

Have a **Blessed** Easter




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The **Voice** Altona • Rhineland • Morris

VOLUME 5
EDITION 11

The Voice

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026
altonavoice.ca

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Goodbye to winter's ice

Braylee Hildebrand and Emma Falk were among the kids who came out to paint the ice at the Millennium Exhibition Centre in Altona Sunday. For more photos, see Pg. 13.
PHOTO BY WICUS CONRADIE/VOICE

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Canada's new top doc has Winkler roots

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Our nation's new chief public health officer is eager to get to work making a difference.

Dr. Joss Reimer begins her three-year term as Canada's top doc on April 1. The Winkler native feels she's coming to the job well prepared.

"I applied for this position for the same reason that I went into public health in the first place, for the same reason that I did medicine," she shared in an interview with the *Voice*. "I really always wanted to use my career to help make the world a better place, and I want to contribute in any way I can to make my community healthier, whether that's my immediate friends and family, the city or town that I live in, or now the entire country."

She comes to the role with a lengthy list of credentials, including stints as president of the Canadian Medical Association, chief medical officer for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, undergraduate director of population health at the University of Manitoba, and as the medical lead and spokesperson for Manitoba's

COVID-19 vaccine taskforce.

Her clinical practice includes several years of training in obstetrics and gynecology before tackling a public health specialty.

"I would never have predicted half of the things that happened in my career, growing up in rural Manitoba," Reimer reflected. "This is not ever what I pictured for myself, but I also feel like I've had the most rewarding career I could have imagined."

Looking back at her childhood, Reimer noted that medicine wasn't initially the path she thought she'd take.

Reimer is the daughter of longtime Winkler physician Dr. Murray Reimer ("I don't think it matters how far I get in my career," she noted, "I will forever at Boundary Trails Health Centre be 'Dr. Reimer's daughter,' and I think he's really proud of that.)

"I grew up in the home of a family doctor and saw how hard that job is, saw how much was missed of family events and having to disappear all the time, delivering babies in the middle of the night or going in for surgeries," Reimer recalled.

It led her to instead pursue a degree in political science.

"I wanted to get into international relations and try to help shape the world that way, but felt frustrated that many people didn't seem at the time to care about things like policy," Reimer said. "I wanted to try to find a role in something where I would see the benefits of the work that I was doing firsthand, and I do. I love doing work with patients and getting to directly see the impact on their lives.

"But I also very quickly found that I was still passionate about the policy side of things, because when you see the same problems coming up over and over and over again, you really start to want to try to dive into why this is happening and can we prevent it.

"That's where I ended up back in public health, back in the policy world trying to help people stay healthy instead of just coming to see us when they're not healthy and they need help."

Reimer became the face of the province's vaccine rollout during the pandemic. Being a public figure during such a divisive time certainly came with more than its fair share of challenges, but it was a role she ultimately



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dr. Joss Reimer begins her three-year term as Canada's new chief public health officer next week.

found quite satisfying.

"All the stresses with being a public figure aside, the actual work I find incredibly energizing and rewarding

Continued on page 5

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Big Bros Big Sis hosts final Bowl for Kids' Sake

By Ashleigh Viveiros

What may well be the final Bowl for Kids' Sake in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley took place in Winkler last week.

Once the mentoring agency's biggest fundraiser of the year, drawing dozens of sponsored teams and raising tens of thousands of dollars annually, this year's Bowl for Kids saw just a handful of corporate teams take to the lanes at VB's Entertainment Center March 19.

"This year is our 50th anniversary so I was really hoping that Bowl for Kids would be maybe what it has been in the past," said executive director Jenelle Neufeld. "However, I think since the pandemic ... it's just been a slow decline every year."

After a few years of trying unsuccessfully to breathe life back into the bowl-a-thon, the agency has decided it's time to focus its efforts on other fundraising campaigns.

"We're obviously very thankful for the many, many years that Bowl for Kids was such a huge success and a huge fundraiser for our organization, but I think, you know, onward and upwards," Neufeld said. "It's a lot of pressure to put on one specific event. The landscape has changed and we need to change."

"It was our flagship fundraiser for so many years," noted board president Jered Hildebrand. "You don't want to give up on something that treated us so well in the past, but, at the same time, if the hints are there that it's time for a change, we are very excited to find new opportunities to fundraise and to get the community involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters."

They have already launched a few new fundraising initiatives, including

monthly trivia nights at the Heritage Farms Brewing Tap Room in Winkler and, soon, the Morden Legion as well as a weekly Chase the Ace at the Legion. They'll also be continuing with their summer slo-pitch tournament and have a few special events in the works to coincide with the 50th anniversary.

They've also launched a new sponsorship package for corporate supporters dubbed "50 Doors" which allows for various levels of sponsorship encompassing multiple fundraising campaigns throughout the year.

Whatever the event, getting out and meeting with supporters is always a highlight for Neufeld.

"I often am working alone and these are the events that really remind me and bring me back to, okay, the community is behind us," she said. "We're doing this for the right reasons ... it really warms my heart to see everybody out here supporting us ... I think it's really amazing that the six teams that are here today have always supported us."

While it may not have reached the financial heights of year's past, Bowl for Kids' Sake 2026 still served as a valuable community-building opportunity.

"All of these people came out for us as an organization," Neufeld said. "There's no price on that."

The past year has been a financial challenge for the agency, which had to give up the offices it owned in favour of rotating weekly borrowed space at the Winkler and Morden community centres.

But 2025 also proved to be one of their most successful years ever in terms of kids reached—125 youth took part in their individual and group mentoring programming.

Knowing that, along with hearing stories from people whose lives have been touched by the work of Big Bros., is what keeps Neufeld and her team energized to continue on.

"I feel like I get to hear a story at the exact right time that I needed to hear it, and that really keeps me going," she said. "Randomly running into someone and they say, 'Oh, yeah, I was a mentor or I had a Big.'"

Mentoring makes a difference in kids' lives, Neufeld stressed.

"It's huge," she said. "Research has shown us that for every dollar that's invested in our mentoring programs, it returns \$23 to society."

Potentially at-risk kids who receive



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley board member Chelsey Delaquis, executive director Jenelle Neufeld, and president Jered Hildebrand at Bowl for Kids' Sake 2026.

mentoring go on to greater success in adulthood.

"That \$23 is through higher earnings, therefore they're paying more taxes, therefore they're able to buy houses. It really snowballs," Neufeld said. "You also see it in the classrooms, you see it more on a relationship level. Talking with parents and even people who have been through the program ... the stories really show how big of an impact it has."

She recently encountered one of the agency's first volunteers from 50

years ago. He's still in contact with his mentoree.

"It's just so amazing to hear that," Neufeld said. "It's so incredible to hear how what we're doing with the intentional matching works and what we're doing is impactful and makes a very, very big difference."

You can learn more about supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters or getting involved as a volunteer online at pembinavalley.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca.

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SCRL puts call out for used book donations

By Lorne Stelmach

The South Central Regional Library has put out a last call for book donations to help ensure the upcoming big book sale fundraiser really lives up to its name.

Director of library services Gail Hildebrand noted a couple of factors have come into play in terms of the library still appealing to local book-lovers for donations.

"The last two years we have had the big book sale back, we had had two semi-trailers full of books donated from the leftovers at the children's hospital sale in Winnipeg," she noted. "We are only getting one trailer this year because they have changed their format as well."

It was Hildebrand's sense as well that things haven't yet fully rebounded from the shutdown during the pandemic years.

"We had that break over COVID," she said, noting the Access Event Centre "was a vaccination site in Morden, so we couldn't use the centre for those years, and we just lost a lot of our donations, so we've been really advertising and pushing for donations ... we

just haven't really come back donation-wise since before COVID."

Through the pandemic, the various SCRL branches held smaller sales in their own communities.

Since the return of "the big one" in 2024, the sale has brought in about \$18,000 in support of the regional library network.

This year's sale takes place April 30 from 2 to 8 p.m., May 1 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and May 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the event centre in Morden. People are once again invited to bring along a reasonably-sized bag to fill with books for just \$10 (oversized bags may be charged more at check-out).

As far as donations go, they're currently accepting a little bit of everything: children's books, paperback fiction and nonfiction, inspirational fiction and nonfiction, hardcover fiction under 20 years old, literature, drama and poetry, biographies, humor and comics, cookbooks, gardening and hobby books, CDs and DVDs, and also accounting, computer science, economics, law, medicine and science textbooks that are less than



VOICE FILE PHOTO

South Central Regional Library's giant used book sale takes place late next month. They're accepting donations until April 11.

five years old.

They do not accept moldy or smelly books, damaged books with missing pages, Reader's Digest condensed books, magazines, university texts that are more than five years old, Harlequin romances more than five years old, encyclopedia sets, and cassette and VHS tapes or LP records.

"We try to stay away from the older non-fiction stuff because it gets outdated," said Hildebrand, adding non-fiction ideally would be five years old or newer as well.

She noted they have been surprised at times by what seems to be most popular.

"What we find with the big one is there is a lot of the non-fiction that we

think will never go," she said. "That's where the niche market comes in. You can't even guess though as far as what is going to go."

"Another unusual trend in the past couple of years has been people purchasing the books that look like classics ... they aren't really classics, but people buy books for decor," she added.

"There's something for everybody, and people are often after something different, but usually it's the adult fiction and the kid's books that are the big sellers, and Christian fiction as well in this area."

Donations will be accepted at any SCRL branch until April 11.

Morden council approves \$26M financial plan

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden has a budget in place for 2026 that Mayor Nancy Penner believes strikes a good balance in terms of getting some projects done but also not posing a big financial burden on taxpayers.

Morden city council last Tuesday introduced a budget of just over \$26.1 million, which is an increase of over \$984,000 or 3.9 per cent from the 2025 budget.

The mill rate, which is the basis for determining municipal taxes, is set at 16.276, an increase of about 3.9 per cent over last year. So it means, for example, if you had a home valued at about \$336,000, it works out roughly to a \$93 increase on your municipal taxes over the year before.

In addition, residents pay special levies for waste and recycling, for the Boundary Trails Health Centre and the Menzies Medical Clinic, and the École Discovery Trails school track project.

"I think it's a very fiscally responsible budget for the city. We are able to

get some work done in the city and go forward," said Penner. "We look at things like the cost of living ... and I think it's a fiscally responsible increase. The impact on the residents, I think, is within the cost of inflation.

"Even though the operational costs for the city are increasing, the mill rate is reflective of the conditions," she continued. "We are trying to be prudent with our operating expenses, but at the same time, we're putting money away in our reserve funds. We are making sure that we have some money put away for emergencies ... those reserve funds can help stabilize our mill rate so that we don't see big fluctuations."

Penner said the budget planning required the city to address what they felt is most important right now, so they obviously can't do everything they would like to accomplish.

"If we could pave every street that needed some work done, absolutely, but we look at priorities. We have to look at projects that really need to be done and forward planning ... what can we do this year and build on for

next year."

For council, that meant choosing to focus on such projects as developing the 40-acre parcel of land north on First Street and doing some road work there for better access to the 40 acre parcel.

There of course are also routine things like the need for a new front loader, but a key thing is a \$4 million commitment for the design work for the wastewater treatment project.

Penner said it is vital that the city addresses the wastewater challenge as that is what is hampering Morden's continued growth and development.

"We have to remember the city is growing slowly, but without our tax base growing, because of our wastewater restrictions, I think we have a very fiscally responsible budget considering our tax base is not growing as fast as we would like to see it grow because wastewater is restricting our growth."

Even their investment in expanding the industrial park is restricted, she noted.

"Down the road, we see a bright fu-

ture, but right now, I think we should be really pleased with how fiscally responsible our city is being in terms of holding the line and being wise with spending the dollars that we have," suggested Penner.

For the city, about 40 per cent of its revenue comes through municipal taxes, with the remainder resulting from such things as reserves, grants, and user fees.

The main source of revenue is through the municipal tax levy with an overall estimate of \$21,549,463.52, which is an increase of \$742,417 or 3.5 per cent from 2025. Other revenue comes in at \$8,570,226.72, which is an 8.9 per cent increase from the 2025 budget. Transfers from accumulated surplus and reserve funds comes in \$5,166,747.87—a 33 per cent increase from the 2025 budget.

There is a boost in various other revenues ranging from the provision of recreation services including the beach to the provision of policing and fire services to the RM of Stanley.

> CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER, FROM PG. 2

to be able to provide resources to people," she said, noting she thrives on "making sure that people have the information that they need to make informed decisions. I love taking complex topics and trying to make them easily understandable to people."

To that end, her focus now as chief public health officer is to try to dispel health misinformation and rebuild public trust in the national health agency in the wake of the pandemic.

"There's so many things that are going on that I care so deeply about," Reimer shared. "Misinformation and disinformation is a big one for me because I truly believe that all of us are trying to make the best decisions we can for ourselves, for our families, but when you are bombarded by misinformation online, that is very challenging to know what's true, what's best for me, what's best for my family."

"So I want to contribute in any way I can to making sure that Canadians have access to reliable, evidence-based information, whether that's with the healthcare provider right in front of

them, on websites, on social media. I want to be part of providing good information to Canadians."

Reimer recognizes the irony in the fact she grew up in a region that today is the site of one of the largest measles outbreaks in Canada and has the lowest measles vaccination rates in Manitoba.

"It's so heartbreaking to me to see people who become severely ill, and we've even unfortunately had a few deaths [nationally] that could have been prevented," she said, reiterating the importance of ensuring people are making health decisions with accurate information. "So if I can play a role in this new job in helping people make informed decisions, that is going to be very rewarding to me because I come from a community that's right now being affected by measles specifically."

Building trust is a big part of that, she observed, as it was while trying to educate people about the importance of vaccination against COVID-19.

"I think I learned a lot during the

COVID pandemic about some of those challenges. Particularly when people are going through a hard time, it can be even harder to trust authority because when you're struggling with things it's tough to know whose fault it is that you're struggling," Reimer said. "During COVID, a lot of people went through some really difficult experiences—whether it was job loss or not having access to friends and family—that were really challenging."

When it comes to educating people during such challenging times, Reimer notes that it starts at the grassroots level.

"Where I think we see some of the best success is when we work directly with communities and try to work with people who are trusted in that community," she said, pointing to the work done by longtime local medical professionals to try to reach out to people and answer any questions and concerns they have about vaccinations. "I want to see that approach throughout, whether we're talking about the frontline providers, making sure that the physicians and nurses, that they have the information and the

skills that they need to talk to people in that trusted relationship, but taking that all the way up to the provincial, to the federal level and making sure that our messages are centered around accurate information, but also centered around empathy. That this is difficult, everyone's trying their best, and making sure we approach it from that standpoint."

As she prepares to begin her new job, Reimer admits there's both excitement and a bit of trepidation.

"I feel like I'm as well prepared as one could be for this monumental role," she said. "I'm obviously going to make mistakes—we all make mistakes. There's going to be a lot that I need to learn, and so there's a healthy amount of anxiety that I feel."

"But I feel an equal amount of excitement about being able to contribute to the well-being of Canadians, and knowing that I'm joining a team that is full of experts and really strong, passionate people."

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to contribute to the well-being of everybody across the country."

> MORDEN BUDGET, FROM PG. 4

Federal government grants are decreasing by almost half, but provincial government grants are increasing. There is provincial municipal tax sharing of \$2,792,763, federal grants of \$579,601 and provincial grants of \$1,920,425. Sales of recreation services account for \$1,155,049, and sales of services from the beach come in at \$429,500. Sales of protective services add up to \$356,772, while returns from investments come in at \$328,000.

Here is a breakdown of the areas of expenditures:

- Fiscal services - \$9,009,599.76, which represents almost no change from 2025. The brunt of it is almost \$7.8 million towards capital projects then \$874,000 in debenture debt charges.
- Protective services - \$4,103,375, which is a 5.8 per cent increase. It includes police staffing costs of over \$2.8 million and fire department staffing costs of over \$300,000.
- Community services - \$4,071,529, which is

a 3.6 per cent increase. Big ticket items include \$2.2 million towards recreation, \$850,000 towards parks and urban forestry and almost \$402,000 to the Morden beach and campground. In addition, there is \$264,000 going to the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre and \$225,000 to library services.

- Transfers to reserves - \$2,633,675, which is a 1.7 per cent increase. It includes \$1.1 million into general reserves, \$886,000 to replacement reserve and \$579,000 to gas tax reserve.
- General government services - \$2,362,376, which is a 17.1 per cent increase. It is primarily administrative staffing but also such areas as IT costs and damage and liability insurance.
- Transportation services - \$1,938,604, which is a 3.8 per cent increase. It includes planning and engineering costs of \$635,000, equipment repairs and maintenance of over \$259,000 and snow and ice removal of over \$224,000.
- Environment health services - \$945,242, which is a 4.6 per cent increase. It includes \$433,000 for recycling and \$263,000 for garbage collection.
- Economic development services - \$634,007, which is a 2.7 per cent increase that includes \$327,000 towards community development.
- Public health and welfare services - \$427,910, which is no change from the 2025 budget and includes \$400,000 to Menzies Medical Centre.
- Environmental development services - no change at \$1,250.

Upcoming capital and utility projects

By Lorne Stelmach

In addition to approving a 2026 operating budget of just over \$26.1 million, Morden city council last week also set out its capital and utilities budgets.

The planned capital projects for the year add up to \$7.7 million with about \$5.9 million being funded internally through reserve funds and \$1.8 million coming from various government grants.

On the utilities side, there is \$6.2 million in capital projects, with \$3.3 million being funded internally through reserves and debentures and \$2.9 million coming from government grants.

Here are some highlights from the various capital projects planned for the year ahead:

- Wastewater treatment including land purchase, detailed design and tendering - \$4,000,000.
- First Street reconstruction from Thornhill Street to the city's new 40 acre site - \$2,034,012.
- Public works shop expansion (\$831,656 total, \$149,596 paid in 2025) - \$682,060.
- 40 acre site pond construction (to be offset by 50 per cent government funding) - \$759,000.

- Flusher truck (utilities, hydro vac truck) - \$600,000.
- Lake Minnewasta algae control - \$520,000.
- New Case loader - \$400,000.
- Mountain St water main extension from Gilmour to Parkhill - \$350,000.
- 40 acre site (parking and servicing) - \$339,000.
- Ninth Street South from Grant to Jefferson road improvements - \$250,000.
- Capital contributions for Pembina Valley Water Co-op capital improvements - \$210,277.40.
- First Street intersection upgrade - \$200,000.
- Preliminary design and planning for Pembina River water supply (Swan Lake upgrade and direct piping from Swan Lake to be investigated subject to Swan Lake First Nation approval) - \$200,000.
- Preliminary design of reservoir on Dead Horse Creek - \$200,000.
- Development of infrastructure master plan - \$170,000.
- Stephen Street back lane 9th St to 10th St - \$120,000.
- New police vehicle - \$110,000.
- Intersection upgrade at Wardrop and 5th Street - \$100,000.

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The most valuable crop

What do you think the most valuable crop is around here?

You have a lot of options to choose from ... potatoes, corn, wheat, canola, beets. Some might say grain corn is the most valuable with a typical yield of 147 bushels per acre last year. I would suggest another one.

In my opinion, hate is the most valuable crop and it is increasing at a pretty steady pace. The number of people farming outrage all over the planet regardless of whether they lean hard left or right is incredible really.

I know many of my readers suspected this was not going to be a column on agronomy (although more than a few may have wished it so). By the end of the second paragraph readers were likely asking themselves, "Where's he going with this farming metaphor?"

Where am I going with this? I will tell you: there are a lot of people profiting from hate and outrage.

Just this week the CBC news program *The National* covered a story about a Canadian online platform out of Calgary called Entropy that hosts dozens of white supremacist groups.

According to *The National*, the platform boasts that it is a "safe haven for monetization" and within two years of launching had processed more than \$3 million in transactions. The money goes to white supremacist, racist, antisemitic groups, with a 15 per cent

cut going to Entropy.

This is farming hate.

The thing about farming hate is that it perpetuates the need to create more hate in order to continue raising and growing funds. Now you have a system that must foster an environment that can create more hate.

What sparked this particular column? Well, recently a social media friend shared some screenshots of Nazi paraphernalia being sold on a Carman buy, sell, trade page.

Someone in the Pembina Valley was very literally seeking to profit from hate, and, most likely, they have.

The subject of banning the sale of Nazi items has been a bit of a project of mine over the years. Myself, along with my friend Belle Jarniewski, have reached out to various politicians seeking to make it illegal to profit from hate by banning the sale of Nazi items in Manitoba.

While we received the occasional sympathetic ear, it never really gained traction.

What has gained traction? Hate and antisemitism.

According to B'Nai Brith Canada's recent audit, combined with government data, antisemitic incidents have risen 124 per cent since 2022. In 2023, Jewish Canadians were the subject of 70 per cent of all religiously moti-

vated hate crimes despite making up only 3.6 per cent of the population.

Hate is a problem in Canada and around the world right now. People are actively profiting from hate in Manitoba. I have seen numerous instances of Nazi paraphernalia for sale in Manitoba over the years, including in the Pembina Valley.

With this column I openly call on politicians of all stripes to come together in a non-partisan effort and seek a ban on profiting from hate by making the sale of Nazi items illegal in Manitoba.

If you happen to have Nazi items in your home, consider destroying those items or donating them to the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada in Winnipeg where they can be curated and utilized in contextual educational exhibits about the Holocaust, for example.

Also, whether you are a teacher or just regular schmo like me, consider visiting the centre or having them visit your classroom—they have an incredible and moving holocaust exhibit as well as numerous items that reflect and document Manitoba's rich and diverse Jewish history.

Knowledge and understanding are tools against hate. Let's work together to put an end to it where and when we can. How can we do any less?



By Peter Cantelon

Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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The *Voice* is published Thursdays and distributed as a free publication to 21,141 households. Republishing in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. Printed in Canada by Prolific Printing. The *Voice* received financial support from the Government of Canada in 2021.

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Many Hands expands BAG program for greater consistency and choice

By Lorne Stelmach

A food program in Morden is aiming to improve upon what it offers each month.

Many Hands Resource Centre is tweaking its BAG (Better Access to Groceries) program to provide recipients with a bit of a better overall package of food.

“Previously, the BAG program was more of a surprise each time, as it depended on what produce we received from local stores that week. People didn’t always know what to expect,” said executive director Mariyam Tsygankova.

“What’s new now is that we’ve introduced a bit more consistency and choice. Each bag will include some staple items like potatoes and onions, and participants can now choose be-

tween a couple of fruit and vegetable options to add to their bag.

“So there’s still some variety but also a bit more predictability and flexibility for people.”

The BAG program is offered the last Monday of every month, and it is currently limited to about 30 bags each time. The price remains the same at \$10 for a bag with the option of a yearly registration for 10 months at a cost of \$80.

What has changed now is that each bag will be guaranteed to have potatoes and onions along with the choice of two fruits and two vegetables. Tsygankova voiced her thanks to both Kroeker Farms and Gardenland Co-Op for their help in allowing this program to grow.

“We’re able to do this thanks to local store discounts and some donated



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Many Hands Resource Centre's Better Access to Groceries program is open to everyone, weekly providing bags of fruits and vegetables for \$10.

produce, so we pass that value directly to local families,” she explained, noting their mission with this program remains unchanged. “The program is about making healthy food more accessible for everyone. It’s non-emergency. This program is for everyone—not just food bank clients.

“Many Hands is sometimes seen as having a stigma,” she suggested. “A lot of people think we are just a food bank and that we only work with the vulnerable population. In fact, a big part of what we do is prevention, so we run many non-emergency programs that support people in different ways, and the BAG program is one of them.

“Our goal is to promote healthy eating and make groceries a little more affordable at a time when food prices keep rising. Even here in Manitoba, we are seeing food costs go up faster

than overall inflation.

“So this program is for everyone ... working families, seniors, anyone who needs access to fresh food. It’s about supporting people in everyday life, not just in crisis and creating simple and practical ways for our community to stay healthy and connected.

Tsygankova noted they also do emergency food support, but “programs like this are about something different. They’re about making sure people have access to healthy food as part of their normal lives, not just when things become urgent.”

Pick up is the last Monday of every month from 4-5:30 p.m. at the 500 Stephen Community Centre.

Registration forms are available on the Many Hands website, and payment can be made by cash, cheque or e-transfer to info@manyhandsrc.com.

Letters

PROVIDING CLARITY ON BILL C-9

Coverage of the recent Winkler town hall on Bill C-9 has prompted a great deal of concern, particularly among local faith communities [*Leslie hosts town hall in Winkler re: Bill C-9*, Pg. 3, March 19 edition].

Because town halls and short articles leave little room for legal detail, I wanted to offer some clarification based on the text of the bill itself and long-standing court decisions.

Bill C-9 does not criminalize Christianity, Scripture, sermons, or the good-faith expression of religious belief. The Criminal Code offence it amends—willful promotion of hatred—has always had a very high legal threshold. Courts have repeatedly distinguished between expressing beliefs, even deeply held or unpopular ones, and promoting hatred against an identifiable group.

Much of the current concern centres on the proposed removal of the so-called “religious expression defence.” Legally, that defence has never protected the promotion of hatred. In *R v Harding*, for example, the courts made clear that religious belief cannot be used as a “Trojan

horse” to shield conduct that meets the legal definition of hate. In practical terms, courts already reject attempts to use faith to justify hatred. At the same time, it is reasonable for people of faith to want reassurance about where those legal boundaries lie.

Reading the bill alongside the relevant case law makes clear that Bill C-9 targets very specific conduct and extreme forms of expression—not disagreement, moral teaching, or peaceful religious practice.

Speaking personally, nothing in Bill C-9 prevents me from practising or expressing my Christian faith responsibly. Much of the anxiety I am seeing appears to stem from uncertainty about what the law actually says, rather than from the text of the bill itself.

Clear, careful discussion grounded in the legislation and legal precedent is essential if our community is to move forward without unnecessary fear or division.

**Robert Kreis, Winnipeg,
Liberal candidate
for Portage-Lisgar**

Hiebert will run for another term in Morden-Winkler

By Voice staff

Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert will be running for another term when Manitobans next head to the polls.

Manitoba’s Progressive Conservative Party announced Hiebert’s successful, uncontested nomination last week.

Hiebert was first elected to represent the region in 2023. Since that time, she has advocated for increased transitional housing, healthcare, and mental health supports in rural Manitoba.

Last year, Hiebert introduced legis-

lation to cut red tape and paperwork for farmers and agricultural retailers, as well as a bill to recognize the province’s diverse, multicultural Christian community and their contributions to Manitoba heritage.

A strong believer in advancing the role of women in politics, she also represents Manitoba on the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) – Canadian Region Steering Committee.

The 44th Manitoba general election will be held no later than October 5, 2027.

SSMA reflects on a busy year of tree planting, other efforts

By Lorne Stelmach

The work of the Stanley Soil Management Association largely goes somewhat unnoticed by the public at large, but it is important work nevertheless.

The various projects of the organization were highlighted last Wednesday at its annual general meeting.

"For our organization, our bread and butter throughout all of our ac-



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Stanley Soil Management Association planted over 13 miles of new shelterbelt trees in 2025.

tivities has been tree planting," said technician Richard Warkentin. "We first were founded by a group of six farmers. The mandate has always been to plant trees and to maintain shelterbelts and so on, and we are still focusing on those things."

For over 112 years, tree seedlings were offered free of charge to prairie landowners through the federal tree nursery at Indian Head, SK, but federal funding was discontinued in 2013.

Since 2014, then, the association has been offering tree seedling sales to area landowners on a cost recovery basis. In 2025, they sold about 36,000 trees and shrubs, and 65 per cent of these trees were planted at Pembina Valley Watershed District sites.

In his annual report, Warkentin noted there was over 13 miles of new tree shelterbelt rows planted using 9,436 trees and 18 different varieties. In addition, there were 2,897 trees planted with a spade in gaps over 12.6 miles.

"Our most activity has to do with supplying trees for the watershed district. That's what keeps us busy for most of the winter and into spring. That's one of our biggest things," he said. "We only plant about a quarter of what we actually supply. A lot of people find their own way to plant or they plant on their own."

"We do planting all over the place ... and everything is done on a cost re-

covery basis. We are a not for profit group, but we don't go into a hole. We try to do it at a reasonable rate."

Warkentin also noted how closely they work with the watershed district is a very positive thing for them, as they are able to play a vital supporting role considering the district goes all the way from Boissevain in the west to Letellier in the east.

"It's a big, wide area," he said. "We have almost sort of become an arm of the watershed district to provide services more in the eastern parts of the district."

Warkentin also touched on some of their other ongoing efforts:

- **Spraying:** directed spraying can be effective for weed control in shelterbelts. This year, 5.45 miles were sprayed.

- **Mulch:** plastic mulch provides weed control and helps conserve moisture for the trees for at least five years. The plastic mulch is placed over the trees after planting, and the operator pokes a hole in the mulch during application, and the tree is pulled through the hole.

In the past year, 9.81 miles were covered with plastic mulch, and maintenance was done by hoeing and tilling. Trees survive better if kept weed free for at least three years, so 2.45 miles were hoed and 1.25 miles were tilled.

- **Abandoned well sealing:** the association seals abandoned wells in the

R.M. of Stanley through the Pembina Valley Watershed District well sealing program. Landowners are charged \$150 to have the well sealed properly, while the average cost to seal a well is \$800. Wells on the Winkler aquifer are sealed free of charge. In 2025, five wells were sealed in the R.M. of Stanley and two on the Winkler aquifer.

- **Educational activities:** Presentations on the value of trees were done at five schools in the R.M. of Stanley, and they distributed 340 tree seedlings to students.

- **Public awareness:** There was a display and presentations made at various festivals in the area.

Finally, another ongoing effort is focused on diffuse knapweed monitoring.

Diffuse knapweed is an invasive weed that is only found in the R.M. of Stanley in all of Manitoba. With assistance from watershed district summer staff, the association spent some time monitoring and spraying diffuse knapweed. They found more plants than they had for years, so they collected the plants and burned them.

"Diffuse knapweed is this weed that's been around for about 40 years in the RM of Stanley, and the goal is to eradicate it, but it's still kind of there," said Warkentin. "We need to bring that element of awareness that it's still there, and we need to still work at eradicating it."

Winkler looking for feedback on proposed dog park location

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The City of Winkler's hunt for a new home for the dog park has it eyeing space beside the Discovery Nature Sanctuary (DNS).

City staff are considering a stretch of greenspace directly south of the nature preserve's parking lot on the northeast corner of the city, separated from the DNS itself by a row of evergreen trees.

The dog park used to be on unused land beside the water treatment plant north of Hwy. 14 but was dismantled a few years ago while the facility was expanded.

The space left after the expansion is not only smaller than it was but also potentially going to be needed for other projects, so a new place for the dog park is needed.

"The city has reviewed over the last few years many sites and evaluated them against different criteria for trying to determine a good location," said city manager Jody Penner, noting multiple promising spaces have

ended up being rejected, either due to logistical concerns or public outcry in the more residential areas.

That brings them to the DNS-adjacent land, which seems like it might fit the bill—it's certainly far enough away from any hint of current or future residential development.

"This is one that staff and council have narrowed it down to, but we are looking for some public input," Penner said.

Anyone with thoughts on the idea they'd like to share in person is invited to the next "Ask the Mayor" event taking place on Tuesday, April 7 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

"What we will do after that is we'll reconvene to talk about the feedback," Penner said. "And if there's big concerns, maybe we can come up with some ways to mitigate those concerns. Or if we can't, let's go back to the drawing board."

"But, really, we've done a lot of site evaluations and we're hopeful we can try it here."

"NOT THE APPROPRIATE SITE FOR IT"

The idea of putting a dog park beside a nature preserve certainly doesn't sit well with the members of the Discovery Nature Sanctuary committee.

"There is a need for a dog park in the city, but the proposed location beside the DNS is not the appropriate site for it," said board chair Paul Goossen.

"The City has graciously provided a special place at the Discovery Nature Sanctuary for people to enjoy, get away from the busyness of life, and discover nature in the city's backyard, so to speak," he noted of the 34 acres of natural grasses, wetlands, and woodland habitats. "It's a quiet place for people to come and enjoy nature."

Having a dog park right next door puts that quiet at risk, Goossen said.

"The tranquility of the sanctuary will be disrupted by the barking of dogs and by owners calling after their pets," he said. "There's also an increased risk of human-dog encoun-

ters ... dogs may be running loose in the parking lot as owners get them ready to be released into the dog park.

"Not all people like dogs. Some are afraid of them, and some may have had bad encounters with them. So this means a dog park may make the DNS less inviting to visitors."

If the two sites did end up sharing a parking lot, Goossen noted, it will also mean less spaces for sanctuary users. The site sees an estimated 3,000 visitors a year.

The DNS is also concerned some dog owners may begin using the preserve to walk their pets.

"We already have people occasionally walking their dogs in the DNS, even though there is signage indicating no dogs allowed in the sanctuary," Goossen said, pointing out there's also always a chance a dog could break free in the parking lot and make its way into the preserve. "In terms of wildlife, dogs are predators, no matter how cute they may



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Portage-Lisgar MP visits Morden Collegiate for Rep Day

By Lorne Stelmach

A group of Morden students had an opportunity recently to learn a little more about the Canadian system of government.

About 20 social studies students at Morden Collegiate met with Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie under the umbrella of the Rep Day initiative of Civix Canada.

Civix is a registered charity dedicated to strengthening democracy through civics and citizenship education for school-aged youth. Rep Day is an initiative that connects elected representatives with students for a discussion about the political process and current issues.

The local event was organized by Aqeelah Daibu, who is currently serving as the youth representative on Morden city council.

She saw this as a great way to “just provide an opportunity for the students to connect with people who represent them, who make decisions for them.”

Daibu said the idea of government can often feel distant to students, but



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Social studies students at Morden Collegiate got the chance to chat with Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie recently during his visit at the school for Rep Day.

that doesn't have to be the case. She would like to see students get more involved and engaged in not just politics but even just community leadership.

“We should be participating in civic

engagement early on,” she said.

Leslie shared with the students a bit about his role as the MP. He went on to emphasize the importance of voting before opening up the floor for questions, which ran the gamut from

local government to current international fears.

“A lot of the questions were on parliamentary procedures ... how parliament runs, how frequently do they have parliamentary sessions and questions about the procedures of question period as well,” Daibu shared.

“Someone asked about how does his work affect family time ... it was an important question as well,” she added. “And he got a question as well about the Trump administration and what the federal government thinks about that.”

“It was a really good experience overall,” Daibu concluded.

“I always appreciate the opportunity to speak with young people about Parliament and public service,” said Leslie. “As the next generation of leaders, the students were very engaged, asked excellent questions and showed a strong interest in our political system.”

“My thanks to everyone at Morden Collegiate Institute for the warm welcome and especially to Aqeelah for setting up this excellent event.”

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MB Chamber Orchestra coming to Winkler April 15

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Manitoba Chamber Orchestra is hitting the road this spring to perform at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall.

MCO on Tour: Classical Meets Country takes the stage at the Winkler concert hall on Wednesday, April 15 at 7 p.m.

It's part of MCO's spring tour, an annual outreach initiative bringing the Winnipeg-based orchestra's programming to rural and remote Manitoba communities, explains Suzu Enns, director of education and community engagement.

It's about "meeting people where they're at," she said, noting this show is tailored-made for Winkler with a theme celebrating the simple pleasures of nature and rural life. "This is a theme that really resonates in the classical repertoire ... the countryside and nature has always been an inspiration, and we want to share that with the audience."

The program features elegant waltzes, lively dances, and rustic melodies ranging from the Baroque era through to modern times. Selections include works by Aaron Copland, Karen Sunabacka, Beethoven, Vivaldi, The Beatles, and more.

"It's that repertoire of Beethoven or Vivaldi that you may expect to hear from a string chamber orchestra, and then also other types of things that you may not expect but that sound so great when we're playing them," Enns said.

There will even be a few sing-a-long moments.

"Anyone can enjoy this—you don't have to be totally versed in what classical music is," Enns stressed. "I think it's a really nice entry point to some great music."

Tickets to *Classical Meets Country* are available online at winklerconcert-hall.ca.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The public concert is just one part of MCO's activities in the area that week.

"It's really a two-day excursion in that part of the province," Enns said.

For the first time, the MCO Toy Symphony school program is venturing outside Winnipeg, stopping at École St-Malo on the Wednesday and then J.R. Walkof School in Winkler Thursday.

"It's about teaching the kids 'toy' parts," Enns said, explaining the ele-

mentary school kids are given a variety of toy instruments to help them explore rhythm, sound, creativity, and collaboration together. "They'll be practising and learning how to play the part and also learning how to play in an ensemble and follow a conductor."

The workshop will culminate with a rehearsal with MCO musicians followed by a performance together in the school gymnasium.

"We're going to be playing with the students in a full school concert," Enns said. "We have a bunch of good repertoire, really audience-friendly, kid-friendly but also educational orchestral music."

"This is the first time most of them will ever have seen an orchestra. And then at the same time to have 60 or even up to 80 students actually playing with the orchestra—it's quite a lot for the kids," she said. "It's all about making the experience really, really kind and welcoming and fun so that they can really feel confident and supported during it all."



SUPPLIED PHOTOS BY MATT DUBOFF

MCO on Tour: *Classical Meets Country* takes the stage at the Winkler concert hall April 15. The chamber orchestra is also making a stop at schools in Winkler and St. Malo that week for its Toy Symphony program, giving kids the chance to learn from and perform with MCO musicians.



Past MCO Toy Symphony workshops have been a blast, Enns shared, and she's excited to be bringing it to these two rural schools.

"The concentration and focus that they have, especially when they're younger kids, it's amazing," she said. "It's amazing how music can bring us together, bring communities together, but it can also just

bring out such an inspiring side of it with the kids."

It's a big part of the outreach work MCO does to try and reduce the barriers that might exist to keep people from learning what orchestral music is all about, she noted.

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Altona chamber highlights growth, challenges at AGM

By Holly Thorne-Wiebe

Supporting local business, building connections, and navigating growing economic uncertainty were key themes at the Altona and District Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting on March 18.

President Kam Smith told attendees the past year had been “active and productive,” with a continued focus on strengthening the local business community and creating opportunities for collaboration and growth.

“Bringing people together has always been an important part for the chamber,” Smith said, pointing to a range of initiatives including the membership appreciation golf tournament, Burger Week, the Great Chamber Gift Hunt, and new events like a Women in Business Paint Night.

The chamber also continued to prioritize workforce development, including its Local Career Showcase at W.C. Miller Collegiate and the launch of a new Biz Camp for Kids in partnership with Community Futures Triple R.

Smith noted the Chamber Bucks program saw strong participation, with just under \$150,000 circulating through local businesses, and 33 new residents welcomed to the community over the past year.

Mayor Harv Schroeder highlighted signs of economic confidence in Altona, including more than \$13 million in development permits issued in 2025—about \$1 million higher than the previous year.

“These permits represent more than just construction,” he said. “They sig-

nal optimism and long-term commitment to our community.”

He said the town continues to invest in infrastructure, including roads, drainage and essential services, while also exploring new solutions such as a transportation pilot project aimed at improving access to work, health care and other services.

Schroeder also announced the municipality is preparing a budget with a zero per cent tax increase, citing ongoing cost pressures faced by residents and businesses.

“We know people are struggling with groceries, gas and many areas,” he said.

Rhineland Reeve Don Wiebe echoed the theme of growth, noting approximately \$30 million in new development permits over the past year. He also pointed to ongoing challenges, including water management, irrigation demands, and long-term water supply concerns.

The meeting also included a presentation from Manitoba Chambers of Commerce president and CEO Chuck Davidson, who outlined broader economic trends affecting businesses.

Davidson said rising costs, labour shortages, and increasing uncertainty around trade and tariffs are among the biggest concerns for Manitobans.

“Cost pressures continue to increase,” he said, noting expenses such as wages, insurance, rent and utilities are putting strain on companies.

According to a recent survey conducted by the agency, 76 per cent of businesses say economic uncertainty is affecting decisions around hiring, investment, and growth. Concerns



PHOTO BY HOLLY THORNE-WIEBE/VOICE

President Kam Smith shared that the past year has been an active and productive one for the Altona chamber of commerce.

about trade disruptions are particularly high, with about 80 per cent of businesses expressing worry about tariffs and shifting global trade dynamics.

“That’s a new one,” Davidson said of trade concerns. “It wasn’t on the radar last year.”

Despite the challenges, he said there are signs of resilience. About 30 per cent of businesses expect to grow in the coming year, while more than half anticipate maintaining current levels.

Davidson said businesses are adapting by diversifying supply chains, sourcing more domestically, and exploring new markets, including opportunities within Canada.

He also emphasized the importance of reducing interprovincial trade barriers and improving infrastructure to support economic growth.

“We can only control what we can control,” he said, adding that collaboration between businesses, governments, and organizations like cham-

bers of commerce will be key moving forward.

Smith acknowledged the challenges facing businesses locally.

“Me being the optimist, this could bring potential opportunities,” he said. “That’s exactly what makes a great business community.”

He also highlighted stronger collaboration between the chamber and Altona Rhineland Economic Development over the past year, including expanded staffing and shared leadership connections.

Looking ahead, the chamber plans to host its annual awards gala in April and continue advocating for local businesses.

Smith closed the meeting by encouraging businesses to stay engaged and look for new opportunities, even in uncertain times.

“I think one big takeaway is just being able to think differently,” he said.

New principal for Shevchenko School

By Voice staff

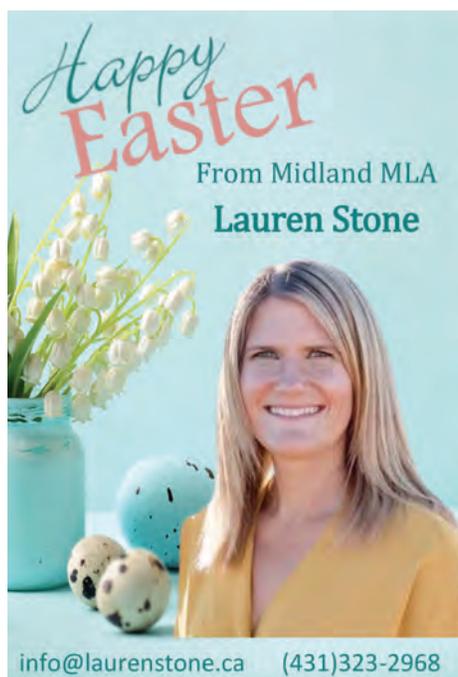
Shevchenko School will have a new face at the helm this fall.

Border Land School Division has announced the appointment of Leanna Doig as principal of the Vita school starting in September.

Doig has been an educator since 2006. She’s taught a range of subjects in both the middle and senior years and has been principal of Emerson School since 2023. She previously worked in Altona and has also worked in Washington and Nebraska.

Doig believes that the foundation

for all leadership resides in relationships, the division shares, noting she is passionate about community building and looks forward to continuing to grow the relationships between the school and the broader community.



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Paint the Ice 2026



PHOTOS BY WICUS CONRADIE/VOICE

The Altona Rec. Department invited the community down to the Millennium Exhibition Centre March 22 to say goodbye to the ice for the season with an ice painting party. Participants covered the ice surface with colourful creations. Above: Ella, Aspen, Ivy, and Dez Unger with some of their work.

Neubergthal Heritage Fdn. looks ahead after a year of progress and transition

By Holly Thorne-Wiebe

A year of restoration, reflection and renewal was front and centre at the Neubergthal Heritage Foundation annual general meeting, as the organization continues to balance preservation with growth.

Foundation chair Paul Krahn said the past year brought both meaningful accomplishments and real challenges, but overall the organization is moving forward with a renewed sense of purpose.

"I feel a little more positive now," Krahn said. "These kinds of places are too valuable to just let go."

One of the foundation's most significant achievements was the completion of work on the Klippenstein house, including a commercial kitchen and newly finished south-facing rooms designed to reflect the 1930s and 1940s era.

Krahn said seeing the space come together after years of planning has been especially rewarding.

"To have it restored to pretty close to the vision that the curatorial committee has had for a while, that really feels good."

The addition of the commercial kitchen has also expanded the foundation's ability to host events, something that remains central to its evolving role in the community.

Over the past year, the site hosted a range of activities, including weddings, cultural celebrations, and community gatherings.

While weddings proved popular, Krahn said the foundation is now carefully considering how the space is used moving forward.

"We had a really good year for weddings, and we're not sure how eager we will be to be quite as active with doing that," he said, noting a growing focus on educational and community-based programming.

That shift reflects a broader vision for the site as a place where history, culture, and community intersect. Events such as Low German programming, speaker series, and partnerships with organizations like Mennonite Central Committee are helping shape that direction.

"We love hosting those kinds of events," Krahn said. "Bringing people together is really at the heart of what we're trying to do."

At the same time, the foundation continues to invest in infrastructure and long-term improvements. Plans are underway to enhance the Commons Barn, including a proposed sound baffling system designed to improve acoustics while respecting the building's historic character.

Exterior painting is also set to begin, using historically appropriate materials to better preserve the site's heritage buildings.

"These buildings require constant care," Krahn said. "A lot of it is day-to-day maintenance, but when bigger work is needed, we rely on grants and community support."



PHOTO BY HOLLY THORNE-WIEBE/VOICE

The Neubergthal heritage site was a hopping place this past year, hosting numerous community and family events.

Staffing was another major theme at this year's AGM. The organization experienced significant transition over the past year, including the departure of its administrator and the resignation of the site manager following an increasingly demanding workload.

Krahn acknowledged the challenges but said the foundation is now in a more stable position, with a new administrator and additional support staff in place.

"It was a tough year for staffing," he said. "But we feel good about where we are now and about building from here."

Like many volunteer-driven organizations, the foundation continues to rely heavily on board members and community volunteers to carry

out its work, something Krahn described as both essential and increasingly difficult.

"Volunteer organizations are messy," he said with a laugh. "But they're also what make this possible."

Looking ahead, the foundation hopes to expand its programming,

Continued on page 24

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IN MORRIS

MB

Rhineland council approves \$15.9M budget

By Lorne Stelmach

The RM of Rhineland has set in place a budget for the year that largely maintains the status quo.

Council last week approved a 2026 budget that forecasts a drop in revenues by about \$500,000 to \$15.5 million, while expenditures rise by a similar amount to just over \$15.9 million.

The mill rate rises from 8.622 up to 9.13, resulting in an average increase of 5.9 per cent in municipal taxes. On what might be considered an average residential property, the municipal

tax bill will go up from \$1,560.57 to 1,652.52. A commercial property that had paid \$2,078.86 will see an increase to \$2,201.34, while a farm that paid \$846.79 will now pay \$896.68.

Municipal representatives said the 2026 budget is largely holding the line with modest increases in a few areas such as road maintenance and transportation and equipment expenditures.

"We think it's a fair budget," said finance committee chairperson Jake Heppner. "We actually put quite a bit of money into reserves. We didn't have to, but we chose to put \$2.2 million into

our reserves ... we spent quite a bit of money on equipment."

"There were some pressures with equipment costs, so looking forward, we had to make sure those reserves can cover our capital expenditures going forward," said Reeve Don Wiebe.

He added there are always some increased costs for things like road improvements and maintenance.

"So there's increased expenses and keeping the status of our reserves where we don't have to borrow money for equipment and such," he said.

"Considering the increased costs, I think it's pretty fair," said Wiebe. "We could have maybe gone with less [of a tax increase], but it's probably more of a long term budget. We're looking more two or three years down the road that we are secure with what we have in reserves to fund what we need at that time."

One exception as far as municipal taxes is Gretna, where there is a budget decrease for the local urban district (LUD) from \$450,600 to \$382,650. The tax levy though rises from \$284,280 to \$321,205, which means a 15.7 per cent increase in municipal taxes. A property assessed at \$226,400, for example, will see its municipal taxes increase by \$294 to \$2,169.43.

"There's a couple of issues there. First of all, the low growth in terms of new assessment. That hasn't helped," said Wiebe. "And the surplus was depleted, so we had nothing to carry forward, and some of the arena costs were higher than anticipated."

By comparison, in the LUD of Plum Coulee, there is a budget increase from \$1,080,100 to \$1,258,200. The tax levy sees a minor increase from \$754,235 to \$795,242, so municipal tax bills will pretty much remain the same.

In the LUD of Rosenfeld, the budget goes up from \$154,400 to \$191,950. The tax levy goes up from \$103,400 to \$110,950, and the tax increases will vary from perhaps 1.9 per cent to 2.4 per cent. For example, a property assessed at \$210,100 will see its municipal taxes go up from \$1,243.87 to \$1,270.51 for an increase of \$26.64

Municipal taxes account for about 53 per cent of the RM's revenue, with a projected increase from \$7.7 million to \$8.2 million. Other revenue such as federal and provincial money accounts for 46 per cent, with a drop from \$8.2 million to \$7.7 million.

On the expenditure side, here is a breakdown of spending:

- Transportation services - a 3.2 per cent decrease to \$8,678,650. It accounts for 56 per cent of the budget.

Continued on page 16

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> DOG PARK, FROM PG. 8

seem to be ... their presence is going to have a negative impact on wildlife."

There are also concerns about whether dog feces not picked up by owners could contaminate the nearby water system.

Goossen said the committee will be sharing all these concerns at the April 7 meeting with the mayor, and they encourage others with thoughts on the proposal to do the same.

"There's been so many organizations and businesses that have contributed to this space," he said. "I just think that, given the substantial time and effort that has been put into making the sanctuary an engaging place to visit and a haven for wildlife, it would be a shame to diminish the attractiveness, the solitude, and the experience one can enjoy when visiting the DNS."



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Falk Family Band performs benefit concert in Winkler Friday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A Christian ministry that helps lift children out of poverty in Latin America is holding a benefit concert featuring The Fehr Family Band this weekend in Winkler.

Generation Rising hosts the band at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church (750 15th St.) this Friday, March 27, at 7 p.m.

It's part of a larger tour that is bringing the Alberta-based family troupe out west, shares Rafael Duerksen, Generation Rising director.

"We're doing three concerts with them in Ontario and then three here in Manitoba," he says, noting last year the band performed on behalf of the ministry in Alberta and British Columbia, to great success.

The Fehr Family Band features James and Heather Fehr and their 11 children. The acoustic group regularly travel the country together to share their love of both music and God.

The evening will feature gospel songs, personal testimonies, and a message of hope.

"This is more than just a concert," Duerksen says. "It's an opportunity for families and churches to gather, be encouraged in their faith, and be reminded of the hope we have in Christ."

Admission to the show is free, though donations will be accepted towards Generation Rising's work.

Those donations are integral to the ministry, Duerksen says.

"Our work has grown because we do these concerts. We don't have the name recognition of bigger organi-

zations, and so we depend on doing these kinds of events for people to get to know us, to partner with us for the long term. We depend on these donations to help this project—we couldn't do it without it."

"We partner with Christian schools in Latin America that serve children who live in extreme poverty," Duerksen explains. "If you provide education and faith you can really lift people out of poverty in the long term."

Funds raised this weekend will go to help a school in Honduras continue to grow.

"[It's] on the outskirts of San Pedro Sula, and this area has gone through a lot," Duerksen shares. "They've had gang wars and then a flood, and so the school we're working with, we're helping them renovate some classrooms."

"The school has grown over time and they have enough space, but some of their original classrooms were built for little kids. Now that the school also has a high school, they need bigger washrooms, they need to build a lab for their high school so that the students can actually complete the required work to graduate."

Generation Rising was started in 2008 by people looking to make a difference in the world.

"We started very small," Duerksen says. "It was just a group of friends from Winnipeg that had originally come from Paraguay and they wanted to give back to the place that they had come from."

They began raising funds through small-scale community events to sponsor scholarships to a school



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Falk Family Band (above) takes the stage Friday in support of Generation Rising, a Christian ministry that helps kids in Latin America (right) get an education and break the cycle of poverty.

in Paraguay begun by one of their founders.

"And then it just started growing from there as there were more schools that needed help," Duerksen says. "And more people joined in."

Today they work with schools not just in Paraguay and Honduras but Nicaragua as well.

They've certainly seen the fruits of their labour over the past 18 years.

"We've seen a lot of children ... coming back and working as teachers in the schools, which is amazing to see," says Duerksen. "We also have a university program, so we're starting to see some of these children come through the university and they're sharing their family story and how they, for a lot of them, will be the first people ever to go to university in their



family.

"And every once in awhile as we're walking around, someone will approach us and say, 'Hey, I've from that school and this is my life now,'" he says of the kids who have gone on to build families and careers because of the education they were able to receive. "It's a generational project. Each generation rises out of [poverty] a bit more."

You can learn more about Generation Rising at genrising.org or check out this weekend's concert for more stories of their impact.

> RHINELAND BUDGET, FROM PG. 14

- Transfers to reserves - a 4.1 per cent increase to \$2,142,589. It represents 14 per cent of the budget.
- General government services - a 7.6 per cent increase to \$1,480,460. It makes up nine per cent of the budget.
- Economic development services - a 25 per cent increase to \$874,052. It accounts for six per cent of the budget.
- Protective services - a 9.9 per cent increase to \$753,111. It represents five per cent of the budget.
- Recreation and cultural services - a 45 per cent increase to \$701,561. It makes up four per cent of the budget.
- Fiscal services - a 74 per cent decrease to \$288,555. It accounts for two per cent of the budget.
- Environmental health services - a 2.3 per cent decrease to \$267,500. It represents two per cent of the budget.

- Public health and welfare services - a 1.1 per cent increase to \$152,513. It makes up one per cent of the budget.
- Environmental development services - a 28 per cent decrease to \$111,700. It accounts for one per cent of the budget.

In addition to the operating budget, Rhineland council also approved its utilities budget. It forecasts revenue decreasing from \$2.7 million to \$2.5 million, while expenditures go down from \$2.7 to \$2.5 million. Significant items here include revenue from water consumer sales of \$1,760,000 as well as expenditures for water purchases of \$1,124,000.

As well, there is a capital budget of \$2,743,710. Major items include the purchase of two new graders and an excavator for \$1,176,500, the purchase of land for the Plum Coulee sewage lagoon for

\$400,000, an Altbergthal bridge study for \$300,000 and water line looping work south of Sommerfeld for \$180,000.

The municipality had total surplus funds in reserve that started off the year at \$8,637,390, and the forecast is for it to be at \$7,826,166.

Municipal officials said there are always a wide range of needs to be addressed with the budget, but there is only so much that they can do without putting too much of a burden on ratepayers.

"When we prepare for the budget, there's always way more on the list that we could be doing, but we have to prioritize what we feel is the most important to do for the coming year," said Heppner.

"We're trying to stay ahead of the curve," noted Wiebe.

"WE'RE TRYING TO STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE."

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

sports & recreation

Royals, Northstars deadlocked in SEMHL final

By Annaliese Meier

The South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League championship series between the Winkler Royals and Ile des Chenes Northstars is all square at two games apiece after a back-and-forth opening four games in the best-of-seven final.

Winkler struck first with a 3-0 victory in Game 1 on March 15, but Ile des Chenes responded with a pair of wins to take control of the series before the Royals bounced back with a shutout of their own in Game 4.

Game 2 on March 18 saw the Northstars even the series with a 7-4 win on home ice in a contest that featured momentum swings and strong special teams play. Ile des Chenes capitalized twice on the power play, matching Winkler's 2-for-4 performance with the man advantage.

Justin Tremblay led the Northstars with a goal and two assists, while Miguel Rondeau added a goal and two helpers. Kaan Bitchok and Braden Purtill each chipped in with a goal and an assist.

Winkler was paced by TJ Matuszewski, who scored twice and added an assist, while Aaron Lewadniuk and Justin Augert each had a goal and a helper. Lawson McDonald contributed two assists in the loss.

The Northstars pulled away late in the third period, with Rondeau scoring the game-winner before adding a pair of empty-net goals to seal the victory. Matthew Radomsky made 31 saves for the win, while Winkler netminder Matthew Thiessen turned



PHOTOS BY MERLIN HEPNER/VOICE

The visiting Northstars took game three of the SEMHL championship series 6-4 Friday night in Winkler, but the Royals tied the series at 2-2 with a 4-0 blanking in Ile des Chenes the next night. Right: Brett Stovin on the attack.

aside 42 shots in a busy outing.

Ile des Chenes carried that momentum into Game 3 on March 20, earning a 6-4 win in Winkler to take a 2-1 series lead.

After Cody Fowlie opened the scoring for the Royals, the Northstars responded with five goals over the final two periods, including a natural hat trick from Michael Svenson in the third. Svenson finished with three goals, while Caleb Paisley and Josh Beauchemin also scored.

Winkler stayed within reach thanks to goals from Fowlie, Lewadniuk and Lawson McDonald, but Svenson's third of the night stood as the game-winner. Radomsky made 31 saves for the victory, while Thiessen stopped 30 in defeat.

Facing a potential two-game deficit, the Royals answered in Game 4 on March 21 with a dominant 4-0 win on the road to even the series.

Justin Augert opened the scoring late in the first period before Matuszewski added another less than a minute later. Lewadniuk extended the lead in the second, and Lucas Ens sealed the win with an empty-net goal.

Thiessen was outstanding in net, turning aside all 26 shots he faced for the shutout, while Radomsky made 34 saves in



the loss.

Through four games, the series has featured balanced scoring and strong goaltending at both ends, with neither team able to build sustained momentum.

With the series tied 2-2, it now shifts back to Winkler for Game 5 on March 25 at 8 p.m. Game 6 is scheduled for March 27 in Ile des Chenes, with a deciding Game 7, if necessary, set for March 29 in Winkler.

Flyers squaring off vs. Nighthawks in opening playoff round

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers dropped game one of their best-of-seven playoff series against the Niverville Nighthawks Saturday night.

The two teams ended the first period tied at 2-2, with Winkler's Ethan MacTavish following up Niverville's opening goal with one of his own just 20 seconds later, and Owen Wallace scoring in the 12th minute to again take away the Nighthawks' one-goal

lead.

That was all she wrote for Winkler when it came to scoring, though, (aside from a disqualified goal judged to have been knocked in by a hand) while Niverville got three past the Flyers' defensive lines in the second and three more in the third to take it 8-2.

Liam Ernst took the loss in net for Winkler, making 23 saves as the Nighthawks outshot the Flyers 31-29.

Winkler had a chance to tie the series

up Monday night at home. Results were not available at press time.

Game three is in Niverville Wednesday followed by game four back in Winkler Friday and game five in Niverville Sunday. Game six, if needed, will be in Winkler Tuesday, March 31.

Head coach and general manager Matthew Melo said heading into the weekend that the team was feeling pretty confident about the task ahead of them.

"This is the best time of the year," he said of the playoffs, noting last week's prep strategy was simply to hold course on what's been working for the team. "It's probably a little bit cliché, but really it's just doing the same, focusing on ourselves and on trying to polish our game and just get game ready so that we're executing at our full potential."

That potential saw the Flyers close out the regular season in fourth place

Continued on page 18

Morden-Winkler hosts 55+ Games curling events

Submitted by Resby Coutts/thecurler.com for Active Aging in Manitoba

Manitoba's 55+ Games got an early start in Morden and Winkler last week when the Game's curling events took place at the two curling clubs, welcoming curlers from across the province.

"The Manitoba 55+ Games are a mainly summer sports and activities event, but when the host communities are able to provide curling, we like to get the early start," explains Linda Brown, executive director of Active Aging in Manitoba, the organization which stages the Games.

"The curling was exactly what we expect from the whole Games experience in June," Brown said. "We had good-friendly competitions in excellent facilities in two very welcoming communities. It is exactly what the Games are about."

The curling events featured traditional four-person curling in men's, women's (55+ and 65+ age groups) and mixed divisions as well as two-person stick competition in mixed and men's (U70 and 70+ age groups) divisions.

While it was mostly for fun and recreation, there was some competition-preparation motivation for some of the curlers. Judy Colwell's East St. Paul team, recent winner of Curl-Manitoba provincial masters women championship, were in the event to prepare for their Canadian championship. Their 65+ women's division was one of the smaller ones but still good games as Team Colwell won the gold medal in the best-of-three play-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Among the local teams clinching gold at the Manitoba 55+ Games curling events last week were (clockwise, from above left) Manitou's Team Sanders, Carman's Team McCullough, Morden/Crystal City Team Reimer, and Morden's Team Hildebrand.

off against the Gardiner team from Winnipeg.

In the other foursome divisions, the women's 55+ category gold medalists were Kathleen Messner and her Lorette team with a win over Morden's Candace Fraser team. Clare Reimer's Morden/Crystal City team were the gold medallists in the mixed four-person group with a win over Jim Falk's Altona foursome.

In men's competition, Andrews Swan and his Winnipeg-based Doctors Manitoba team were awarded the gold medal in the 55+ age category and Ken Hildebrand's Morden team won the gold in the 65+ age category.

On the stick curling side, Darlene Maywood, recent winner of the Manitoba Stick Curling Women's Championship, was playing in the mixed two-person division in preparation for her national championship in April. In the five-team group, Maywood and her partner for this event, Arlene Deprez, had to settle for the silver medal after a final game loss to Evelyn and Andre Sanders from Manitou.

In the other two-person stick divisions, the men's 70+ group was won by Blair Coggans and Lino Santos (from Warren and Winnipeg) with an extra end win over the Fort Rouge Magnusson/Coutts duo and the men's U70 was won by the Steinbach



team of Al Meyers and Curt Brandt with a win over Jim Partaker and Denis Leduc (St. Claude), also in an extra end. Carman's Charlie McCullough and Wayne Johnston took home gold as the top team in the over-85 age category.

The Manitoba 55+ Games presented by PLAY-NOW are the largest 55+ annual multi-sport event in Manitoba. Their stated aim is to combine active games with a social and entertaining experience.

Entries are already being received for the over 20 competitive events taking place in Morden-Winkler June 9-11. Head to activeagingmb.ca for the complete list and to register.

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 17

with a 34-30-2-2 record and 72 points, trailing Niverville in first (103 points), Steinbach in second (96), and Portage in third (79 points).

"I think there were a lot of ups and downs," Melo said of the season as a whole. "We had a really rough start, a slower start, and lost more games than I thought we were going to early on."

But it's this time of year that ultimately truly counts, he observed.

"We want to win championships, not regular season banners," Melo stressed. "I've been really pleased with our second half. It's maybe seven games we've lost in the second half; we've had a very strong run."

"It feels like we're getting better and better as we go here, and peaking towards the right time of the year."

Still, Melo acknowledges the Nighthawks aren't going to be an easy team to topple, but he's feeling good about the Flyers' chances.

"There's definitely belief in our group that we can beat this team in a playoff series," he said.

"They're a very good team. They only lost six games all year in regulation, so we understand what we're up against. But we played them very well, especially of late."

In the eight times the two teams played one another, Niverville came out of it with seven wins, but rarely more than by a goal or two.

"We beat them in Winkler 7-5 the second-last time we played them, and then we lost in overtime when we played them in the second game we played in the new Centennial Arena, and we really liked how we played that game," Melo not-

Zodiacs clinch provincial basketball silver

By Voice staff

The Garden Valley Collegiate varsity girls basketball team is #2 in the province after a strong showing at the AAA high school provincials last weekend.

The ladies downed the Linden Christian Wings 61-52 in the quarter-finals and then defeated the

ed of the close 4-3 loss a few weeks ago. "So we're feeling good. We're going to have to play really well—that's what it's going to take for us—but we definitely have a belief that we can beat this team."

There's was a buzz of excitement in the locker room heading into this weekend's game one, Melo shared.

"There's that anxious anticipation, but I think there's a confidence and a belief in our group too, which has been really cool to see," he said. "Mostly I would say we're just really ready to get rocking here."

Churchill Bulldogs 68-61 in the semi-finals to earn a seat at the championship table against the Sanford Sabres, who took it 56-35.

On the boys side, the Zodiacs fell 95-68 to the Mennonite Brethren Hawks in the first round of playoffs and then got knocked out of the consolation side by the Nelson McIntyre Torchbearers 74-55.

Winkler Basketball League finals Sunday



The Winkler Basketball League semi-finals last weekend saw the Wolves and the Fighting Camels come out ahead to advance to the finals. They'll square off in the Garden Valley Collegiate gymnasium Sunday at 2:45 p.m.

PHOTOS BY
ASHLEIGH
VIVEIROS/
VOICE



By Ashleigh Viveiros

The second season of Winkler Basketball League action wraps up this Sunday in the Garden Valley Collegiate gymnasium.

Last weekend, the Wolves beat Heat Check 71-62 and the Fighting Camels defeated the Sweepers 83-81 in the semi-finals, paving the way for the Wolves and Camels to go head to head for the league title starting at 2:45 p.m. this Sunday, March 29. The third-place game between the Sweepers and Heat Check takes place at 1:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come down and cheer the teams on, shares league organizer Bryan Collantes.

"It's open to all," he said.

The rec. league has had six teams take part this season, playing weekly through the winter months.

"We're pretty happy with that," Collantes said, though he notes they would love to see more people get involved. "We're hoping to get the word out about it more."

The program started up last year, inspired by the success of both the local Filipino basketball league and the informal weekly pick-up games at the outdoor courts on 15th St. that run through the summer.

Right now the teams are made up of male players, though Collantes says they'd love to expand to include women as well.

"Hopefully we can, once we get the numbers and once we can gather more interest in the community, then hopefully we can get some girls playing as well," he said.

If you'd like to connect with the league, send them an email at winklerbasketballleague@gmail.com.

Griffin named athlete of the week

By Voice staff

Morden Collegiate's Kiru Griffin is the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba Athlete of the Week.

The Gr. 12 student has been a key part of back-to-back Zone 4 hockey league championships for the school, the Manitoba High School Athletic Association shares.

"Kiru works extremely hard at both ends of the ice, is a leader on the team, and is very consistent in his performance," the award citation reads. "He has recently been named a Zone 4 League All-Star and led the playoffs in scoring with 12 points in six games.

"All season long Kiru contributed to the success of the Morden Thunder scoring over a point a game and

setting a positive example for his teammates."

Griffin currently has an 87 per cent academic average and was on the honour roll last year. He also volunteers with his team for I Love to Read Month at elementary schools and has contributed to Christmas Cheer Board fundraising as a part of the team.



MHSAA PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

League organizers at the semi-final matches last weekend. From left: Joel Janzen, Isaiah Friesen, Tom Friesen, Bryan Collantes, Mike Urichuk, Josh Neufeld, and Brett Friesen.

The *Winkler Morden*
Voice

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Crusty Bun table tennis tourney returns April 25

By Lorne Stelmach

Table tennis has been attracting a core group of players in the Morden-Winkler area, and they will have another chance to compete next month.

The third annual Crusty Bun Morden Open table tennis tournament takes place at the Access Event Centre on Saturday, April 25.

Morden recreation programmer Brookelyn Wolfe shared the past two tournaments have been a success, with numerous adults and a few teenagers coming out to take part.

"Last year, we sold out at 32 spots, and this year we're adding in doubles, so we will see how that goes," she said. "I was really happy with the turnout last year."

The tournament will again have two levels, with the top three in each category receiving a trophy.

"The A level was a bit more competitive, and the B level was still competitive but for different skill levels," explained Wolfe.

She noted they appreciate having the assistance of the Manitoba Table Tennis Association.

"They come out every year to help us get the tournament running smoothly. They've been a great help

in getting table tennis up and running in Morden here. They are great to partner with."

For those who might like to learn some of the basics of the game before taking on a tournament, Wolfe noted they will be offering lessons the coming weeks.

"I am going to be introducing a four-week thing to learn how to play table tennis in early April," she said, noting it will be for ages six and up and run Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. starting March 31.

Meanwhile, residents are also invited to come out to play at the weekly drop-in program every Wednesday evening at the Access Event Centre.

"We are seeing some consistency with people coming each week," said Wolfe, noting the program's popularity comes, in part, due to a "desire to just get out and find some sense of community, or even just get active throughout the year."

"It's a really fun sport, and it's fairly easy to pick up. It's not really daunting, something where you have to run a lot and over exert yourself. It appeals to people of all ages and skill levels, I think," she added. "Some people have great skill ... but to be able to pick it up is fairly easy."

For those interested in the tourna-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Table tennis fans can show off their skills at the third annual Crusty Bun Morden Open next month.

ment, early bird registration by March 31 will be \$30 per player for singles and \$60 per team for doubles. Starting April 1, those rates will go up to \$35 for singles and \$70 for doubles. You can register at morden.ca/rec-programs.

On tournament day, singles will play from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with doubles to follow from 3-5 p.m.

They're also looking for volunteers to be officials. Training is provided. Contact Wolfe at bwolfe@mymorden.ca for more information.

Local skaters shine at provincial championships

By Voice staff

A number of local skaters had strong

showings at the 2026 Skate Manitoba provincial championships in Stonewall March 20-22.



PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER/VOICE

The Pembina Valley Pizazz synchronized skating team were among the local skaters taking part in the 2026 Skate Manitoba provincial championships in Stonewall March 20-22.

Complete results were not available as of press time, but here are some of the top finishers from this region:

- Artistic star five - Penny Wahl, Altona, fourth.
- Singles junior women short program - Alison Convery, Morden, first.
- Singles junior women free program - Alison Convery, Morden, first.
- Free skating star seven women - Kierra Penner, Morden, third.
- Singles pre-novice women short program - Tessa Dyck, Morden, second; Jacy Butler, Morden, third.
- Free skating star five U10 - Amelia Itterman, Morden, fourth.
- Free skating star 6 women - Nahlia Peters Loewen, Morden, first.
- Free skating star 8 women - Kierra Penner, Morden, third ... Camryn McGill, Morden, fifth.
- Free skating adult silver women - Samantha Holyk, Morden, third.
- Singles pre-juvenile women U13

- Marta Kornieieva, Morden, second; Abigail Nelson, Winkler, third.

- Free skating star four girls A U10 - Abigail Sauer, Winkler, second.
- Free skating star four girls B U10 - Stefani Shmidt, Morden, fourth; Madelyn Chawrun, Morden, fifth.
- Free skating star four girls B U13 - Kira Piterova, Morden, first.
- Free skating star four girls C U13 - Sheridan Penner, Winkler, third; Macy Wiens, Morden, fifth.
- Free skating star four girls B 13 and O - Penny Wahl, Altona, second; Vladyslava Parkhomenko, Morden, third.
- Synchronized star six - Pembina Pizazz second.
- Synchronized star eight - Pembina Pizazz first.
- Synchronized adult Sys 2 - Pembina Pizazz, second.
- Synchronized star four - Pembina Pizazz, third.

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EMPLOYMENT



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a **VICE PRINCIPAL FOR ROSEAU VALLEY SCHOOL IN DOMINION CITY, MB**

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

EMPLOYMENT



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a **VICE PRINCIPAL FOR SHEVCHENKO SCHOOL IN VITA, MB**

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2026-002 and By-law No. 2363-26, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2363-26, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

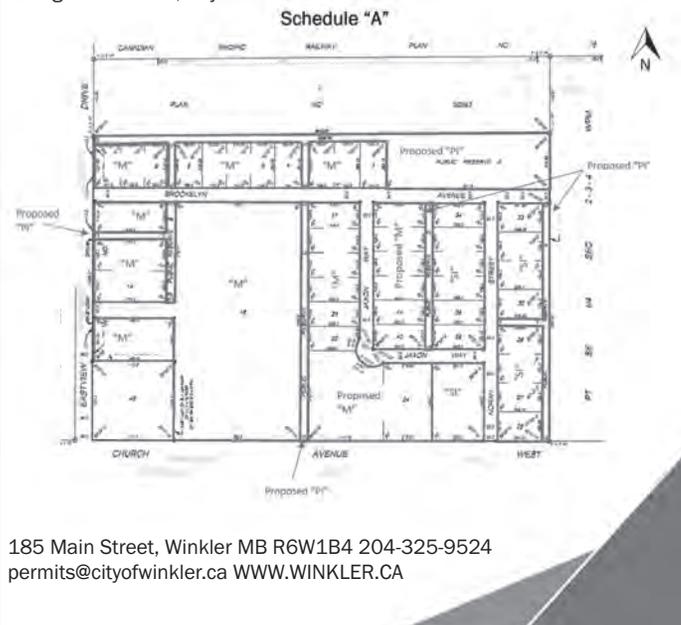
195 Eastview Dr, legally described as All of Plan (Deposit No. 1216-2025) MLTO excepting Lot 46, in the SW ¼ 2-3-4 WPM as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

FROM: "M" INDUSTRIAL & "SI" SERVICE INDUSTRIAL
TO: "M" INDUSTRIAL, "SI" SERVICE INDUSTRIAL & "PI" PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2362-26 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2026
Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 12th day of March 2026.
Designated Officer, City of Winkler



185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4 204-325-9524
permits@cityofwinkler.ca WWW.WINKLER.CA

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2025-011 and By-law No. 2361-25, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2361-25, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

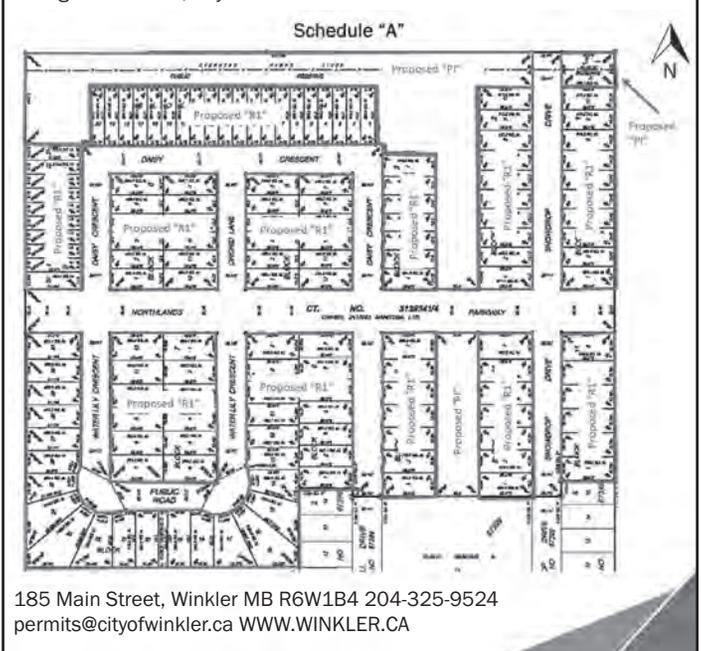
legally described as Part of SW ¼ Section 8-3-4 WPM as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

FROM: "DR" DEVELOPMENT RESERVE
TO: "R1" RESIDENTIAL LOWER DENSITY & "PI" PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2361-25 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2026
Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 12th day of March 2026.
Designated Officer, City of Winkler



185 Main Street, Winkler MB R6W1B4 204-325-9524
permits@cityofwinkler.ca WWW.WINKLER.CA

PUBLIC NOTICE



R.M. OF STANLEY PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the R.M. of Stanley intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a Public Hearing in the Council Chambers of the Municipality on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the Financial Plan, as provided. Copies of the 2026 Financial Plan will be available for review prior to the Hearing at the Municipal Office at 1-23111 PTH 14W in the Rural Municipality of Stanley.

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YARD MAINTENANCE TENDER

Access Credit Union Altona



Access Credit Union's Altona branch located at 129-3rd Ave. NE, requires the services of a contractor to provide yard and grounds maintenance.

Duties include:

- Grass maintenance including cutting, bagging, weed control, and fertilization
- Flowerbed and garden maintenance
- Litter control of exterior property

Tender information can be obtained by emailing: Vickie.Addison@accesscu.ca

Tenders or resumes, accompanied by a minimum of two references, must be received on or before April 3, 2026, before 4:30 p.m.

Walk throughs available by request.

Tenders may be delivered, mailed or emailed to:
Access Credit Union
PTH #14 Unit 2 - 23111 Stanley Business Centre Winkler, MB R6W 4B4
Email: vickie.addison@accesscu.ca

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PUBLIC HEARING

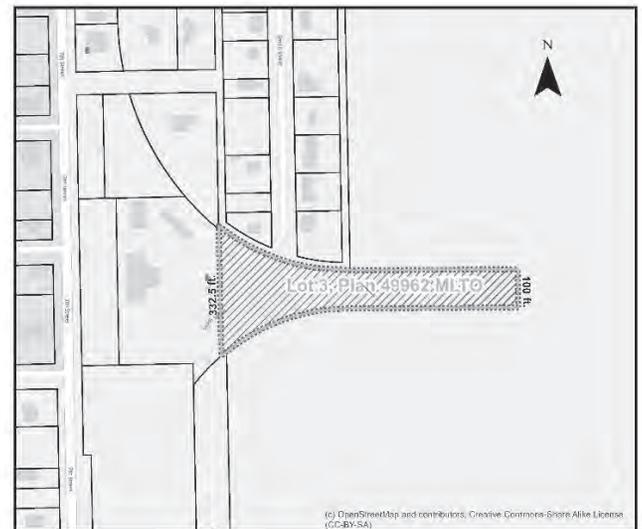


UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

THE MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND BY-LAW 2026-01
Being an AMENDMENT to the MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND ZONING BY-LAW 2021-06, AS AMENDED

HEARING: Municipality of Rhineland Council Chambers
LOCATION: 109-3rd Avenue NE, Altona, MB
DATE & TIME: April 8th, 2026 at 9:00AM
GENERAL INTENT: To rezone the property from AI – Agro-Industrial to RLD – Residential Low-Density Zone.
AREA: Lot 3, Plan 49962 in SW 5-1-1W in the LUD of Gretna



Schedule "A"
Attached to and forming part of
By-Law No. 2026-01
Amending Schedule "A", Map 14 of the
Municipality of Rhineland
Zoning By-Law No. 2021-06

LEGEND:
 Portion to be rezoned
From: "AI" Agro-Industrial Zone
To: "RLD" Residential Low Density

Municipality of Rhineland
Gretna

Lot 3, Plan 49962
Pt. SE 5-1-1WPM



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Lucie Maynard, General Manager
RPGA Planning District
Box 270, Altona, MB R0G 0B0
Phone: (204) 324-5357 ext.3 or E-Mail: manager@rpgamb.ca

The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the above proposal. All information and documents related to this matter, along with the procedures for the upcoming hearing, are available for review at the Municipal Office during regular business hours.

You may submit a written submission by regular mail or email, provided it is received by the Municipality at least two days before the hearing.

FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION with an EMPLOYMENT/CAREERS AD in



Call: 204-467-5836 or Email: ads@winklermordenvoice.ca



Worship Around the World

PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCANAL/VOICE

The Love Well Women's Drop-in Centre in Altona invited supporters down to the Pioneer Centre Saturday for its Worship Around the World celebration. The day featured praise and worship music from a host of local bands, a prize raffle, craft sale, and canteen, all raising funds for its programming connecting and supporting women from all walks of life in the community.



Altona Panthers best police



The Altona Panthers Special Olympics Club squared off against members of the Altona Police Service March 16 for a friendly game of basketball. The Panthers retained the title for the fourth straight year with a 47-38 win. Attendance was free for spectators, who were encouraged to bring along donations for the Altona and District Food Bank.

PHOTOS BY EDWARD VINCENT ARCANAL/VOICE

> NEUBERGTHAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, FROM PG. 13

strengthen partnerships, and deepen connections within the village and beyond. Ideas range from cultural events and school partnerships to new ways of sharing traditional practices and stories.

A key priority is ensuring the site remains relevant and welcoming, particularly for younger generations.

"The kids love this," Krahn said. "When they come here and experience it hands-on, they really connect with it."

He said encouraging families and young people to engage with the site will be critical to its long-term sustainability.

"We need to make this a place where people feel invited, where

they can come together and appreciate what this represents," he said.

Krahn also emphasized the importance of maintaining a balance between preserving history and serving a living community, noting that Neuberghthal is not just a heritage site but an active village.

"There are real people living here," he said. "We're trying to preserve a story, but also be part of a community."

As the foundation moves into the coming year, Krahn said the focus will remain on thoughtful growth, building on recent successes while staying true to its core mission.

"It's about preserving the past in a way that still matters today."

The **Voice**
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