raised nearly \$18,000.



# getinformed

## Sunshine Highway Relic Run scheduled for July 23

By Ty Dilello

A group of local historians in southern Manitoba have recently taken it upon themselves to see what they can learn about the old Sunshine Highway that ran from Brandon to Sioux City, Iowa, in the early 1920s. They've even planned an old car run on the Highway this summer to trace the early Manitoba motorists' routes.

Coincidentally, Mike Webber, a volunteer printer and tour guide at the Crystal City Printing Museum, has researched the Sunshine Highway for several years.

In *Crystal City Courier* newspaper files from 1921, Webber discovered information about the Highway's opening. He has since found the original route maps and the Route handbook, which give information about the towns along the route, as well as their dining, hotel, and "automobile servicing facilities."

This was before the federal government developed long stretches of roads; instead, organizations would scout good local roads that interconnected to form routes that could take you across the country.

The handbook even provides the name of a Highway representative (or ambassador) in each town who would assist tourists if needed. Local civic groups would check the roads, encourage good maintenance from local road departments, and establish official highway signs marking the route.

Sheet metal signs were 18 inches square with a yellow background. In the center was a black letter "S" that was stylized in a circle for Sunshine Highway that motorists were to follow. Signs along the road marked right and left turns with an R above the circled S for right turns and an L above the circled S for left turns.

"WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR SOME OLD CARS THAT WANT TO MAKE THE DRIVE THAT DAY, SO PLEASE GIVE US A SHOUT."



PHOTO BY NANCY HOLMAN)

Dr. Gordon Goldsborough (left), renowned Manitoba historian and author, Alan Melvin (centre) and Mike Webber of the Crystal City Printing Museum look over the route of the original Sunshine Highway from Brandon to the U.S. border south of Crystal City. The men are excited about the Sunshine Highway Relic Run set for this summer on July 23.

S for right turns and an L above the circled S for left turns.

Continued on page 10

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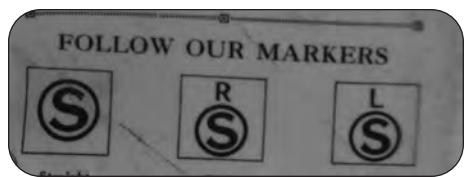
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PHOTOS BY NANCY HOLMAN)

The Sunshine Highway Relic Run takes place across southern Manitoba this summer on July 23.



## > SUNSHINE HIGHWAY, FROM PG. 9

The Sunshine Highway starts right in Brandon and goes south through the Brandon Hills, Wawanesa, Glenboro, Baldur, Glenora, Rock Lake, Crystal City, the U.S./Canada border, Sarles, North Dakota, Devil's Lake, North Dakota, and South Dakota, before ending 700 miles later at Sioux City, Iowa.

The Sunshine Highway was officially opened at a ceremony in Crystal City on July 23, 1921. Mayor Dinsdale of Brandon, plus the mayor of Woonsocket, South Dakota, Mayor Dalton, who was also the President of the Sunshine Highway, accompanied by 75 officials of the Highway, took part in the ceremony at Crystal City.

The Highway's original staff had hoped to extend it through Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas to the Rio Grande, but this never happened.

The Highway was on a stretch where farmers and stockraisers were prosperous. Tourists will find a town every ten miles along the Highway, which is the natural north-south Highway for people wanting to reach the Canadian Northwest or the heart of the Dakotas. It's the ideal Highway to reach the Black Hills or Yellowstone National Park.

A committee of Alan Melvin, Charlie Baldock, Bill Sandercock and Mike Webber, joined by Gordon Goldsborough of the Manitoba Historical Society, plan to re-enact that opening day with a journey of about 110 miles from the U.S. border south of Crystal City to Brandon.

The trip will be called The Sunshine Highway Relic Run, and vehicles built in 1940 and earlier are invited to take part. Like that initial opening-day

journey, the committee is hoping for 30 vehicles to make the trek. Many of the roads will be gravel, not paved highways, so this may limit who will be willing to risk dust and stone damage to their old vehicles.

The committee proposed that the old vehicles stop at museums along the route to break up the driving and give the relic riders a chance to explore some history.

The Sunshine Highway Relic Run is set for July 23 with a rain date of July 24. For more information or to sign up, contact Melvin at 204-529-2104 or akmelvin@gmail.com.

"It's going to be a very exciting day," said Melvin. "We're still looking for some old cars that want to make the drive that day, so please give us a shout if you want to come on the ride along the Sunshine Highway."

## > GUN SHOW, FROM PG. 7

The spring show that they held in Carman has been very well attended in the past. Over 1,000 people came through to check out the vendors. This year, vendors will come all over from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Ontario.

"It's one of the only locations you

can go and see so many at one point. The owners know all the info and history about the guns, so you're getting all that knowledge firsthand. The atmosphere is great, and everyone seems to have a common idea as it's the same kind of hobby."

Reid is excited to see how many

people will come out on April 6 to Carman Hall.

"Everyone is welcome to take in the day to browse, shop, trade or sell. All signs are looking like another great show with all the regular and new people attending."

## 12 essentials to have on hand for everyday boo-boos

Did you know the bathroom is the worst place to keep your first-aid kit? It's the most humid room in the home, and humidity can harm the effectiveness of various medications. Keeping your first-aid kit in a cool, dry and dark place is best. Here are some essential items you should have in your home pharmacy to cover common emergencies:

1. A complete first-aid kit that includes a thermometer, scissors, tweezers, a tick remover, adhesive dressings, sterile gauze, hot and cold compresses and elastic bandages
2. Hydrocortisone cream to soothe insect bites and minor irritations
3. An analgesic, such as acetaminophen, to relieve headaches, fever and pain
4. An antacid to counteract gastric reflux

5. An antihistamine to combat seasonal allergies
6. Antibiotic ointment to prevent minor infections from cuts
7. An anti-nausea medication, particularly for travelling
8. An antidiarrheal and a rehydration solution to replenish lost fluids and mineral salts
9. A saline solution to relieve congestion and cleanse the sinuses
10. A topical analgesic to ease muscle aches and pains
11. An after-sun treatment, such as aloe vera
12. Eye drops

Your home pharmacy will be well stocked with these essentials. Clean yours out yearly and take expired medication to your local pharmacy for safe disposal.

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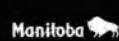
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# Municipal leaders reflect on business growth and future challenges

By Lori Penner

Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder and Municipality of Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe applauded the region's business growth at last week's Altona & District Chamber of Commerce AGM.

"Growing up around Altona, it's amazing to see how our community has grown and progressed over the years," said Schroeder. "As mayor, I've been able to view our town from different perspectives, and I've been constantly impressed with all the hard work from our business leaders, the chamber and SEED. Welcoming new businesses and supporting our existing business community is what allows us to continue growing."

On behalf of council, he expressed his respect and gratitude for the determination and dedication of everyone who contributed to this growth.

"We look forward to working together in continuing to move business forward in Altona. Sometimes people ask me on the street, what does council do? This year we put together a strategic plan for the year, with headings of economic development, the new industrial park, environmental stewardship, infrastructure, organizational strength, and recreation and culture. Three members of council make up a sub-committee taking many actions and specific directions under each heading."

Schoeder offered an extensive list of all the various agencies and organizations the town partners with for the betterment of the community, ranging from the chamber itself to other like organizations such as Community Futures Triple R and Supporting Entrepreneurs through Economic Development (SEED), as well as things

like the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership, Gallery in the Park, the Altona and District Health Care Centre, and many others.

"Those are all the different committees and boards that we all sit on, and that's not including our two meetings a month for council," Schroeder noted. "So, yes, we are busy."

Reeve Don Wiebe likewise thanked SEED and the chamber for all the work they do.

"We do have a lot of economic activity in Rhineland, as well. The West Ag Park located on Hwy. 14 near Winkler is going to the second phase and already there are prospects of industry moving into that area.

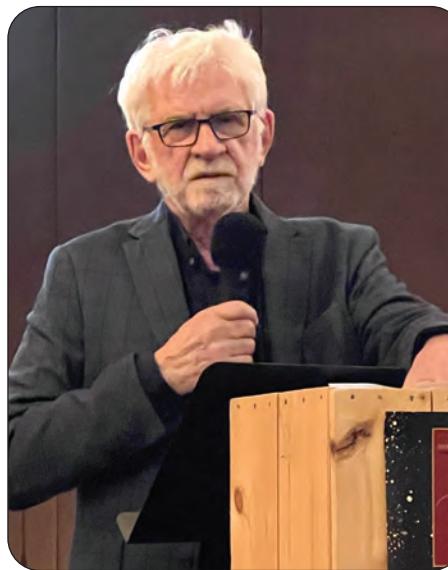
"With the North Ag Park on Hwy. 30, again we are dealing with lots of prospects, and hopefully, some of them will take place. We are encouraged by that. Of course, all of that comes with infrastructure planning, so that's been occupying us as well."

Wiebe added that there are budget pressures and it's hard to keep on top of that.

"We're dealing with inflationary costs, and our reserve funds get taxed pretty hard, but I think we'll find our way through all that. Again, we'll work with regional governments. Our first partner is Altona, and we do share our services and do a lot of things together."

Wiebe finished his presentation by sharing a major concern from the Pembina Valley Water Co-op, not only for residents, but also for businesses in the region.

"We don't have enough water to meet peak demands. We're right on the edge. So we've been talking to all the municipalities, and seeing how much they will need going forward



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe (left) and Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder (right) spoke to business leaders at the Altona chamber of commerce's AGM last week.

and how we can fund that."

The PVWC is currently looking at a 10-year plan to keep the region viable, which includes 14 municipalities and 65,000 people.

"We need to raise \$80 million over the next 10 years," he said. "We're trying to create a plan along with government to make this work. They may have some options for us. Going forward we may well need municipal contribution and a long-term plan to finance those projects."

The situation is urgent, Wiebe stressed, but there is some good news in terms of capital projects underway nearing completion.

"The new reservoir that is being built at Letellier will go into service in early April and that will create a six million litre reservoir at the Letellier site, so that will help," he said. "But we are out of water, and we need to find a plan. It is real and I hope we can find a solution."

**"WELCOMING NEW BUSINESSES AND SUPPORTING OUR EXISTING BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS WHAT ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE GROWING."**

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## > CHAMBER AGM, FROM PG. 2

government is launching two new pilot programs. The Rural Community Immigration Pilot (RCIP) and the Francophone Community Immigration Pilot (FCIP), which will both launch this fall. We look forward to submitting an expression of interest application and receiving a positive response, given our community's experience administering the RNIP program."

Harris also highlighted the Alliance Tax Incentive program offered by Altona and Rhineland. This three-year financial program rebates 100 per cent of municipal taxes back to businesses for the new construction of a commercial or industrial building, or a substantial

building addition or expansion.

"Through this program, the Municipality of Rhineland has rebated over \$113,000 and the Town of Altona has rebated over \$71,000 in 2023 for new construction of a commercial or industrial building."

The chamber also introduced a business grant program.

"In 2023, SEED provided \$98,500 in grant funding to new business startup, expansion, or purchase of an existing business in the region," Harris said. "If you are starting, growing, or relocating a business, please contact SEED or the chamber and let us assist you through the entire process as you strive for success in your business journey."

# getinformed

## Cutting the ribbon on Rosenort's new daycare

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was a dream come true for many in the community of Rosenort last week as the ribbon was cut on the new Small Town Kids Daycare.

A group of moms had been working on getting a local childcare centre for years, shared board member Ashley Olynick.

"It's definitely something that we've needed here for a while," she said, explaining they originally had their sights set on renovating the old fire hall, and began fundraising to that end.

While community support was high, so too was the amount they would need to raise for the renos, and it looked likely it could take years to get there.

"We were making some progress ... but then COVID hit and everything kind of got derailed," Olynick said. "It was just taking a long time, but we kept at it because we knew that there was still a need."

Then the provincial government announced its commitment to build ready-to-move daycares and install them in communities across Manitoba. Thanks to the support of the RM of Morris, Rosenort was selected to receive one of these facilities. It went up on Spark St. in the town's new Prairie Hearth residential development.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Small Town Kids Daycare board members and staff (from left) Jenn Rzesnoski, Brooke Friesen, Terry Ginter, Ashley Olynick, and Jessica Shearer cut the ribbon on their new facility last week, which has space for up to 74 childcare spaces, though current staffing levels allow for 22 registered kids.

"All of a sudden we went from maybe being 10 years out to a year out from having the daycare that we all had dreamed of, and it was going to be so much bigger and new," Olynick said. "We were just absolutely so thankful and just amazed and grateful ... feeling like all of our work had been for something."

"We didn't give up—we knew this town needed it and we were given the opportunity," she said, thanking everyone who had voiced their encouragement or made a donation towards the project over the years.

The finished facility features several play rooms, infant spaces, preschool rooms, and a transitional room alongside a full kitchen as well as laundry and staff rooms.

They got the keys last fall and welcomed the first kids in early December.

Small Town Kids Daycare is funded for 74 spots for children from infancy up to age six. Right now, though, they have staffing for 22 kids.

It's a huge step up for the community, said executive director Terry Ginter, whose previous home-based daycare in Rosenort had just eight spaces.

"So there's been many families very excited that we've opened," she said. "The need was there."

The centre needs to hire more early

childhood educators in order to increase the number of children it can care for. They are actively hiring for those positions.

"In the future, we would like to have a school-age space as well," Ginter noted.

The daycare will be continuing its fundraising efforts toward the ongoing improvement of the facility.

"We're still hoping to get things for our outdoor areas," Ginter explained, pointing to the need for a storage shed and additional playground equipment.

They are also on the lookout for some new board members, as all but one of the current group have kids aging out of the facility.



# New Invest Morris website unveiled

By Sean Conway

Last Tuesday, the Town of Morris expanded its digital footprint with the unveiling of its new Invest Morris website ([investmorris.ca](http://investmorris.ca)).

The website's focus is to advance economic development and sustain prosperity in the municipality.

"We are a small community. We explored other options to pursue economic development without the cost of staffing a full-time economic development officer. The mayor and council feel this initiative gives us access to wider resources," said Councillor Chris Hamblin, who has been involved with council's economic development committee.

Mayor Scott Crick stressed to the approximately 50 people in attendance at the launch that "Morris is worthy of investing." He highlighted some of the amenities that make Morris so attractive for business and families.

"Over the last six budgets, taxes have only risen one per cent," Crick noted. "With the help of our employees, we are delivering services cost effectively."

Brody Osadick, director of economic development for M Richards and Associates Ltd., the consulting firm hired for this project, showcased the Invest Morris digital product for the Town of Morris.

Osadick introduced the interactive website that offers a multitude of resources for people exploring business opportunities in the community.

"This is just the launch of the Invest Morris website. There is more to come," Hamblin noted of the firm's overall plan for the promotion of economic and residential development in Morris. The cost of these initiatives was not made available to the *Voice* at press time.

In his presentation, Osadick not-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Morris Mayor Scott Crick unveiled the new Invest Morris website to community leaders last week.

ed that the website has just been launched and so it will take some time for search engines like Google to discover the site and rate its content for responses when queried.

"Google can provide us data to analyze to discover what content is being

viewed most often on the website," said Crick, who explained they'll be measuring its success in a number of ways. "Objectively, it is easy to measure. Do we have new business? Do

Continued on page 24

## Kicking up their heels



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Altona Ballet & Jazz dance program wrapped up its season with a performance at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre last Sunday. Family and friends filled the auditorium to watch the 42 participants, ranging in age from 3-14, take part in Altona's Royal Winnipeg Ballet satellite program recital. "The RWB satellite program has been offered for 38 years now," shares Altona recreation programmer Brittany Winkler. "It's the oldest and longest continuously running rec. program that we offer. The recital is a special way for the students to be able to show off to their family and friends the routines they have been spending many Monday evenings learning." If you'd like to learn more about getting your child involved in next season's program, contact the Town of Altona Recreation Department.





# YFC Morris Gala of Hope sets records

By Sean Conway

The Youth for Christ (YFC) Morris annual Gala of Hope set fundraising records last week.

"The night brought in \$24,000. Plus we have almost \$40,000 in local business sponsorship," shared YFC Morris director Jack Wiebe. "That is about 10 grand more than last year."

The March 14 celebration took place at the Morris Multiplex and featured 250 adult guests, plus approximately 40 youth who were helping to put on the event.

YFC Morris is a chartered member of Youth for Christ Canada, an international, non-denominational evangelistic Christian youth ministry.

"I wish I had YFC when I was growing up," said Maureen Pryce, associ-

ate national director and gala guest speaker. "We engage and equip youth to know and follow Jesus. Caring adults providing relationship support and confidence."

Motivated by the Christian faith, YFC believes that transformed youth can transform communities, our country, and the world.

"Every young person living fully in Christ," said Wiebe. "This doesn't mean to make you a Christian. Kids come to the drop-in centre with no obligation."

The YFC Morris chapter has a drop-in centre on 320 Boyne Avenue W. Upwards of 40 youth visit the centre every week. Kids from Rosenort, Lowe Farm, St. Jean, St. Malo, and St. Pierre take part.

**"WE ENGAGE AND EQUIP YOUTH TO KNOW AND FOLLOW JESUS."**

**PHOTOS BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE**

Guests at the Youth for Christ Morris Gala of Hope last week enjoyed music from Christian rock band The Unnamed (left), a skit by Ally Sawatzky and Samantha Storck called Tower of Babel (above), and guest speaker Maureen Pryce (right), Youth for Christ associate national director.

The centre offers a Gr. 5-6 program and a program for Gr. 7-12. Youth that have graduated from high school can stay involved with the centre as a junior volunteer.

The gala is the biggest of two fundraising events YFC hosts each year, the second taking place during the Manitoba Stampede.

Guests enjoyed music from the Christian rock band The Unnamed after a welcome message, prayer, and evening description.

"We are a gospel focused band," said guitarist Josh Nickel. "We play rock and country music. Our band's name is based on a verse from the book of Revelation 2."

Band members are from Morris, Rosenort, Riverside, St. Jean, Lowe Farm and Morris. They play local



events, backyards, and festivals.

After the musical interlude, the hosts invited guests by table number to join the serving lines in two buffet tables for a nosh of appetizers.

Morris Bigway staff, with the help of other volunteers, catered the food serving. Store owner Pat Schmitk noted, "We help with the event every year. This would not have worked without the volunteer staff in the kitchen."

While guest dined, The Unnamed once again entertained the guests with two songs. Before dessert was served, the winners of the skit challenge made their stage debut.

Fifteen-year-old Ally Sawatzky and 14-year-old Samantha Storck won the challenge of writing and performing their own play for the crowd called *Tower of Babel*. The duo received a \$200 prize for their work.

The Morris YFC drop-in centre can be contacted by phone at 204-712-5884 or via email to jack.wiebe@yfc.ca

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# Kings finish off Hawks

Brandon sweeps Pembina Valley in three straight games

By Lorne Stelmach

The season came to an end for the male U18 Pembina Valley Hawks at the hands of the Brandon Wheat Kings.

Brandon earned its seat at the championship final round after a three-game sweep against the Hawks last week. It continues a near perfect season for the first-place Wheat Kings, who only suffered one overtime loss in 44 regular season games and are unbeaten so far in the post season.

Pembina Valley opened the series with a 6-1 loss on the road last Tuesday and then fell 4-1 in game two in Morden Thursday.

The series then moved back to Brandon for game three Friday, where it ended with a 4-2 loss for the Hawks.

The Hawks trailed 2-1 and 4-1 at the intermissions in game one as Brandon fired 48 shots at Pembina Valley goaltender Bryson Yaschyshyn, including 21 in the first period alone. The Hawks meanwhile only managed 22 shots, and Liam Goertzen scored their lone goal.

In game two, the Hawks fell behind 3-0 in the first period and could not make it any closer than that in the end. Goertzen's third goal of the playoffs late in the first period was the only goal for the Hawks, who were outshot 42-17, with Yaschyshyn making 38 saves.

In game three, the Hawks spotted



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley's Haiden Friesen tries to tip a shot past Brandon's Matthew Michta in last week's game two in the best-of-five playoff series, which the Wheat Kings ultimately took in three straight.

Brandon a 2-0 lead after 20 minutes but had it tied 2-2 at the second intermission. The Wheat Kings connected for the winner with four minutes remaining and then scored on a powerplay with 41 seconds left to advance to the next round.

Goertzen and Acoyen Fehr scored for Pembina Valley, while Yaschyshyn made 41 saves as Brandon outshot the Hawks 45-21.

The Wheat Kings will now face the second-place Winnipeg Wild, who eliminated the third-place Winnipeg Thrashers in four games.



Hawks Ryder Wolfe and Sam Delaquis team up to stop the Wheat King's Jaxon Jacobson.

# End of the line for the SEMHL's Morden Bombers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The last local team is out of the running for the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League championship.

The Ste. Anne Aces, the regular season front-runners, are taking on the second-place Warren Mercs in the league finals after knocking out the Morden Bombers last week.

The best-of-five series went the distance after Warren came from behind 0-2 to win games three and four.

The deciding game five last Tuesday night saw the Mercs, playing on home ice, win it 7-3.

Morden's Jay Fehr and Tyler Peers had gotten things off on the right foot for the Bombers, giving the team a 2-0 lead in the first 10 minutes.

But the wheels fell off the cart not long after as the Mercs tied it up before the first intermission and then took a 5-2 lead in the second.

Logan Christensen scored for Morden two minutes into the third in a bid

to close the gap, but Warren responded a minute later with their sixth goal of the night, and then scored the seventh on an empty net as the clock wound down.

The Mercs outshot the Bombers 57-34. Reed Peters made 51 saves in net for Morden.

With that, the Bombers' season is over. They had placed fifth in the regular season and knocked out the fourth-place Portage Islanders in the first round of playoffs.

Elsewhere in the post-season, the Red River Wild (third place in the standings) and the Winkler Royals (sixth) squared off, with the Royals winning it in three straight to advance to the next round, only to see their season end at the hands of the Aces 0-3.

Ste. Anne took game one of the championship series 8-1 on Saturday and then won game two 5-2 Monday night. Game three is Wednesday night.

# Your FARM



## Waterhemp—know your enemy

By Lori Penner

Manitoba Agriculture is urging producers to keep their eyes open for waterhemp during the upcoming crop

season and do whatever it takes to keep the plant's insidious seeds from spreading.

Tall waterhemp (*Amaranthus tu-*

*berculatus*), is a prolific Tier 1 weed under Manitoba's The Noxious Weed Act that can devastate crop yields. While it's been problematic in the

U.S. for years, it was only discovered in Manitoba in 2016 and confirmed in 2017. By 2019, it was found in five municipalities. That number has now risen to eight.

These detections have involved a substantial number of acres and significant hours of mowing and spraying to destroy plant material.

Tests of Manitoba waterhemp show some plants are resistant to groups 9 (glyphosate), 2 and 14 herbicides. Glyphosate resistant plants are show-



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Provincial weed specialist Kim Brown urges producers to keep an eye out for waterhemp this crop season.

ing up on Manitoba fields in an alarming number, producing up to a million seeds per plant.

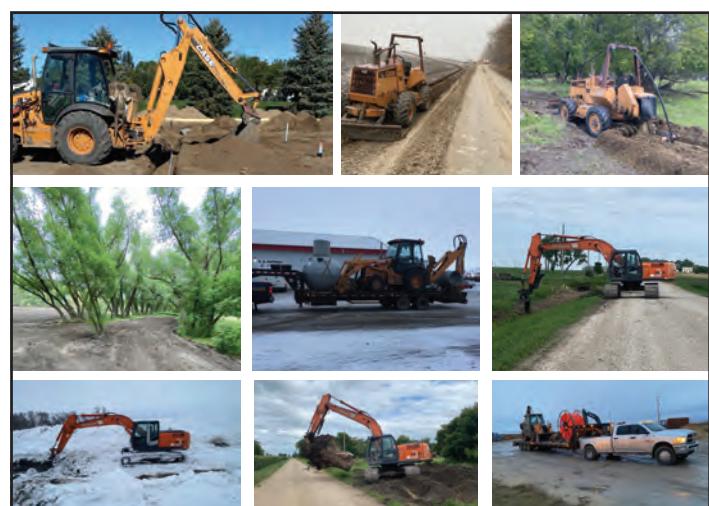
"We've kept it out until now, but it is here and it's not going away," says Kim Brown, a provincial weed specialist who works with Manitoba Agriculture and is involved in training and extension of new and existing weed issues.

Continued on page 17

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# Your FARM



## MFGA Green Gold Program looking for hay or alfalfa producers

Program finds optimal alfalfa first-cut date with sampling results

By Becca Myskiw

Manitoba alfalfa producers can predict their optimum harvest date—and it costs them nothing.

The Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association (MFGA) has the longest-running producer-based program for Manitoba forage producers with their Green Gold Program. Running through May and June, the Green Gold Program calls for producers with hay fields that are mostly alfalfa, fairly new, and in good condition. Those producers will test their crops twice weekly (clipping alfalfa) throughout the May/June growing season until the first cut. MFGA will then send subscribed producers two weekly results for the entire sampling duration. The program provides growers with real-time information on the best time to cut the alfalfa stand.

Last year's Green Gold Program involved 23 fields from Central, Eastern, and Western Manitoba. Alfalfa sampling started on May 18 at 10 inches and ended on May 31 when most of the fields were in the early bloom stage. Last spring saw warm conditions followed by intense heat and an early frost before sampling. MFGA found the optimum harvest date to be June 1 for the Central and Western regions and May 31 for the Eastern/Interlake region.

MFGA says that by clipping alfalfa samples from fields, testing results suggest that the first cut date has a higher relative feed value for the optimum livestock feed value.

The MFGA Green Gold Program aims to encourage growers to be strategic with their alfalfa crop harvest, making decisions based on the best first-cut date for specific feed and market needs and field observations.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

MFGA is looking for producers to participate in their Green Gold Program, which predicts the optimal harvest date for alfalfa growers.

The program relies solely on Manitoba alfalfa producers to clip and send in alfalfa samples twice weekly. Because the sampling happens in real-time, the results accurately reflect current weather conditions. Results are sent

to more than 300 MFGA Green Gold subscribers and stakeholders.

To learn more about the MFGA Green Gold Program or to sign up for it, go to <https://mfga.net/green-gold>.

### > WATERHEMP, FROM PG. 16

"Getting those invasive plants far away from your field and keeping them away should be a priority for every producer. You should pick them out. You should not run it through your combine because you will spread those thousands and thousands of seeds across your field. And that combine will spread it as well. You can't clean pigweed seeds out. It's tiny like little flakes of pepper. It just sticks. You will never clean it out. You will move it to every field once you run it through the combine."

At St. Jean Farm Days in January, Brown told producers there is no clear and easy way to control waterhemp. It thrives in hot, dry weather and germinates throughout the summer. Once you have it, it's almost impossible to get rid of it.

What should you do if you detect water hemp on your field? Brown says weed control must be done when the weeds are small, less than 10 cm or four inches. However, "rescue

treatments" of herbicides have resulted in poor control, at best.

Brown believes proper consistent management is the key.

"You're not going to get a population in a field that is 100 percent resistant to absolutely everything. You're going to have combinations. And that's why you keep using lots of different products. Some of them are only going to work on some of those plants. But you have to keep throwing stuff at it."

Waterhemp does not appear to be a problem in competitive crops like wheat and canola, but it is a serious issue with corn, dry beans, sunflowers, and soybeans.

Brown says there are lots of things producers can do that don't involve a lot of extra capital or work.

"You could try herbicide layering to get weeds out early when the crop is non-competitive, and in-crop options become limited."

Other options include narrow win-

dow burning, chaff carts, chaff lining and tramlining, and weed seed impact mills. Optimizing combine settings to

ensure weed seeds are captured has

Continued on page 18



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# Twisters sweep Raiders to advance to MMJHL semi-finals



By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Valley Twisters have advanced to the MMJHL semi-finals after a four-game sweep of the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club in the first round of the playoffs.

Following their strong performance in the first two games, the Twisters extended their series lead by defeating the Raiders 4-0 on March 12. Merek Degraeve was a standout for the team, scoring two goals, while Josh Guilford and Mark Plett also contributed to the victory. Goaltender Owen LaRocque stopped 21 shots for the shutout.

The Twisters sealed the series in Game 4 on March 15 with a 2-1 overtime victory over the Raiders. Brett Bergman and Slade Sotheran each

**Left:** Pembina Valley's goaltender Logan Enns celebrates the win against the Raiders. **Above:** Josh Guildford is able to clear the puck before the Raiders' Nate Goodbrandson is able to get the rebound on Enns.

found the back of the net. LaRocque started in net and made 6 saves. Enns was brought in to finish the game at the start of the second period making 13 saves to secure the win.

"It's always great to advance rounds," said Twisters' head coach Braeden Beernaerts. "It was a tough series despite being over in four games, as many games could've gone either way. We were happy to get the bounces, and score timely goals."

"Our team's play has been great so far and we focused down on the little things from the start of playoffs. Despite a few moments in the games where emotions and fatigue had tak-

en over, for the most part we stuck with it, and claimed the series."

The Twisters will now have some time off as they await the results of the other MMJHL quarterfinal series and see who they will matchup with in the semi-finals.

"The plan for the next few days is to keep the legs under us, as we can't get too complacent about what we've accomplished so far," said Beernaerts. "We plan to sharpen up on a few things, review our next opponent, and make sure we are ready for the next round."

Zander Carels battles for puck control in the Twisters' 2-1 win over the Raiders last Friday.

## > WATERHEMP, FROM PG. 17

also been shown to be effective in waterhemp management.

Manitoba Agriculture also encourages direct baling, right behind the combine so nothing hits the ground, and the chaff and the straw are dropped on the conveyor belt and go into a baler.

"Those weed seeds are still there, but they're in that bale. And they're moved off the field. So that is something that we are very concerned about, but that at least stops them

from spreading in that particular field," said Brown. "And if that straw is being used as feed somewhere, we have to watch that manure. Those seeds are not slowed down at all by going through an animal."

Brown says producers need to learn to practice weed control with non-chemical methods. "The chemicals we have will fail. It's only going to get worse. So, we have to do everything we can outside the spray tank to reduce the number of weeds

we are spraying and the number of weeds on our field."

Manitoba municipalities are watching their ditches and mowing them, so waterhemp will not seed, but even this measure has limited results.

"Everywhere where there is a gap or black dirt, the seeds can take a hold. Every seed is resistant and can grow as big as it wants. We have to do everything we can to stop the seed from returning to the soil. We can do lots of things, like pick a tall-

er variety of crop, seed heavy, and ensure good fertility to get that crop up and going. We want to have good emergence. We need to cover the ground quickly and we won't have these problems."

Farmers who spot an unusual looking weed should contact their agronomist or Brown at [kim.brown@gov.mb.ca](mailto:kim.brown@gov.mb.ca). They can also submit samples to the PSI Lab at [mbpestlab.ca/about/](http://mbpestlab.ca/about/).

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY OF MORDEN 2024 FINANCIAL PLAN

Pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act, Council of the City of Morden invites all ratepayers of the City of Morden to a Public Hearing in respect to the 2024 Financial Plan (Budget) for the City of Morden. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan. A presentation of the Financial Plan will be made in Council Chambers at the City of Morden Civic Centre, 100-195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.** Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available to the public on March 25, 2024. Additional information and other documents concerning the matter and the procedures to be followed at the hearing will be available for review at the municipal office at this time.

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- Mechanic \$32.70/hour
- Red Seal Millwright: \$38.08/hour

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

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The Winkler Morden

# Voice

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Deadline for applications: Noon April 1st, 2024.

Details available at: [www.prairiespirit.mb.ca](http://www.prairiespirit.mb.ca)  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE



### 2024 Pesticide Control Programs

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Rural Municipality of Stanley may conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2024:

1) To control noxious weeds on road allowances within the Municipality. The proposed period of application would be from May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024. The herbicides to be used could include:

- Tordon 22K
- Overdrive
- Nufarm 2,4-D Amine600
- Reclaim II
- Roundup Transorb HC

2) To control insect pests including grasshoppers, mosquitoes, canker worms, etc. The proposed period of application for these programs would be from May 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024. The insecticides to be used could include:

- Malathion 95 ULV

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

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### REGARDING LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN NO. 46 - BY-LAW NO. 2307-23 FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTENNIAL ARENA

The Council of the City of Winkler has scheduled a public hearing at Winkler City Hall, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB on the 9th day of April, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. to present the following local improvement proposal:

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN NO. 46

The proposed design concept for the redevelopment of the Winkler Arena is to demolish much of the interior of the existing arena and redevelop it into an approx. 1300 seat arena. Entrance into the redeveloped arena would be from the Meridian Centre at the Southwest corner. The proposed general scope of the renovation is to redevelop and modernize the existing arena by implementing energy efficient systems, constructing extensive code upgrades, and providing safe spectator viewing and inclusive public amenities. The recently constructed link connecting the Meridian Centre to the Centennial Arena would be expanded to enlarge the concessions, concession seating, and staff room.

The building envelope walls and roof will be upgraded to improve energy performance for a deep energy retrofit to meet the requirement for funding incentive programs including the Infrastructure Canada Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program Grant (GICB) and the FCM Community Building Retrofit Program (CBR). The existing mechanical and electrical systems are dated and past service life and will require full replacement. As per the Building Condition Assessment Report, a complete electrical distribution system replacement is recommended.

The estimated cost of the Local Improvement plan is to a maximum of \$23,750,000.00. The Government of Canada has committed \$7,962,240.00 and the Province of Manitoba has committed \$3,137,500.00 towards the redevelopment of the Arena. The City of Winkler has committed \$5,150,260.00 from the Recreation Reserves towards the project. The balance of up to \$7,500,000.00 is to be funded by borrowing. The term of the proposed borrowing is 15 years at an interest rate estimated for the time being up to 8.00% per year. The annual debt payment of \$876,221.59 is to be raised by a local improvement tax calculated on the basis of the portioned assessed value of all taxable, grant-in-lieu and otherwise exempt properties within the City of Winkler.

Based on the 2024 Assessment Roll of \$1,133,555,000 an estimated mill rate of 0.773 mills will be required. Calculated on a residential property valued at \$300,000 (portion valued of \$135,000) a \$104.36 local improvement tax will be levied annually for 15 years.

The annual operating and maintenance costs associated with the proposed project will be covered under the City's annual recreation maintenance budget.

A written objection may be filed with the City Manager, at 185 main Street, Winkler, Manitoba, prior to the commencement of the hearing. At the hearing, Council will hear any potential ratepayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions or register an objection to the local improvement proposal.

All objections, written or verbal, must be filed prior to the adjournment of the hearing and must include the name, address and property description of the person filing the objection and the grounds of their objection.

Copies of the Local Improvement Plan No. 46 are available at the City of Winkler office at 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB, and on the municipal website at [www.cityofwinkler.ca](http://www.cityofwinkler.ca).

Dated at the City of Winkler this 14th day of March, 2024, and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The Municipal Act.

Jody Penner  
City Manager  
City of Winkler  
204-325-9524

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

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION

#### VOTING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TAKE NOTICE THAT voting for the Board of Directors is open to all members who have a share at any Credit Union branch. Voting will be done by electronic ballot and will be tallied electronically by a third party provider. Voting will be open from 9:00 am CDT on Monday, the 8th day of April, 2024 until 5:00 pm CDT on Friday, the 12th of April, 2024. Members of the Credit Union are invited to vote online at [www.accessvotes.ca](http://www.accessvotes.ca). Each member may vote on a personal electronic device or should any member prefer, devices for the purpose of voting will be available at all branches of the Credit Union during operating hours.

#### VOTING FOR BYLAW CHANGES

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT Voting will take place during the AGM held on the 16th day of April, 2024 to consider the approval of the amendment of the Credit Union's Bylaws. Instructions on registration, authentication, voting process, and technical support are available on our corporate website at [www.accesscu.ca/AGM](http://www.accesscu.ca/AGM). Immediately preceding the meeting opening, and at the beginning of the meeting, members will be given instructions on how to ask questions during the meeting.

#### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

The proposed Bylaw changes align the document with Credit Union Central of Manitoba's model and includes several amendments, a summary of which can be viewed at [www.accesscu.ca/AGM](http://www.accesscu.ca/AGM). The proposed amended and restated by-laws are available on request.

At the meeting, a presentation will be made explaining the changes and their purpose. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions during the presentation, although not all questions may be answered if there is insufficient time. The Members will be asked to vote on the following motion: to approve the amended and restated by-laws as presented to the Members.

Each member may vote on a personal electronic device. Voting will end during the AGM and results will be shared.

#### RIGHT OF DISSENT

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, under the provisions of Section 127 of The Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act, you have the right to dissent to the proposed amendment. If you wish to dissent, you must send a written objection to the amendment to the Credit Union at or before the meeting of Members referred to in this Notice.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the members of the Credit Union will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. CDT via virtual means, for the following purposes:

1. 2023 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
2. Board of Directors Report
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Announcement of Member Rewards
5. Director Elections Voting Results
6. Bylaw Changes Voting and Results

All eligible members wishing to participate in the AGM are required to register online at [www.accesscu.ca](http://www.accesscu.ca) prior to April 16, 2024 at 4:00 P.M. CDT. Instructions for voting processes and how to ask questions will be displayed on the screen commencing at 6:45 p.m. CDT. These instructions will also be reviewed at the opening of the meeting.

More information can be found at: [www.accesscu.ca](http://www.accesscu.ca).

DATED this 21st day of March, 2024

ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED

By Order of the Board of Directors

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PUBLIC NOTICE

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### CITY OF WINKLER PESTICIDE USE PROGRAM Permit No. 2022036-3RR May 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024

Public notice is hereby given that the City of Winkler and/or its designated agents may conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2024, if necessary, depending on infestations.

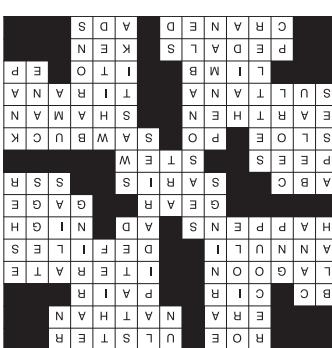
- To control noxious weeds on road allowances and rights-of-way within the City of Winkler. The herbicides that may be used if required include: **Round-Up, PAR III, Fiesta**.
- To control rodents at the Winkler Municipal Airport, Cemetery, and any location within City limits where the designated Officer deems necessary using rodenticide: **Ratak and/or Rozul RTU**.
- To control mosquito larvae in stagnant water within the corporate limits and a 3-kilometer buffer area using **Aquabac 200G and Vectobac 200G**, on both private and public property. To control adult mosquitoes using **Delta Gard**.
- To control horticultural insect pests using **Malathion, Pyrate 480 EC, Trounce and Pounce**.

The duration of each program will vary within this period depending on weather conditions and pest population levels.

All pesticides used and procedures applied will be in accordance with the approved label recommendations. The public may send written submissions or objections to the program within 15 days of the publication of this notice to the department below:

Environmental Approvals Branch  
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change  
Box 35 -14 Fultz Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB, R3Y 0L6

Crossword Answer



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FARMLAND TENDER

### FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for land in the

#### RM of Rhineland

described below will be received by:

Franz Hoeppner Wiens Law Office

Box 99, 1 – 880 J 15th Street

Winkler, MB R6W 4A4

Attention: Hannah Franz



LAND:

PARCEL I: THE S 1/2 OF THE N 1/2 OF SW 1/4 6-2-3 WPM  
EXCEPTING - AN UNDIVIDED ONE-HALF INTEREST IN ALL MINES  
AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 113370 MLTO and  
PARCEL II: THE N 1/2 OF THE S 1/2 OF SW 1/4 6-2-3 WPM  
EXCEPTING - AN UNDIVIDED ONE-HALF INTEREST IN ALL MINES  
AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 113370 MLTO

78.18 acres of Bare Farmland with 42 acres cultivated and a creek  
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CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- The parcels shall be sold together, and any tender bid for one parcel and not the other shall not be considered.
- The parcel of land described will be sold "as is".
- Written Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 PM on March 25, 2024.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- Date of Possession to be April 6, 2024, or as agreed between parties.
- Tender must be accompanied by a deposit of \$10,000.00, payable to Franz Hoeppner Wiens Law Office, to be returned if tender bid is not accepted
- No right of first refusal.

TERMS OF SALE:

- The successful bidder(s) shall enter a formal agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
- Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2024.
- The purchaser shall pay applicable GST or shall self-assess for GST.

For further information contact Franz Hoeppner Wiens Law Office at 204-325-4615 or [hannah@fhwlaw.ca](mailto:hannah@fhwlaw.ca)

# Classifieds Announcements

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*The Winkler Morden*  
**Voice**

**OBITUARY**

## Emma Martha (Kauenhofen) Emslie (nee: Hildebrand)

**1929 - 2024**

We are broken hearted to say our beloved mom passed away in the early morning of Saturday, March 9, 2024 at the Boundary Trails Health Centre. She was surrounded by her loving family.

Emma is survived by her four children, Brenda (Pete), Rodger (Leslie), Gregory (Penny), Terry (Pete), 12 grandchildren, eight great, great grandchildren, sister Mildred and brother Donald.

Mom had a wonderful smile and a laugh that was contagious. She had a huge heart and she also had the best hugs.

She loved flirting and joking around with everybody. She was a very strong woman, and was till the end. She had many talents, like sewing and baking. She especially enjoyed playing cards with family and her cherished friends at the Legion. She loved music, her favorites were Johnny Horton, Conway Twitty, and Kenny Rogers.

Hope you are dancing in heaven and reunited with your son Lorne.

Mom, you will always be in our hearts and we miss you very much.

Celebration of Life for Mom will be held at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 144 7th Street, Morden, MB on April 6, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Cremation has taken place at Adam's Funeral Home.

**OBITUARY**

## Susanna (Sue) Funk (nee Peters)

Susanna (Sue) Funk (nee Peters) of Altona, but her heart was in Gretna, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 1, 2024 at Altona Memorial Health Centre. She was 92 years young.

She is survived by her children Ev Kehler, Pat (Bernie) Derksen, Garry (Lori); grandchildren Jim (Vicki), Amber (Jeff) and six great-grandchildren Willow and Fletcher, Camryn, Josee, and Payton and Zayd. Brothers Jake (Betty), Bill (Esther); sisters-in-law Kathy Peters and Vicki Peters as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her beloved Neil, son-in-law Harold, her daughter Judy, three brothers, three sisters and Neil's siblings and spouses.

Thank you to everyone for their prayers and love poured on mom over the years. Thank you for thoughtfulness in calls, cards, flowers, food and so much more in her passing.

We thank the staff for the kindness, care and thoughtfulness given to mom while she lived at 108 in the "old Ebenezer" at the Gardens on Tenth. Shellie, she appreciated the time you took to listen.

Thank you to our nurses and doctors, health care aides, kitchen, lab, cleaning, and maintenance at the Altona Memorial Hospital this last stay and the many other times she spent time there. Your thoughtful care will not be forgotten. We know your jobs are not easy. Thank you.

Dr. Al-Abbasi, we appreciate all your kindness and care you gave to our mom.

Abe and Trevor at Wiebe Funeral Home, Altona, you did more than anyone could expect. Thanks for your patience and kindness. Thanks to Laverne, Marilyn, Erica, Altona Hospital Auxiliary, Elsie and MaryAnne and many others who helped make the service a good farewell.

We will miss our loving mama, granny, great granny, auntie, sister, friend and Jets fan!!

**OBITUARY**

## Richard Donald Reimer

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved husband and father Richard Donald Reimer, who passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family, on the evening of March 9th, 2024 at the age of 71.

After a long and courageous battle with cancer, he was ready to go home to his Heavenly Father. Rick's faith remained unwavering as he faced the many struggles of his illness in the last years of his life. He was an inspiration to those who knew him.

Rick was born in Winnipeg in 1952. His childhood was spent in St. Vital, where he grew up with three siblings including a twin brother. He excelled at school and in sports, later going on to attend Wayland Baptist University in Texas on a scholarship for track and field.

After graduating university, he moved back to Winnipeg where he managed a fitness centre. This is where he met Colleen, who he married in 1988. Wonderful years followed as they raised their three children together, Sam (1993), Holly (1995), and Joelle (1997). Rick loved being a dad and he greatly enjoyed spending time with his family going hiking, tobogganing, on bike rides and family road trips. Also special for him were the trips to the Dominican with Colleen and their close friends, and many good times at the cottage in Victoria Beach. Rick had a passion for watching hockey and football, reading books, and bird watching in the backyard. He also loved a hot cup of tea, cookies, and extra cheese on everything!

Rick worked hard and always pursued excellence in everything he did. He started managing fitness centres and then went on to own his own gym. A career path change led him to become an advertising sales rep for the community newspapers in the Interlake. He later became publisher of the newspapers in southern Manitoba. Rick and his two business partners then went on to establish their own group of award-winning community newspapers.

Rick was a devoted husband and loving father. His family and friends will miss the many conversations with him in which he shared his insight, wit and wisdom. We will also miss the many laughs we had as he shared his fun-loving and goofy side, which was so endearing.

He will be forever cherished by his beloved wife of 35 years Colleen, and children Sam, Holly (Chris), and Joelle. He is predeceased by his father Stanley Reimer and brother-in-law Tim Jeffrey. He is survived by his mother Joan Reimer as well as his siblings Daryl (Ruth) Reimer, Dave (Marty) Reimer, and Corrine Jeffrey. He will also be remembered by his nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, cousins, Colleen's side of the family, as well as many dear friends and colleagues.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Siloam Mission in memory of Rick.

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## X CROSSWORD

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Irish county
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province (abbr.)
- 14. Human gene
- 15. Two
- 16. A famous one is blue
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Ring-shaped objects
- 23. Spoils
- 24. Occurs
- 26. Commercial
- 27. Near
- 28. Products you may need
- 30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge
- 31. TV network

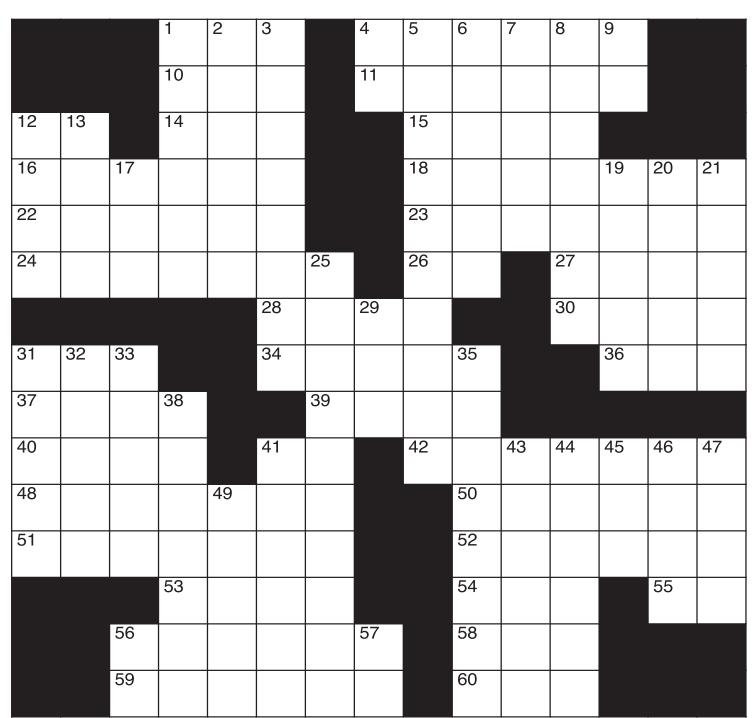
- 34. Silk or cotton garments
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republics
- 37. Retired American football coach Dean
- 39. Hot dish
- 40. A type of gin
- 41. Atomic #84
- 42. Sawhorse
- 48. About ground
- 50. Medicine man
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Capital of Albania
- 53. Appendage
- 54. OJ trial judge
- 55. By the way (abbr.)
- 56. Bicycle parts
- 58. Barbie's friend
- 59. Moved one's neck to see
- 60. Commercials

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Make up for
- 2. Baltimore ballplayer
- 3. Salary
- 4. Influential world body
- 5. Engravers
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. One who steals
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital
- 48. About ground employee (abbr.)
- 50. Medicine man
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Capital of Albania
- 53. Appendage
- 54. OJ trial judge
- 55. By the way (abbr.)
- 56. Bicycle parts
- 58. Barbie's friend
- 59. Moved one's neck to see
- 60. Commercials

**29. Creative works**

- 31. Recesses
- 32. W. Pacific island group
- 33. Tolkien character
- 35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
- 38. Pioneer
- 41. Scribe
- 43. Painted a bright color
- 44. Lowest members of British nobility
- 45. Actress Thurman
- 46. Type of sugar
- 47. Crest of a hill
- 49. N. American people of British Columbia
- 56. Device
- 57. The Mount Rushmore State



# Altona Skating Club hosts annual achievement night



The Altona Skating Club closed out the season with its annual Achievement Night Monday. The theme was From the Small Screen to the Big Stage and it had skaters of all ages dressed up as a variety of colourful characters to showcase their hard-won skills on the ice.



## Zodiacs win provincials



FACEBOOK/GVCZODIACS

The Garden Valley Collegiate varsity girls team clinched the Provincial AAA Girls Basketball Championship in Winnipeg over the weekend. The team were undefeated in going up against the Churchill Bulldogs (78-56), the Elmwood Giants (70-60), and, in the championship final, the Sanford Sabres (66-55). Mendes Wall and Annika Dyck were named provincial all-stars and Maria Bergen got the MVP nod. The varsity boys Zodiacs also won their way to the final, having beaten Nelson McIntyre 77-65 and the Calvin Christian 71-68, only to fall against the Elmwood Giants 94-88 to rank second in the province. Dante Dyck was named to the provincial all-star team.



PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCEL/VOICE

# getinformed

## ACAN receives provincial recognition

By Lori Penner

The Altona Community Action Network (ACAN) was recently celebrated for its efforts in fostering community engagement and sustainable practices through the establishment of a community garden.

Recreation Manitoba presented ACAN with the 2024 Nature Award at its conference last week. The award honours the commitment of recipients in nurturing recreational, natural, and green spaces that enrich the quality of life within communities.

"It's an honour to receive this award. It's been a lot of people putting in a lot of work," said ACAN chair Joanne Wiebe. "It's been so rewarding to see how an empty space has been transformed into something so beautiful and adds so much to the community."

Conceived in 2017 as a space for local gardeners, under ACAN's direction the community garden has evolved into a multifaceted hub, boasting amenities such as a pavilion area equipped with essential tools, accessible garden beds, and restroom facilities.

"It has grown into so much more," Wiebe said. "It's also become a place to bring community members together. For newcomers and people from all walks of life to get to know their neighbours, and for families to enjoy working together."

"It's always been an important part of ACAN to encourage inclusivity in the community, and realizing this was a spot where people could con-

nect with somebody they wouldn't otherwise have run into. I think now that the pavilion is there, and everything is fully functional, it will be great to host events there, too. Things like seed sharing, or gardening workshops. It just lends itself to that."

Central to the success of the project was the leadership of Jack Heppner, who spearheaded the task force dedicated to realizing the community garden's vision.

"He just had a vision for a place where we could bring the community, and he worked tirelessly to make that happen," Wiebe said, noting how Heppner's emphasis on sustainable practices and accessibility resonated throughout the project, with features like organic farming plots, a natural playground for children, and readily available water sources for gardeners.

Heppner said the recognition from Recreation Manitoba came as a total surprise, as he hadn't been aware Town of Altona staff had put the project forward for the award.

Heppner and fellow garden task force committee member Jason Peters, along with Hildebrand, attended the awards ceremony in Winnipeg.

"We are grateful that our long-haul efforts to create the community garden have been recognized, not only locally, but now also provincially," he said. "It feels rewarding to know that the garden is now firmly rooted in our community and that it will benefit many people, including newcomers to Altona, into the future."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

From left: ACAN members Jack Heppner and Jason Peters received the Nature Award from a Recreation Manitoba representative at an awards banquet in Winnipeg on March 15.

More and more gardeners are knocking on their doors.

"Even though we are expanding the garden by 30 regular plots and 10 accessible garden plots, it looks like we will be filled up again, this time at 180 plots," Heppner said. "Personally, I can't think of a better way to spend my retirement years, being involved in this. It has enriched my life beyond measure and I cherish the many friendships that have budded through involvement at the garden."

To add yet another element to the garden, ACAN member Joel Martin recently presented a plan to town

council for a future orchard at the site.

"They are currently raising funds to get that project going and hoping to start the first phase this year," Wiebe said.

Acknowledging the invaluable support of local partners and sponsors, Wiebe extended her gratitude to the Town of Altona for its ongoing collaboration with ACAN.

"We couldn't have achieved this without the support of the town and our partners," she said. "Their contributions have been instrumental in making this project a reality."

### > INVEST MORRIS, FROM PG. 13

we have land sales? Do we see houses going up? Do we see increase sales in houses?

"Subjectively, what are the inquiries for land, what are the inquiries for business? Is our message getting out there?"

The website got the thumbs-up from those in attendance.

"This is a step in the right direction," observed Shelly Johnston, general manager for Community Future Triple R, though she noted she hopes council also keeps a focus on the revitalization of the community's Main

St.

Morris Area Foundation chair Curtis Evenson called it "a great story. It makes the community competitive. Morris is here. We're ready. Bring your ideas.

"Wouldn't it be great if the Invest Morris brochures were in the hands of local businesses?" he added. "Small business is where most of this starts."

Rupesh Patel, owner of the Morris Tim Hortons, said he hopes this will help "spread the message Morris is open for investment. It is good for the community as a whole."



PHOTO BY SEAN CONWAY/VOICE

Community leaders network after seeing Morris' new website and hearing plans to encourage investment in the community.