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The **Voice** Altona • Rhineland • Morris

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# Ice artists

Jillian Neufeld, Braylee Hildebrand, Emma Falk, and Oin Kim were among the kids who came out Friday to help the Altona Rec. Department bid farewell to the ice at the Millennium Exhibition Centre with a painting party. For more photos, see Pg. 12.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

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# Libraries integral in “opening the world” to patrons

Morden clerk looks back on 33 years with SCRL as the network celebrates its 60th anniversary

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Last week, in honour of the South Central Regional Library’s 60th anniversary in 2025, we dove into the memories of longtime Winkler librarian Esther Penner, whose time with SCRL began back in 1985.

This week, retired library clerk Dorothy Martens recalls her own lengthy career with the Morden Library.

While Penner’s passion was for the behind-the-scenes cataloguing work she got to do in the later years of her career, for Martens, the draw of the job from the get-go was having the opportunity to work with people.

“My favourite part was the people ... seeing the regulars come in, and knowing what type of books they liked reading,” she says. “I loved seeing new people to the community come to the library to get their first library cards. And then to see them come in many times after.”

It all started for Martens in 1991. She

was a stay-at-home mom when an intriguing opportunity presented itself.

“A friend of mine was moving away and she told me her position at the library as a clerk would be open. She said, ‘Why don’t you apply?’”

It wasn’t a career path Martens had ever seriously considered, though she’d volunteered at the library in the past covering books.

“So they knew me a little bit, but other than that ... and next thing I know it’s 33 years later. It went so fast.”

Morden’s library at the time was nestled in the former post office downtown—the clock tower building now home to the Pembina Hills Art Gallery. It had been there for 20 years at that point, but was fast outgrowing the available space (a scant 1,800 square feet).

Martens was there when the collection moved down Stephen Street to its current building. At 4,300 square feet, it was much larger than the former location, but still not as big as it would later become.



SCRL60.COM

Dorothy Martens (right) spent 33 years with the Morden branch of the SCRL, starting out in its space in the clock tower building downtown (shown above) in 1991.



“It expanded years later,” Martens recalls. The library took over former retail space in the building to add another 3,000 square feet—a size it remains today, though it is once again busting at the seams.

Computers were still a couple of years away when Martens started, so paperwork looms large in her memories of her first few years on the job.

“We had the card catalogue for everything,” she recalls. “We had to type out every card in triplicate ... so, so

much paperwork. And that was how we searched—it was our search engine, just filing and flipping through these cards.

“Everything got written on cards—the due date, the patron’s number ... so when you went back to the stacks later on you could just look on the card to see if you had read it before.”

When the first computers were installed at the branch, they were used sparingly, and only by staff.

Continued on page 3

## Altona 2025 Pesticide Control Program

**Public Notice:** the Town of Altona intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Program.

Control pests & noxious weeds on public property in the Town of Altona at various times between May 30th, 2025 & October 31, 2025 using the following pesticides:

- Par III, R/T 540, Trillion, Round-Up, Reglone

Control mosquitoes in the Town of Altona as required between May 30th, 2025 & October 31, 2025 using the following pesticides:

- VectoBac 200g Larvicide, DeltaGard 20 EW

Control rodents on public property in the Town of Altona & at Town-owned facilities in the Municipality of Rhineland between January 1, 2025 & December 31, 2025 using the following rodenticides:

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# SCRL celebrates

The South Central Regional Library celebrated its 60th anniversary Friday evening with a gala quiz night at the Access Event Centre in Morden, and organizers were pleased with the response. While also a fundraiser, director of library services Cathy Ching said the event was really more about having fun. "The evening was great. People loved dressing up, and we had almost 200 people attending," she said. "We think it was a huge success for our first one." Left: Guests were encouraged to come dressed up. Left, bottom: Ching and Shirley Neudorf in all their finery. Below: Quiz master Robbie Allan at work.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



## > "OPENING THE WORLD", FROM PG. 2

"At first, only the branch librarians could turn it on, because it was only really for emails," Martens says. "So they'd turn it on and do the whole dial-up thing ... it was amazing, actually, because it didn't cost any long distance calls to get information from Altona, say. But then they'd shut it down again—they actually shut it down when they weren't using it—and that would be it."

Eventually, computers were installed for patrons to use to navigate the catalogue. There was a bit of a learning curve on that front.

"But it was progress," Martens says, observing, though, that while it made it easier for people to find what they were looking for, librarians remained integral guides to the wonders of the library's stacks.

"People always gravitate to a librarian who kind of knows what they like to read or reads the same thing they do—it's, 'Do you have anything

new?' or 'What do you recommend?' Hunting down books for patrons was always a highlight of the job for Martens

"We can do a search across Canada for books. That was my favourite ... one time I remember someone wanted a particular book to finish the series and it was only in the Northwest Territories. I found it and was able to get it here through an interlibrary loan. And they finished their series—there's nothing worse than not being able to finish the series!"

Seeing the library continue to thrive and grow years after some speculated e-readers and the internet might mean its demise is heartening for Martens.

"The thing is, a lot of people like the feel of an actual book in their hands," she says. "I don't know that that's ever going to change."

**"A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE THE FEEL OF AN ACTUAL BOOK IN THEIR HANDS. I DON'T KNOW THAT THAT'S EVER GOING TO CHANGE."**

Continued on page 4

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# Men's Shed MB hopes to come to a community near you

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A program designed to give men a welcoming space to gather to share skills, learn, and support one another is hoping to come to a community near you.

Men's Sheds Manitoba already has branches in Winnipeg, Beausejour, Howden, Minnedosa, Neepawa, and Dauphin, and they're hoping to see even more community hubs pop up across the province.

"We are looking to grow," says Fred Bobrowski, provincial chair of the organization.

A Men's Shed is a group of men who come together on a regular basis to enjoy a range of activities.

"It's a casual place for men to connect and socialize and get together to work on projects that benefit themselves and the community," explains Bobrowski.

Some sheds revolve around wood or metalworking, others gardening, technology, card games, or any other interest (or multiple interests) that resonate with the group.

Bobrowski's group in Winnipeg started out making walking sticks and canes, though the activity itself is really secondary to the camaraderie.

"Any sort of thing where guys are sitting shoulder to shoulder doing their stuff and talking," he says. "It's a bottoms-up organization. It's whatever the guys want with respect to the activities."

Educational workshops and presentations are a staple of many Men's Sheds, welcoming guest speakers on a host of topics, including health, finances, and technology. Many also partner with local non-profits to tackle community projects.

"The aspect of giving back is key," says Bobrowski. "When we know we're helping our community, we really feel that sense of purpose that can be lost after retirement."

Bobrowski's involvement with the program began several years ago, when he was a member of the Transcona Council for Seniors.

The council welcomed Doug Mackey, the man who brought Men's Sheds to Canada in the early 2000s, as a guest speaker. By that point, Men's Sheds, which began in Australia in the '90s, had spread to more than 15 countries around the world. Today there are 150 sheds in Canada alone.

"He came and talked to a few men in our community about it and it really struck a nerve with me," Bobrowski recalls. "I know that there are many men who, when they retire, don't plan for it, or it may come unexpectedly to them. So they have too much time on their hands and not enough things to do."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

There are 10 Men's Shed groups across Manitoba right now, providing a welcoming space for men to come together to share skills, tackle projects, and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat.

Men's Sheds give guys a place to get out of the house and together with other men of all ages (though seniors make up the bulk of the membership, sheds are not exclusive to that age group—any male 18+ is welcome to get involved).

"Being part of a shed provides a vital sense of belonging," says Bobrowski. "We often hear from shed members how their shed community has helped them feel valued, supported, and less lonely."

Anyone can start up a Men's Shed chapter—you'll just need to recruit a few members and find an affordable space in which to meet.

Men's Sheds Manitoba and Men's Sheds Canada have support for new sheds by way of startup funds and

advice on how to get a one up and running successfully.

Bobrowski urges anyone interested in the idea to reach out to learn more.

"I think the impact you'll find of Men's Sheds to the men and to their families and by default to the community is probably quite profound," he says. "Friendships are made, skills are taught, skills are learned, and guys have a place to come that's safe, non-judgmental. Everyone's

**"IT'S A CASUAL PLACE FOR MEN TO CONNECT AND SOCIALIZE ..."**

accepted." For more information on starting a Men's Shed in your community, head to [mensshedmanitoba.ca](http://mensshedmanitoba.ca) or [mensshedsCanada.ca](http://mensshedsCanada.ca) or send an email to [mensshedmanitoba@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedmanitoba@gmail.com).



## Shedding Loneliness Through Men's Sheds

Interested in starting a Men's Shed in your community?

**Winnipeg or Rural Manitoba.** Resources, support and startup funding is available.



For information on how to join an existing Shed, start a new Shed, or support

**Men's Sheds in Manitoba** please contact

[mensshedmanitoba@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedmanitoba@gmail.com)

or visit:

[mensshedsmanitoba.ca](http://mensshedsmanitoba.ca)



### > "OPENING THE WORLD", FROM PG. 3

Looking back on her career, she attests the Morden Library has the best patrons—though she acknowledges every library staffer across the SCRL network probably feels the same way.

"I miss the people," she says, now a year into her retirement. "You get those people that come in and just strike an extra chord in your heart."

"Or when new people would come in and they just moved to the community from another country, and this was all new to them ... and then to be able to explain to them that this is free, it's all free, and it's all available at your fingertips."

"To see them coming back again

and again, bringing their children and their friends. That was neat to see."

And long gone are the days of librarians shushing patrons—today's library is a living, vibrant community hub.

"I love that buzz, that hum," Martens says, recalling summer reading events when kids filled the library with their excitement. "It's the hum of people enjoying themselves in a library, they're excited to come to a library, and they're excited to read."

With 33 years under her belt, Martens reflects on how she'd been with the SCRL for over half its history. It was exciting to see the network

grow beyond Morden-Winkler to include branches in Altona, Manitou, and Miami, strengthening the whole with each new addition.

"It started small and then, like a ball rolling with moss, it's just kept getting larger and larger. It's nice and big now," she says, wondering what the future will hold for SCRL's next 60 years. Whatever the modern library ends up looking like, Martens is pretty sure its mission of education and accessibility will never change.

"Whatever you're interested in, you can find something that fits ... it's so important for people to have a space like this that opens the world to them."

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

# Winkler announces major naming rights partnership with RCU

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The City of Winkler is reaping the benefits of its new Advertising and Naming Rights Policy.

Last week, city officials and representatives from Rosenort Credit Union gathered at the Meridian Exhibition Centre to announce RCU has made a significant undisclosed financial contribution to secure the naming rights to several amenities in the community for the next five years.

The Winkler Aquatic Centre is being renamed the RCU Aquatic Centre, the concession stands at both the pool and exhibition centre will also bear the RCU name, as will the outdoor ice rink, football field, and the three soccer fields in Emerado Park.

RCU will also serve as the presenting sponsor for the Concerts in the Park

series and the entertainment sponsor for Winkler's Canada Day festivities.

"We are a proud business partner with the City of Winkler and deeply appreciate the chance to support the community's growth and well-being," Tyronne Wall, regional branch manager for Rosenort Credit Union, said in a statement.

Mayor Henry Siemens called this sponsorship "the first major win" under the city's new sponsorship/marketing program, which was launched last fall in the hopes of creating a new source of funding for public facilities.

"It's something that will make a significant financial difference to our community," the mayor stressed. "Our hope is that we get to have many other announcements like this."

Siemens noted the city did a comprehensive analysis of its asset inven-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

City of Winkler and Rosenort Credit Union reps gathered at the exhibition centre last week to announce Rosenort Credit Union has purchased naming rights to several city recreation amenities.

tory "to find out what may have some value to advertisers. What items we would be able to do in a respectful way to our community, but to be able to also help us enhance our services and our programs ... [and] allow us to do more than we could without having to go back to our taxpayers and ask for more.

"We are a growing community, and there are a lot of people that come here that see the value in that."

Siemens noted there are a lot of different options for businesses looking

to be part of this program.

"We have many different availabilities in terms of financial support, in terms of size of sponsorship," he said, explaining they range from recreational facility naming rights to park bench sponsorships.

The program has already seen a fair bit of interest, and Siemens said they will be moving forward thoughtfully with future partnerships.

"There's an opportunity here and we want to explore it and see what that looks like."

# Stanley council presents \$11.5M budget

By Lorne Stelmach

RM of Stanley residents will be receiving higher tax bills this year as part of the municipality's 2025 budget.

Council gave first reading last Thursday to its new financial plan that increases total operational expenditures to just under \$8.4 million from \$7.9 million for a six per cent increase.

It will have a varying impact on municipal taxes, with property reassessments also impacting tax bills.

For example, a residential property that has seen its value rise from \$276,200 to \$319,900 will see its municipal taxes rise by 19.8 per cent to \$1,314.

For 40 acres of farmland that has seen its value rise from \$465,000 to \$528,800, the municipal taxes will rise by 17.6 per cent to \$1,255.

And a commercial property that has seen its assessment increase from \$866,600 to \$984,200 will face a 17.5 per cent increase in municipal taxes to \$5,838.

"A lot of that reflects the assessment increases ... that's what it mostly is," suggested Reeve Ike Friesen.

He added though that the municipality is facing some significant financial pressures with major projects like wastewater treatment.

"We knew there would be a lot of

major projects coming forward, and they're here now ... one of them being the wastewater project we are doing with Winkler and then the potential village wastewater project as well in Schanzenfeld and Reinfeld.

"What came up also in the last year was Pembina Valley Water Co-op came to all 14 municipalities asking for additional funding so that they could keep up with their assets and the growth in the area. That's something we've committed to as well, and that's a fairly large project."

In addition, there are also other projects such as support for the Boundary Trails Health Centre expansion and the recently announced highway corridor pathway project.

"So we've had a lot of extra expenses coming up," Friesen said. "And everything is just costing more in general."

The total expenditures for 2025, when you also factor in debt servicing, transfers to reserves and capital transfers in addition to operational spending, increase by just under four per cent from \$11.1 to \$11.5 million.

The main source of revenue of course is municipal taxes, which are forecast to bring in \$1.2 million in extra revenue (16.5 per cent more than last year) for a total of just over \$8.5 million.

Continued on page 9

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**OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS**



**P**art of what it means to be Canadian historically is to be underestimated.

When I say underestimated, I mean wildly, insanely underestimated. I mean Clark Kent underestimated when Superman (co-created by Canadian Joe Schuster) is lurking just beneath the surface.

We are used to this. We are happy to take a gentle ribbing from time to time and let it pass because that's who we are. We don't like to cause a fuss. We want to live and let live and quietly focus on being the best versions of ourselves we can be.

In this way we set ourselves up to be underestimated and then again and again surprise the world by punching well above our weight in numerous fields. Canada is the George Chuvalo of nations (another Canadian, look him up). Muhammed Ali called Chuvalo "the toughest guy I ever fought."

Insulin was discovered in Canada, basketball was invented by a Canadian, as was the pacemaker and so much more.

In an attempt to remain low-key, we generally don't go on and on about ourselves. Certainly, we are thrilled when one of our own does well. We will be the first to mention to Americans how William Shatner, Avril Lavigne, Mike Myers, Jim Carey, and so many others are Canadian. These days you might find us happily posting memes showing a Canada goose

beating up on a helpless bald eagle.

We're not the loud person at the party, and as a rule we do not start fights.

Let me say that again: Canadians don't start fights. We have become well known for ending them, however.

Canada is the person who will cross the street to step between a bully and their victim and take however many punches they're willing to throw if it keeps someone else safe. Canada is the mother who will stand up to the bear who threatens her children.

Why are we like this? Why is Canada, more than any other nation on earth, willing to provide aid and assistance to others when asked? I think it is because part of being Canadian is knowing when things in the world are "not supposed to be that way" and working hard to put them right again, often at great personal cost. These are attributes that the world first saw more than a century ago.

Three words: Passchendaele, Vimy, and Ypres.

These are the places Canada first developed its reputation. When something seems impossible, call in the Canadians. This reputation was solidified in World War I in three key battles: Passchendaele, Vimy Ridge, and Ypres.

There is no arguing that it was Ca-

nadian troops who were responsible for these key victories. When all was said and done these battles left nearly 10,000 Canadians dead and 19,000 wounded.

Of these battles, Vimy stands out as a testimony to the Canadian ability to do what others could not. Vimy Ridge was a strategic high ground location in France occupied by German troops.

On numerous occasions both French and British troops attempted to dislodge the Germans only to be rebuffed. In war, it is very hard to take the high ground from an occupying force.

Between April 9-12 in 1917, four Canadian divisions came together for the first time and in a show of strategic brilliance and unity they did the impossible—they stormed and took Vimy Ridge. It is widely believed that the Canadian national identity on the world stage was forged on Vimy Ridge.

The point of all of this? History has demonstrated repeatedly that it is unwise to underestimate or provoke Canada. That, when push comes to shove, we will respond infinitely beyond our apparent means, no matter what it takes.

These days it seems there are some who need to be reminded of who Canada is.



**By Peter Cantelon**

**Letter policy**

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The *Voice* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject any submission. Please include your full name, ad-

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

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## • FAITH FOCUS

# Borrowed items

**T**he Gospels in the New Testament of the Bible contain the record from which we remember what Jesus experienced and did in the days leading up to his death on a cross, and resurrection. One observation that I have found fascinating is the record of three particular things which Jesus borrowed, or were loaned for him.

In Luke 19:32-34 we read about a borrowed colt. If Jesus knew the own-

er we are not told, but Jesus did instruct a disciple to go and borrow the colt.

"Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' They replied, 'The Lord needs it.'" Shortly after, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the Sunday as fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9 in the Old Testament.



By Randy Smart

The second borrowed item of the week was a borrowed room. We call it the "upper room" and it was there that the "Last Supper" took place. In Luke 22:7-12 we

read, "Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.' 'Where do you want us to prepare for it?' they asked. He replied, 'As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there.'"

The final borrowed item to consider was a borrowed tomb. The tomb had been prepared in advance for a man named Joseph. Joseph had become a disciple of Jesus and he had the social standing to be able to ask if he could look after the body of Jesus, who had died. See Matthew 27:57-61. He was granted permission and after proper care for the body, Jesus was placed in

the stone tomb Joseph had prepared for his own future need. On the Sunday following his death Jesus was raised and then appeared to many witnesses over a period of forty days. He did not need the tomb any longer.

Is there some common theme we can draw from these borrowed items? The items were needed for a specific time and practical need. Each item was part of God's story as Jesus died and rose again to provide a way for us to know him and learn to trust in him.

As those who have learned to trust in Jesus, do we have possessions and skills that we should dedicate because they are useful for holy benefit where we live today? The possessions and skills God entrusts to us are gifts and tools that we need to be willing to share for honourable purposes, with wisdom and a personal and continuing commitment to the risen Saviour.

*Randy Smart has been a pastor in Southern Manitoba since 1979.*

# Provincial government unveils 2025 budget

By Lorne Stelmach

A financial plan for the province billed as "Trump-proofing" Manitoba was introduced by the Manitoba government last week.

Finance Minister Adrien Sala hailed the \$3.7 billion capital spending program as the largest ever to help spur economic growth and create jobs in the face of such uncertainty.

The budget includes a forecast for a baseline deficit of \$794 million, but it could increase to nearly \$1.9 billion in the event of U.S. and Chinese tariffs.

The budget includes two financial plans—one without tariffs and one if U.S. President Donald Trump imposes sweeping 25 per cent tariffs April 2.

A \$1.1 billion tariff relief plan would include up to \$200 million to help businesses, up to \$100 million for farmers and \$100 million for families. It also includes \$85 million to train workers or students, and the province had already announced payroll and retail sales tax deferrals for businesses.

"This budget is ready to take on the big challenges and build the services Manitobans depend on," Sala said in a news conference following the release of the budget last Thursday.

"We didn't start this fight, but we are not backing down. We are building up our province ... we're 'Trump proofing' our economy and our country with a historic \$3.7 billion investment in capital projects like schools, hospitals in every part of Manitoba,"

said Sala. "This is the largest capital spend in Manitoba's history. We're doing it to put Manitobans to work and protect our economy.

"From the moment Trump threatened his tariff tax, our government has been responding," he continued. "We took these threats seriously, and we delivered a response that was measured but strong ... this budget is a clear examination of the impact Trump's unjustified tariffs may have on our economy, our revenues, and our communities.

"We're going to keep communities thriving with our historic new funding model," Sala continued. "Our One Manitoba Growth Fund gives municipalities four per cent of our gas tax revenue to build hockey rinks, playgrounds and community centres ... to rebuild hometown pride all across our province."

Sala emphasized the NDP government's commitment to grow the economy, protect jobs, rebuild health care, and lower costs for Manitobans.

The \$3.7 billion in capital projects include new schools, emergency rooms and personal care homes and other critical infrastructure.

A strong economy needs a strong health care system, stressed Sala, and he suggested the budget continues to make progress on improving access for Manitobans. It includes putting shovels in the ground this year on the new emergency room and mature women's centre at Victoria Hospital

and a new health-care centre of excellence in downtown Winnipeg as well as renovations at the Health Sciences Centre children's hospital emergency room.

"We're continuing to rebuild rural health care ... today, there are 1,255 new health care workers on the front lines of Manitoba's health care system," said Sala, citing the need to not only have more physicians and more nurses, but also boost training with more spaces for nurses and paramedics.

He went on to also cite an 11 per cent increase in spending for roads, highways, and infrastructure with a budget of more than \$800 million.

"Our budget helps rural communities be more climate resilient with funding for big flood mitigation projects," said Sala, noting as well the \$881 million committed for Manitoba Hydro upgrades and improvements to help keep rates low across the province. "We're making a generational change in hydro to keep rates low by eliminating the capital tax and cutting their debt guarantee fees. These are big changes that will allow Hydro to keep Manitoban's bills affordable while building and repairing the infrastructure we need into the future."

The budget aims to lower costs for families and businesses with an increase to the homeowners affordability tax credit, more access to free birth control, a reduction in payroll taxes, an extension of \$10-a-day child care

into the summer, a new business security rebate program and making provincial park entry free for an entire year.

It also includes a contingency with hundreds of millions of dollars in support to help businesses pivot to new markets, help workers skill up and find good jobs, and support Manitoba's canola farmers and pork producers facing tariff threats from the U.S. and China, noted the finance minister.

"Budget 2025 includes strategic investments in the things we need to strengthen our trade corridors and protect northern sovereignty," Sala said. "Budget 2025 delivers lower costs for working families where they need it most—permanent gas tax relief, a hydro rate freeze, and more savings on child care fees.

"And as uncertainty impacts Manitoba's farmers and producers, our budget offers direct supports with over \$140 million in business risk management programming," he noted. "Budget 2025 helps small and medium businesses grow and compete by reducing the payroll tax."

## BUDGET REACTIONS

The Progressive Conservatives slammed the NDP for having such a tax-and-spend budget, noting Manitobans are struggling to pay their bills and worrying about job losses.

Continued on page 8

# PVWC celebrates milestones and prepares for growth

By Lori Penner

At their annual general meeting last week, the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (PVWC) reflected on a year of progress, expansion, and growth.

Co-chairs Don Wiebe and Pete Froese noted that 2024 was a pivotal year in the history of the organization.

"The 14 member municipalities made a unique capital contribution of \$15 million over a 10-year period. This contribution will be used to reduce our debt and also leverage government funding to provide an adequate supply of potable water for our region," Froese noted. "The economy of our region is expanding and current capacity to provide potable water needs to expand. We are optimistic that this regional commitment and provincial support will be able to increase the production of an additional supply of drinking water and also provide some measure of drought protection."

"We are quite pleased that the new reservoir in Letellier is now operational, and that the construction of the new river intake is currently underway," Wiebe said. "With this new intake we will be able to fill the oxbow even when the water flow in the Red River is quite low."

Guest speaker Sacha Janzen, director for the Office of Drinking Water for Manitoba Environment and Climate Change, reflected on the growth



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Representatives from across the region gathered in Plum Coulee last week for the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative's annual general meeting.

and accomplishments of the PVWC.

"As most here know, the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative was the result of multiple municipalities coming together in the early 1990s to develop a regional approach to supply the area with high-quality potable water that meets all Canadian drinking water standards. Now covering a service area of around nine-thousand square kilometers and serving a population base of approximately sixty-five thousand people, the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative supplies some of the fastest-growing communities in Canada."

Janzen recognized some key strengths of the organization, including their commitment to succession planning, their dedication to training and development, their consistent and reliable potable water delivery,

their collaboration with neighboring co-ops, and their commitment to Indigenous consultation.

She also noted several notable milestones achieved by the PVWC over the last year, including the Red River Regional Reservoir upgrade.

"Your new intake project has made significant progress, and we look forward to seeing construction progress over the summer months."

The membrane plant expansion project at the Letellier site, expected to be complete in 2028, officially kicked off in January 2025 and marks a step forward in building capacity for future demands. Booster stations along Highway 23 are now partially operational, improving water delivery infrastructure and preparing for increased future demand.

"These accomplishments reflect

the PVWC's proactive approach to address community needs such as fire protection and water quality improvements like THM removal," Janzen said. "Your projects align with Manitoba's Water Strategy and support climate resiliency and water conservation efforts. They demonstrate adaptability to environmental challenges, ensure a reliable water supply remains available for future generations, and contribute towards community economic development providing a reliable and affordable water supply for new business development within your region."

PVWC CEO Dale Toews said it was certainly a busy year for the agency.

"The biggest thing was the commitment from the 14 municipalities to support us financially. That really helped us kick off our capital work. We're not done seeking funds from the federal and provincial government, also, to move forward."

Toews added that it was also a good year for water sales.

"We overcame quite a few operational challenges. It's been a good year for the co-op and we're looking forward to another one. We're moving forward on a lot of our capital projects. The Letellier reservoir is commissioned, our new intake for the Letellier system is under construction, and we have a number of other operational projects that are on the way."

## > BUDGET 2025, FROM PG. 7

"The premier and his finance minister have had months to get this right and prepare a budget that gives Manitobans immediate and substantial relief," said interim leader Wayne Ewasko. "Instead, they brought forward a reckless plan that raises income taxes, expands the PST and slaps double-digit increases on education property taxes."

The Tories cited a few examples of how the budget hits Manitobans hard, including \$182 million more in education property taxes, \$82 million more in income taxes by freezing inflation indexing, and \$16 million more from a new PST on software subscriptions and cloud storage.

All told, the government will rake in over \$1 billion more in taxes and other revenues from Manitoba families and businesses in 2025, Ewasko said. This comes, he added, as budget projections show new U.S. and Chinese tariffs,

along with retaliatory tariffs, will slash Manitoba's GDP by \$3.6 billion, reduce incomes by \$1,420 per capita, and cause a recession comparable to 2009.

Midland MLA Lauren Stone, PC critic for finance, added that the budget contains no actions to remove interprovincial trade barriers, no comprehensive strategy to expand trade, and no meaningful relief for Manitobans during these uncertain times.

"At a time when government needs to be making life more affordable, the NDP are hiking taxes across the board, making life more expensive for everyone," Stone said. "Instead of giving back to Manitobans, the NDP are taking more, spending more, and giving themselves raises. Our province is going to be poorer for it."

Other reactions to the budget offered mixed reviews.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) welcomed Manitoba's commitment to business growth but suggested more may be needed to help increase business confidence during these turbulent times.

"Small business owners in Manitoba are feeling extremely pessimistic about their future. Ongoing trade uncertainty, rising costs and lack of demand make it nearly impossible to plan for the months ahead," said Tyler Slobogian, CFIB's senior policy analyst for the prairies and the

north. "No one knows when the tariff war will end, and businesses are deeply concerned that the worst is yet to come.

"We are pleased to see the Manitoba government recognize the challenges that small businesses are facing, especially in light of ongoing trade disputes and significant economic uncertainty," Slobogian added. "But further tax cuts may be necessary to promote growth and expansion and to help small businesses remain competitive should we find ourselves in a prolonged trade war."

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation criticized the government for hiking taxes by bringing back bracket creep. They pointed out that the government will stop indexing income tax brackets and the basic personal amount by inflation—a sneaky way, they said, of increasing taxes. Because of bracket creep, inflation can automatically bump taxpayers into a higher tax bracket and raise their taxes even though they can't actually afford to buy more because prices have gone up.

"The government shouldn't be punishing taxpayers with a tax hike just for getting a cost-of-living pay raise," said prairie director Gage Haubrich. "Failing to adjust tax brackets to inflation is a stealth tax hike on Manitobans that will increase their tax bills every single year."

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# Winkler celebrates its transit workers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

On March 19, the City of Winkler and Transdev shone a spotlight on the workers making the community's new on-demand transit system run smoothly.

In honour of it being Transit Appreciation Week in Canada, Transdev, the company operating the pilot program launched last fall, hosted a lunch gathering at their garage in Winkler's industrial park to thank staff for all they do.

"It's very important for us," shared Kwame Agyei, vice-president of operations. "We have people transporting our community members, we have drivers, and we have those you don't see every day in offices as well who contribute to taking people from where they are to where they need

to be. So it's a very important week for us ... to take a bit of time to just celebrate those who are involved in transit."

Winkler's transit system currently has four drivers who have been kept quite busy providing door-to-door service around town over the last several months. The transit van is available to take riders anywhere in Winkler or to the Boundary Trails Health Centre and back. Trips are \$5 each way.

Thus far, between the end of November and mid-March, 3,603 riders have gone on 2,772 one-way trips. Five per cent of those rides have utilized the van's accessibility features.

Only 15 per cent of riders have opted to rate their trips through the Blaise app used for bookings, but those ratings remain high: 4.7/5.

## > STANLEY BUDGET, FROM PG. 9

It is based on a municipal mill rate that increases by 3.5 per cent to 9.126. There is a general mill rate that increases by 6.9 per cent to 7.911 as well as a special service mill rate that decreases by 15 per cent to 1.215.

The next major source of revenue is government grants, which are forecast to decrease by 27 per cent to just over \$1.6 million. A significant portion of that drop is a result of a municipal investment grant that was worth \$688,000 but is being discontinued.

Here is a breakdown of some of the main areas of expenditures:

- Transportation services: a seven per cent increase to just over \$4.3 million.
- Reserve transfer: a 10.7 per cent decrease to about \$1.7 million.
- General government services: a three per cent increase to just over \$1.3 million.
- Debt servicing: a 17 per cent increase to about \$1.2 million.
- Protective services: a three per cent decrease to \$729,581.
- Recreation and culture: a nine per cent increase to \$585,874.
- Planning and engineering: a 17 per cent increase to \$570,244.
- Health and welfare services: a 4.6 per cent increase to \$455,778.
- Environmental services: a 15.2 per cent increase \$227,000.
- Capital transfers: a 16.6 per cent decrease to \$200,000.

- Economic development: just under a one per cent increase to \$156,350.

The budget lays out a number of projects and priorities for 2025:

- Additional staff assistance with drainage planning and projects.
- Support for access to recreation facilities in Morden and Winkler.
- Public works equipment upgrades.
- Rural road upgrades.
- New corridor pathway construction, which is a joint project with Morden and Winkler.
- Regional wastewater project with Winkler.
- Sewer service for the corridor
- Village low pressure sewer service.
- Recycling program.
- Boundary Trails Health Centre expansion project support.

Friesen said it overall is a balancing act with the municipality also being impacted by the drop in government funding

"That means it has to come from somewhere else," he said, adding they also had to increase the utilities budget.

"We had some substantial flooding and we're somewhat behind with some projects, and we need to move ahead a little quicker on them," said Friesen. "We feel we're doing the best we can and putting some money in reserves, but even that we reduced."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler on-demand transit workers Dipak Patel (left) and Olumide Aderinto at an event last week celebrating Transit Appreciation Week.

"We've seen consistently good reviews from the riders," Agyei said, adding, though, that "we're not here to rest on our laurels. We know that [we can't] be complacent. We'll continue to improve the service and make sure that at the end of the 30 months that we can look back and reflect on what has been so far a very successful transit system in Winkler."

City manager Jody Penner said they've been pleased with the roll-out of the program thus far, and the response from the community to it. He appreciated the opportunity to thank

the workers keeping the system going six days a week.

"We just want to thank the transit workers themselves, Transdev from the administration point of view," he said. "From the driver's perspective ... right now the weather's not too bad, but they were out there when it was minus 30. They're helping people with mobility issues, they're getting out, helping people with the door. They're out there all day and doing a great job in our community."

Continued on page 10

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**Manitoba**

# A lifetime of historical preservation honoured

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Bruce Tascona has dedicated his life to preserving the memories of the Great War, and earlier this month he was honoured for that work with the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Brandon-Souris MP Larry Maguire presented Tascona with the award at a ceremony in Brandon March 10. Tascona is one of 30,000 Canadians to receive the medal, created to honour individuals making significant contributions in their communities.

Tascona was nominated for his dedication as a historian, including educating students about Canada's role in the First World War.

He runs the Manitoba World War One Museum from his home near La Riviere, has authored several books on military history, was instrumental in getting Camp Hughes—a First World War training ground for Manitoba troops preparing to head overseas—designated a National Historic Site, and also founded the Legion House Museum in Winnipeg. He's also a frequent guest speaker in schools about the war and the local men who served in it, some making the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Despite all this, the honour still came as quite a surprise to Tascona.

"I'm still coming off a natural high,"

he said a few days after the ceremony, noting he was humbled to be among the dozens of local residents singled out for their achievements.

Keeping history alive has been a driving force for Tascona's efforts



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bruce Tascona (second from left) receives the King Charles III Coronation Medal from MP Larry Maguire, flanked by wife Pam Darling and son Paul Tascona.

through the years.

"It's a passion," he said, adding with a chuckle: "Sometimes I'll sum it up as I never left my sandbox with my army men."

His interest stems from his father, who was a D-Day veteran.

"I think it was on the 20th anniversary of D-Day in 1964 when I became aware of it and he said, 'I was there,'" Tascona recalled. "I've always had a passion for collecting things, military things and badges, and then I wanted to research them."

The stories behind the artifacts are endlessly fascinating to Tascona, who opened the Manitoba World War One

Museum to share his sizeable collection. He built a life-size trench system on the property to give people a proper sense of what life was like on the front lines. Every August, the museum holds a special event day complete with battle reenactments and educational displays.

It's all about keeping the memory of the men who served alive, Tascona stressed—they were everyday community members who answered their country's call, and their sacrifices must never be forgotten.

"It's about remembering the veterans."

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## > TRANSIT, FROM PG. 9

"We're so thankful for them and for this whole program and what it means to our community."

One of the smiling faces greeting riders when the van pulls up is that of Dipak Patel, who says that he very much enjoys his job.

"It's a fun job, helping our passengers," he said, noting drivers work hard to keep the service on time. Some days are so busy it's hard to find time to take a break.

"It's extremely busy—back-to-back pick-ups sometimes," Patel said, sharing regular riders have been going all over town—to and from local stores, schools, a host of workplaces, Salem Home, the hospital. "We do what we can to help customers, and we enjoy it, and so the customers also enjoy it with us."

Fellow driver Olumide Aderinto said it's been exciting to see rider usage steadily grow as word gets out about this new service.

"People have really embraced in it, and they are looking out for more," he said, noting many riders would love to see the service extended beyond Winkler to other communities in the area.

## RH Battery has got what you need



Randy and Heather Friesen of RH Battery offer steep discounts on all kinds of batteries.

On the hunt for a battery? RH Battery Store has got you covered.

The Winkler store has been offering a vast inventory of batteries and installation services at great prices for three years now.

"You name it, we've got it," says Randy Friesen, who runs the shop alongside wife Heather. "All kinds of batteries—tool batteries, SLA batteries, golf cart batteries, industrial, auto batteries."

And if they don't have the battery you need, chances are pretty good they can find it for you or perhaps renew your existing battery.

"Sometimes, like for a Snap-on tool, they don't even make them anymore," Friesen says. "So we send it in and get it rebuilt."

The same holds true for everything from electric bicycles to lawn care equipment where replacement

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batteries might be hard or impossible to track down.

"Bring it to me, we'll put new cells in and you're good to go," Friesen says.

RH Battery is Friesen's retirement passion. He worked as a mechanic and, later, a trucker, and was looking for a new challenge. When the opportunity to open a battery store in Winkler came up, he jumped at it.

"It is a niche market. You can specialize, and I

did that and it's taken off," Friesen says, noting semi-truck batteries are by far their biggest seller.

It's their prices that keep people coming back.

"We do a lot of volume," Friesen says, explaining they're able to pass the savings onto their customers. "We have good pricing year-round."

The store has its spring sale on now. Stop by at 1-545 Commander Dr. to check out the deals.

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# A taste of tradition

By Lori Penner

The Neuberghthal Heritage Foundation invites you to *komm triggj nom darp* (come back to the village) for *Plautdietsche Tietfedrief 2025*, an exciting series of Low German presentations set in the historic Mennonite village of Neuberghthal.

The event promises to be an engaging and entertaining celebration of language, music, and storytelling.

The first of two scheduled events takes place on Saturday, April 5, at 2 p.m. and will feature a musical performance by Veronika Siemens and Friends and a presentation from guest speaker Kennert Giesbrecht, former editor of the *Mennonitische Post*, sharing stories from his experiences working across various Mennonite communities in Paraguay, Belize, and Bolivia.

"Kennert hails from Mitchell, Man-

itoba, and was a photographer for 30 years," says committee member Joe Braun. "He was also a high school principal at the Meadow Colony in Paraguay before becoming editor of the *Mennonitische Post* for 22 years. He's made dozens of trips to South America and has some fascinating insights to share."

The second event takes place on Saturday, April 12 at 2 p.m. featuring Tina Fehr-Kehler and Angela Klassen, a Winkler-based duo known for their witty and insightful sketches on Mennonite life.

"They'll be performing songs and hilarious skits that really capture the humor and charm of our culture," says Braun.

The events take place at the Commons Barn in Neuberghthal, 5013 Rd 1 West off Hwy 421. Admission is \$20 per person and includes an old-fashioned Mennonite fasha.

"Thanks to our sponsors for making this possible," Braun says. "These events are always well received, and the Commons Barn is the perfect setting: spacious, inviting, and rich with Mennonite history."

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# Beyond borders

## Giant Indigenous map inspires learning

By Lori Penner

Last Saturday, Altona's Millennium Exhibition Centre (MEC) was transformed into a living classroom, where community members of all ages took a walk—both literal and figurative—through Canada's Indigenous history.

Organized by the Steps Towards Reconciliation Group, the event featured the Indigenous Peoples Atlas giant floor map, a powerful educational tool that prompted reflection, conversation, and connection.

The two-hour workshop drew an unexpected turnout, with over 60 attendees eager to engage with the massive 36-by-26-foot map, which was on loan from Border Land School Division.

Unlike traditional maps, which depict Canada's political boundaries, this one is marked with Indigenous language groups and treaty territories, providing a strikingly different perspective of the land.

Mick Friesen, an English teacher at W.C. Miller Collegiate and member of the Steps Towards Reconciliation Group, explained their vision and the significance of the gathering.

"We're a grassroots group of individuals that come together in Altona to share stories about Indigenous neighbours and learn more about the history of Canada—history that requires more discussion about truth and reconciliation."

Friesen and his colleague, Kerri Keffer, a teacher from Ross L. Gray School in Sprague, facilitated the workshop, guiding participants through the interactive learning experience.

"They got to walk all over Canada in their socks," Friesen said. "They took a journey across the geography of North America, trying to orient themselves in a way that most of us haven't before."

Keffer emphasized the importance of providing tools for learning and reflection.

"This map is a very powerful tool," she said. "People start recognizing that there are no political boundaries, and it shifts the way they think about Canada's history. Then they start asking questions, they start sharing stories and making personal connections to the land."

As an educator and a proud Red River Métis citizen, Keffer sees events like this as opportunities for meaningful exchange.

"We're all students in life," she said. "We all have stories to tell. It's about creating a space where people feel comfortable sharing them."

For Keffer, her personal journey of understanding her Métis identity has been deeply intertwined with events like these.

"I am walking in two worlds right now, and my two worlds are coming together in a good way," she shared.



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Indigenous Peoples Atlas giant floor map was a powerful teaching tool on March 22 during a workshop organized by the Steps Towards Reconciliation Group in Altona.

"Being Métis means I'm part of a nation. I can't ignore my First Nations ancestors, and I don't want to. I feel really connected to that piece, and I want to honour it. I've been taking opportunities to teach this to students and community members, and in return, I am learning just as much from them."

**"WE'RE ALL STUDENTS IN LIFE. WE ALL HAVE STORIES TO TELL."**

Continued on page 24

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PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Paint the Ice took place at the Millennium Exhibition Centre in Altona last Friday night, giving kids the chance to decorate the ice surface before town staff melt it down for spring. Clockwise from above: Spencer and Jesse Morrison, Shelby Letkeman, and Norah Carter with their creations.

# Magic on the menu at YFC Gala of Hope

By Siobhan Maas

Magician John Michael Hinton wowed the crowd Thursday evening at Youth for Christ Morris' annual Gala of Hope at the Morris Multiplex.

From Rubik's cubes breaking into Skittles, big hair jokes, lots of humorous 'friend' math, disappearing stools that volunteers had just sat on, small pieces of Scotch tape turning into one long strand, and the balancing a house of cards on a single point, the oldest adults to the youngest children were enthralled by the tricks and illusions.

"Will you be my friend?" was the question Hinton asked all those courageous enough to brave the stage, ensuring he ended the evening with a crowd full of new friends.

"I like small towns no one has heard of," said Hinton, who flew in from Texas specifically for the event. "I love the opportunity to share the art of astonishment with people. Research shows what happens in us emotionally when we experience awe—a sunset, an incredible vista—our heart rate decreases, blood pressure lowers; we experience Creation. The emotion of awe allows us to be less focused on

ourselves and more on others. We stand in awe of the Creator and love our neighbour as our self."

Jack Wiebe, executive director of YFC Morris, and John Rempel, associate director of YFC Canada, spoke of the opportunities provided to the community through the drop-in centre and the importance of fundraising to support youth activities.

"YFC invites youth to initiate and recognize fun," said Rempel. "It is seriously fun. We engage and equip youth to know and follow Jesus.

"How do we know we are being successful?" he asked. "Prayer. We vet, equip, and train volunteers to work with youth and last week had the largest group seen at our training sessions in Winnipeg. When we can rally around our youth, they can serve as themselves and they also teach us something."

Volunteer Savannah Maendel, 21, shared the importance of working with youth.

"[Oak Bluff Colony] young people were introduced to children's ministry a couple years ago and we returned with passion and fire to share the good news of Christ. A group of young woman host Girls Night,



PHOTOS BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE  
YFC Morris executive director Jack Wiebe with youth London and Jackson at the Gala of Hope last week. Right: The evening featured a performance from magician John Michael Hinton, shown here wowing Jason Jablonski.



[among YFC activities], a Christ-centered evening of food, extended God talk, discussion, and discipleship."

Evening attendee Jenny Heinrichs loves the opportunity to support youth through their challenging years.

"Getting youth through their adolescence is key," Heinrichs observed. "YFC provides youth a solid foundation."

Youth and volunteers from YFC served appetizers and dessert, along with tea and coffee. They also helped with seating, set-up and cleaning following the event. Forty-five local businesses sponsored the evening's festivities.

"The Gala of Hope is a permanent

feature and biggest fundraiser of the year for YFC," shared Wiebe. "We have the opportunity to share with the community what happens at YFC. It is also a thank-you celebration."

Although funds are still coming in for this year, last year's banquet brought in approximately \$68,000.

Hinton ended the evening with a simple invitation:

"Slow down with me. Take a moment to experience one more moment of awe. If we can stand in awe of our Creator, we will see moments of magic. We have to pause, to slow, for these moments are fleeting."

Those interested in supporting YFC Morris can reach out to [contribute@yfcmorris.com](mailto:contribute@yfcmorris.com) or call at 204-712-5884.

# Rhineland council sets priorities for the year ahead

By Lori Penner

The Municipality of Rhineland hosted its 2025 financial plan public hearing last week.

Reeve Don Wiebe noted this was a reassessment year, and that does have an impact on taxes.

"This resulted in an average increase of 13.3 per cent with farmland rising by 11 per cent, residential properties by 18 per cent, and commercial properties by nine per cent. Meanwhile, operating costs have increased by approximately five per cent."

This year's budget includes a significant commitment to the Pembina Valley Water Co-op. Rather than raising water rates, the municipality has decided to fund its contribution through taxes, ensuring a fair distribution of costs.

"We thought that was the fairest way of doing it," said Wiebe. "Rhineland's commitment to the Water Co-op for the first five years is \$379,000

annually. After that, it drops to about \$90,000. Fourteen municipalities have contributed to help with debt retirement and capital expansion, and these funds will be used as leverage to secure additional investment."

Providing a reliable water supply to the 14 municipalities is a priority, as it supports approximately 62,000 people, including businesses and residential growth.

"It's very important that this was done," Wiebe emphasized. "You can't do it overnight, and everything costs money, so we'll have to tackle this in stages as new membrane units are added to the plant in Letellier."

When asked about the potential effects of tariffs on the RM, Wiebe acknowledged the uncertainty surrounding the issue.

"I can't give you a definite answer, but we suspect they will impact us," he said. "For that reason, we've been meeting with businesses and coun-

cil members to gauge how tariffs are affecting markets, jobs, and overall business operations. It's hard to say how it will play out, but we'll know more after April 2."

Wiebe noted that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is ac-

tively engaged in discussions on this issue, hoping to find a mutually beneficial arrangement between Canadian and American businesses.

"Businesses need to be able to plan

Continued on page 24

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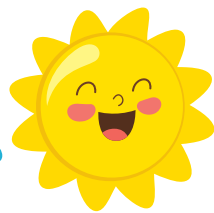
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# Kids' corner

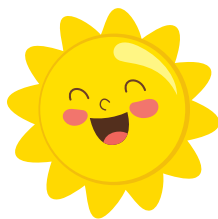


## Fun science project: make a barometer!

Have you ever heard of atmospheric pressure? Atmospheric pressure is the pressure in the air, and it varies depending on where you are on Earth. As you go higher into the sky where the air is thinner, the pressure decreases. Air pressure is measured using a device called a barometer. Here's how you can make one at home.

### MATERIALS

- Scissors
- 1 birthday balloon
- 1 glass jar (Mason jar)
- 1 rubber band
- 1 straw
- Tape
- 1 sheet of paper
- Pencil



7. Draw a horizontal line on the sheet at the same height as the straw.

### EXPLANATION

The line you've just drawn will tell you whether the air pressure is high or low. When the air pressure rises, the straw will rise above the line. When the pressure falls, the tip of the straw will fall.

Typically, the pressure is high when the sun is shining outside. When the air pressure is low, you'll probably see clouds or rain.

In Canada, atmospheric pressure is measured in kilopascals (kPa). The normal value, at sea level, is 101.3 kPa.



### ASSEMBLY

Here's how to put your barometer together:

1. Cut out the end of the balloon (the part you blow into).
2. Stretch the large piece of balloon over the opening of the jar and pull it tight.
3. Use the rubber band to secure the balloon to the jar.
4. Cut the straw to a length of about 10 centimetres and cut one end into a point.
5. Tape the straw horizontally to the balloon. It should stick out several centimetres, and the pointed end should be on the outside.
6. Stick the sheet of paper to the wall in front of the point of the straw.

## The beaver: a unique rodent!

You may know the beaver from its image on the Canadian nickel. This extraordinary creature certainly deserves recognition. Learn more about this fascinating animal.

As North America's largest rodent, beavers can weigh up to 35 kilograms. These remarkable creatures can transform their environment in unique ways. Beavers use their iron-rich, orange-brown teeth to gnaw on branches and construct sturdy dams.

They use mud, grass, twigs and various other materials to fill in the gaps between the branches. Beavers are impressive builders and can create safe, cozy shelters. They may live in these structures, known as lodges, alone or with their families.

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Beavers are semi-aquatic and herbivorous. They live near streams, lakes and marshes. They're also primarily nocturnal, which means they're most active at night. Adapted for swimming underwater, beavers have webbed hind feet and a flat tail that acts as a rudder. They also have a special pair of eyelids that protect their eyes while allowing them to see clearly underwater.

The beaver's nostrils and ears automatically close when they dive into the water. With its powerful lungs, it can hold its breath for 15 minutes or longer while underwater.

### SOUGHT-AFTER ANIMALS

For many years, beavers have been hunted for their exquisite fur and a substance called castoreum. Beavers produce this substance to mark their territory and waterproof their fur. Historically, it has been used in perfumes and as a flavour enhancer due to its vanilla-like scent. While much less common today, it's still used as an ingredient in some products.

Want to learn more about beavers or other wildlife? Visit your local bookstore or library.

## All about hair!

Do you love learning amazing things about the human body? If so, you should know that human hair is fascinating! Here are some facts to make you more hair-aware:

- You have between 100,000 and 150,000 hairs on your head.
- You lose between 50 and 100 hairs a day.
- A single hair can support up to 100 grams. This means that a full head of hair can support more than 10,000 kilograms!

- Hair is like a little sponge, which is why it's used to absorb pollutants in the ocean.
- Hair lives an average of 5 years before falling out.
- Your hair grows about 12 centimetres in a year.
- Hair is 95 per cent keratin, the same substance that makes up your fingernails, animal horns and bird feathers!

Interesting, isn't it?

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# Kids' corner

## 3 easy recipes featuring eggs Perfect for Easter brunch

Do you love cooking? Do you like eating eggs? Try preparing these delicious recipes to treat your whole family this Easter.

### 1. FRENCH TOAST

In a bowl, whisk together eggs, a splash of milk and a few drops of vanilla extract. Soak a few slices of bread in the mixture. Cook the soaked slices in a buttered frying pan until they're golden brown—don't forget to flip them. Drizzle the French toast with maple syrup or top it with your favourite berries, like raspberries, blueberries or strawberries, right before serving.



### 2. BANANA PANCAKES

Use as many bananas as you like and double the number of eggs. For example, you could use two bananas and four eggs. Puree the mixture in a blender to create pancake batter. Cook the small pancakes in a well-oiled frying pan over medium heat. Serve them with your choice of toppings. Chocolate-hazelnut spread pairs perfectly with bananas.

frying pan over low heat. Using a wooden spoon or spatula, gently scrape the bottom of the pan to create coarse lumps as the eggs cook. For added flavour, stir in a large handful of grated cheese once the eggs are almost fully cooked.

Bon appetit!

### 3. SCRAMBLED EGGS

Whisk a few eggs in a bowl with a splash of cream or milk. Pour the mixture into a buttered

Never use the stove without adult supervision.

## Teamwork is great!

You've probably already worked as part of a team in school. Whether you prefer to work alone or with others, working in pairs or small groups can be a ton of fun and help you learn a lot.

Firstly, when you work on a team, you can share your ideas and listen to those of others. Together, you're likely to find solutions more easily. You may also discover interesting perspectives that can inspire you.

Collaborating in a team also improves your communication skills. You'll learn how to explain your ideas clearly and respect the viewpoints of others, even if they differ from your own.

Teamwork in the classroom is helpful for school projects, and it's also useful in your extracurricular activities and even in preparing for the future. Whether it's playing on a sports team or later when you have a job, you'll eventually need to work with others.

By combining your strengths with those of your classmates, you can tackle projects that would be too lengthy or complicated to handle alone. Teamwork is so rewarding; when the work is finished, everyone can celebrate their shared success.

Finally, team projects can help you form lifelong friendships. The next time your teacher announces a group project, think of all the benefits that come with it!

## Teeth quiz

You brush your teeth daily, but how well do you really know them? Answer these questions to find out.

- How many teeth does the average adult have?
  - 20
  - 32
  - 38
- What is tooth enamel made of?
  - Keratin
  - Collagen
  - Calcium phosphate
- The mouth contains four types of teeth. What are they?
  - Incisors, canines, premolars and molars
  - Paddles, points, grinders and cutters
  - Crowns, dentin, temporary and permanent
- Why do wisdom teeth sometimes need to be removed?
  - Because they can grow into other teeth and misalign them
  - Because removing them makes brushing easier and less time-consuming
  - Because their colour and shape are unattractive
- When should you go to the dentist to have your teeth checked?
  - Only when there is a noticeable problem, like severe pain or a broken tooth
  - At least once a year
  - Every five years

**ANSWERS**  
 1. b) Young children usually have around 20 teeth, known as baby teeth.  
 2. c) Enamel is made of calcium phosphate, which is very strong and helps protect the more sensitive parts of the tooth, like the nerves and pulp.  
 3. a) Premolars are also called "bicuspid"; Wisdom teeth often grow in late adolescence or early adulthood, and they're not necessary; you can live without them!  
 5. b) It's best to visit the dentist at least once a year, but you may need more frequent appointments depending on the condition of your teeth. It's always best to follow the recommendations of a dental professional.



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# Exploring the ‘Power of Perseverance’ at Winkler art gallery



**SUPPLIED PHOTOS**  
Olga Krahn's show at the Winkler art gallery, the Power of Perseverance, features threatened species of animals, birds, and flowers in Manitoba.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Arts and Culture's spring show is all about the *Power of Perseverance in Manitoba*.

Altona artist Olga Krahn's exhibition featuring 50 pieces on the flora and fauna that call our province home was inspired by a childhood collection of hers. "When I was growing up, there was Blue Ribbon coffee and baking soda that came with small collectible cards of birds, flowers, trees, and animals," Krahn recalls. "Each card had a write-up of whether they were still flourishing or even at that time considered endangered."

Krahn collected as many of those cards as she could; she still has some today, and will be sending them along to the gallery to display alongside the show.

The exhibition's pastel and acrylic pieces are something Krahn's been working on for several years now, starting with researching each species ahead of trying to capture their likeness. Those old information cards provided a treasure trove of subjects.

"I don't like to stay to one subject—I like to do a variety, and that's exactly what this show is," Krahn says.

But the message behind the art goes beyond simply nice paintings of nature scenes—Krahn hopes the work gets people thinking about our own role in the preservation of natural habitats and native species.

"There are a number of these species that are very threatened and potentially not even around anymore," she says.

It highlights the importance of protect nature sanctuaries, Krahn observes, because once these things are lost, they're lost forever.

"As urban centres grow and industry expand ... the future of these natural spaces becomes increasingly uncertain," she says.

"I hope people will recognize that we can't destroy what was once there at one point in time. I want people to be aware of the fact that this was all here and it was the original way of how this part of the country was before humanity moved in."

One of her favourite pieces in this exhibition is of a meadowlark. Though still a common sight on the Canadian prairies, the meadowlark population has decreased significantly in recent decades as their habitats have been lost to development.

For Krahn, they've long been a cheerful harbinger of spring.

"It has such an interesting way of telling us it's spring and there's happiness," she says of their cheerful song. "It's always brought happiness to me."

The *Power of Perseverance in Manitoba* will be on display at the Park St. gallery from March 27 to May 11.

An opening reception takes place next Friday, April 4, at 7 p.m. featuring a few words from Krahn about her work and music from George Harold Epp. All are welcome to attend.

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# The Voice



# A heartfelt gift

## Wheelchair donated in memory of Hetty Braun

By Lori Penner

The Altona Health Care Auxiliary has long been dedicated to enhancing the comfort and care of patients at the Altona Memorial Health Centre.

Their latest fundraising efforts aimed to purchase two much-needed wheelchairs, but the project received an unexpected and heartwarming boost from the family of the late Henrietta Braun.

Braun passed away on March 15, 2021, at the age of 86, and was well known in the community, having worked in the hospital's kitchen for a decade. Her son, Brad Braun, said that donating her wheelchair in her memory felt like a fitting tribute.

"In October 2019, our mom landed up in long term care in the Altona Hospital. At that time, we were unaware that she would never go home, or ever walk independently again, that she'd be spending the majority of her life in a wheelchair. It was eye opening for us as a family to see the needs of our mom and others like her arise during this phase of life," he recalled.

"About a year later, she finally got this wonderful chair that greatly improved the quality of her life for her last months. With her connection to the hospital, having worked there for 10 years earlier in her life, we feel she'd be very pleased knowing that her chair will allow someone else that same comfort."

The donated wheelchair is identical to the ones the auxiliary had been raising funds for. It is fully adjustable, with a tiltable option that provides additional support and pressure relief for patients with limited mobility.

The auxiliary has been working tirelessly to provide essential equipment for the hospital and personal care home. Their fundraising efforts included a taco fundraiser last spring, which helped cover the cost of installing 17 ceiling tracks used for patient lifts.

"All 17 of the ceiling tracks are in and working fabulously," said hospital manager Kathy Winter. "Before, we had to rearrange patients to be in rooms with ceiling tracks, but now all 23 hospital rooms, plus the tub room and ER, are equipped. It's much safer and more comfortable for patients and easier on staff."

Despite the success of the ceiling track project, the auxiliary still has funds to allocate.

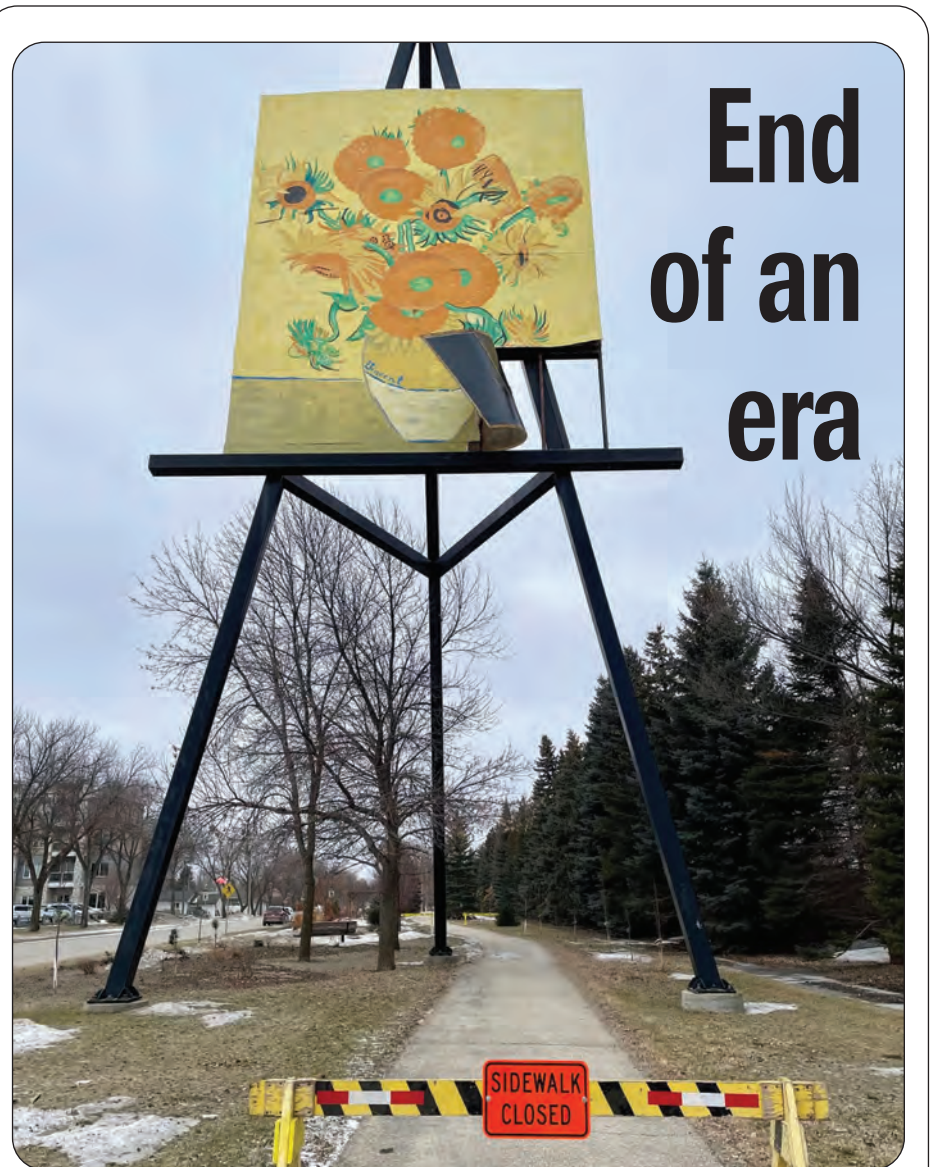
"We're waiting on a few more things to complete that project, including a motor for the lift," said Elaine Friesen, auxiliary president. "We get requests from the hospital and try to fulfill them as quickly as possible. Some things just aren't covered by the province, or if they are, the wait times can be years."

Friesen emphasized the importance of community involvement in the auxiliary's mission. "This is a real community-minded group. Ei-



From left: Brad Braun, auxiliary members Brenda Braun, Kathy Wall, Tan Robinson, Pat Dick, and Elaine Friesen. Front row; Hospital manager Kathy Winter and auxiliary member Evelyn Kehler demonstrating the wheelchair donated in memory of Henrietta Braun (above).

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE



## End of an era

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The high winds of recent weeks damaged Altona's giant sunflower painting, necessitating its removal while the town decides what's next for the 27-year-old public art piece.

Last refurbished in 2017, the entire giant easel structure has reached the end of its lifespan, and town council is asking the community its thoughts on where to go with it from here.

The town has priced out three options: remove the landmark entirely for \$20,000, replace it with a new canvas featuring a print reproduction for \$27,000 (good for 8-10 years), or build a new, sturdier canvas and have an artist paint Van Gogh's Sunflowers on it again for an estimated \$70,000 (good for 25 or more years).

You can share your thoughts on the project online at [altona.ca/p/big-easel](http://altona.ca/p/big-easel).

ther our loved ones or ourselves will eventually need these things. We're thinking about our own futures and our family members' futures when we contribute. Sometimes those times come sooner than we realize - it's always too soon."

Friesen fondly remembers Henrietta Braun.

"I remember Hetty working in the kitchen. It was always fun, always full of laughter. I think she really enjoyed the work she did."

The auxiliary continues to raise funds for vital healthcare equipment, including new wheelchairs, like the one donated by the Braun family.

"The donated wheelchair will be used for general purposes around

the hospital," said Friesen. "We often have to wait quite a while for occupational therapists to measure patients for their own chairs, so in the meantime, we need something comfortable and adjustable."

Beyond fundraising for equipment, the auxiliary also serves at funerals and organizes soup and pie fundraisers. Over the years, they have donated items such as isolation carts, stretchers, IV lines, and wall murals.

The group currently has 11 members, but Friesen hopes to see more volunteers join.

"We're always eager to accept new members. We hope this group continues, and that more people will step forward to help us provide much-

# sports & recreation

## Flyers-Nighthawks series tied after opening weekend

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Niverville Nighthawks are proving to be a worthy opponent for the defending MJHL champion Winkler Flyers.

The two teams squared off in games one and two of their first-round play-off series last weekend.

Winkler finished the regular season at the top of the standings, both in their division and the league overall, while Niverville, with 11 fewer wins to their names, came in fourth place in the MGEU division and fifth in the league. Winkler came out ahead in all five of their games against each other this season.

But, playing before a hometown crowd Friday night in game one, the Flyers struggled to get anything past Nighthawk goalie Austin Dubinsky, who denied all 24 shots that came his way through the first two periods.

Across the rink, Winkler netminder Liam Ernst was doing the same thing, denying seven shots in the first and three in the second.

But while Ernst's shutout hopes continued in the third with 14 more saves, Winkler's offensive lines finally found a chink in Dubinsky's armour, making good on one shot off the four they sent his way. With just six and a half minutes left on the clock, it was



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler's Kam Thomas sneaks a shot past Nighthawk Austin Dubinsky with six minutes left in the third period. It proved to be the game-winning goal, giving the Flyers game one of the playoff series against Niverville.

enough to give Winkler the win 1-0.

Game two a couple of nights later in Niverville wasn't so close—and it didn't go Winkler's way at all.

Once again Winkler scored one lone goal, courtesy of Jayce Legaarden late in the second, but it was drowned out

by six from the home team to tie the series at a game apiece.

Ernst made 25 saves this game as Winkler narrowly outshot Niverville 34-31.

Game three was back in Winkler Tuesday night. Results were not avail-

able at press time.

Game four is in Niverville Thursday, game five is in Winkler Saturday, and games six and seven, if needed, are in Niverville Monday and then Winkler next week Wednesday.

## Ste. Anne Aces win third SEMHL championship

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Ste. Anne Aces are the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League champions.

Ste. Anne downed the Springfield Winterhawks 6-5 in overtime Sunday afternoon to take the series four games to three.

The Aces and the Winterhawks finished the regular season at the top of

the standings—Ste. Anne in first with a 16-2 record and Springfield right on their heels in second with 14 wins, four losses to their names.

The championship series was a back and forth affair, Ste. Anne taking games one and two 5-2 and 4-3 and then Springfield clawing its way back into it with wins in games four and five 6-4 and 3-1.

Game five March 19 needed over-

time for a decision, tied at 4-4 after regulation. The winning goal gave Springfield the series lead 3-2, but Ste. Anne tied it back up again with an 8-6 victory Friday night.

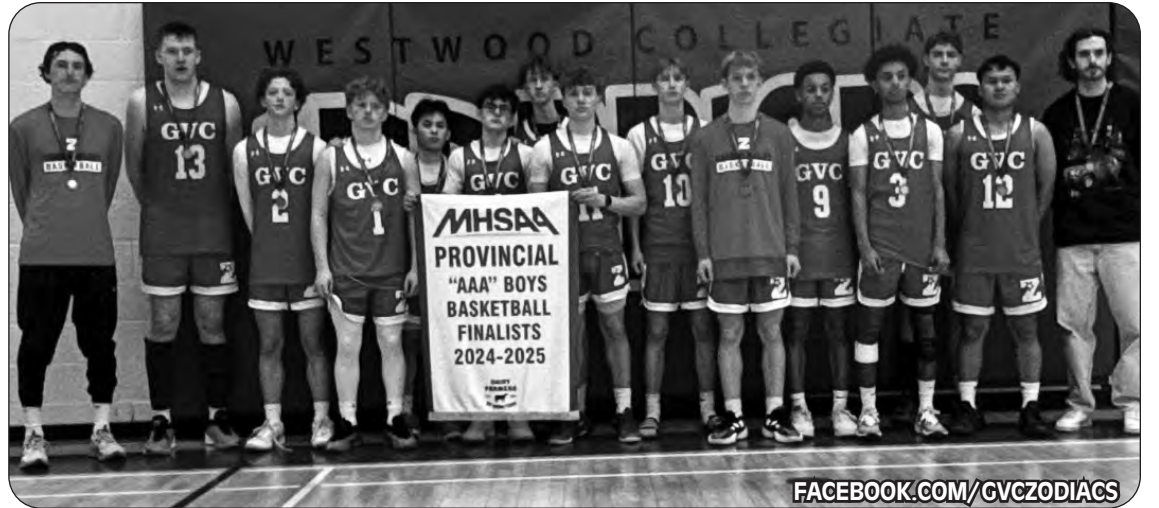
That set the stage for game seven Sunday in Ste. Anne. The score was tied 1-1 after 20 minutes. Springfield pulled ahead 4-3 after 40.

The lead was short-lived, with the Aces' Caleb Paisley scoring in the

third period's second minute. The scoreboard remained steady for several minutes after that, until Springfield's Riley Thomsen lit it up at 14:16 to retake the lead. Four minutes later, Brenden Walker scored for Ste. Anne, forcing overtime.

There, Cody Fowlie managed the game-winner for the Aces two minutes in, giving Ste. Anne their third league championship in a row.

News or sports tip? E-mail [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca) or call 204-325-6888



## Local teams medal at provincials

By Voice staff

Local teams came out top at the provincial high school basketball tournaments over the weekend.

The Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs boys team (above, right) downed R.D. Parker and Lorette to earn a seat

at the championship game against the Neelin Spartans.

The close 76-70 game went Neelin's way, giving the Zodiacs a second-place finish and the finalist banner.

On the girl's side, the Zodiacs were knocked out of running for the pro-

vincial title after a one-point loss in their opening game, but they went on to win the consolation final against the Churchill Bulldogs 69-49.

And at the provincial A competition in Rivers, the Rosenort Redhawks girls (above, left) were undefeated all weekend long, culminating in a 65-

35 championship win against the Ste. Rose Celtics to bring home the gold and the provincial banner.

The Rosenort boys, meanwhile, clinched third place with a win of 83-70 against the Fisher Branch Cougars

## Pothole problem? Nominate a road for the CAA Worst Roads campaign

By E Antonio

The annual CAA Worst Roads campaign is back, and they are looking for your input in finding Manitoba's worst roads.

From now until April 11, you can nominate a road in your community that is in dire need of improvement.

"We do a lot of research here, and we have learned that 96 per cent of Manitobans are concerned or very concerned with the state of our roads," said Ewald Friesen, manager government relations at CAA Manitoba.

Now in its 14th year, CAA addresses the conditions of roads by releasing a top 10 list of worst roads, nominated

by the public.

Through the campaign, you have the ability to nominate a road in poor condition either as a driver, a cyclist, or a pedestrian. If you can use the road, you have the opportunity for your voice to be heard.

Whether it is a plethora of potholes, or faulty crossing signals; CAA wants to hear it all.

"We can't change our roadways without your help," said Friesen. He particularly addressed the concern in rural communities. "If you cannot access your road, you are going to be in a lot of trouble," he explained.

In the previous two campaigns, rural roads were voted as Manitoba's

worst roads. 18th Street in Brandon and Highway 74 near Morris both reached the top spot. Within months of the list being released, the government took action and made commitments to fixing both roads.

"The government is responding to our lists. Every nomination submitted drives home the message to our government leaders: safer roads, better infrastructure, and attentive gov-

ernance matter to us all."

You can nominate the worst road in your community once a day, until April 11. Voting takes place at [www.caaworstroads.com](http://www.caaworstroads.com), and every nomination you cast enters you into a draw to win free gas for a year.

CAA will release the roads with the most nominations in May, where they will also share regional lists to ensure that everyone's voices are heard.

## Kerry Peterson to step into VP role permanently at RVS

By Voice staff

Border Land School Division has announced that Kerry Peterson will be stepping into the role of vice-principal of Roseau Valley School this fall.

Peterson has worked at RSV for 17 years in a variety of roles, including interim vice-principal and as a middle and seniors years classroom teacher and resource teacher.

He holds a bachelor of education from the University of Manitoba, a post-baccalaureate in education with a focus on inclusive education, as

well as a special education certificate.

"As a passionate life-long learner, Mr. Peterson is committed to fostering a collaborative environment where clear communication is key to driving school improvement," the division shared. "He is deeply committed to listening to students and ensuring they are engaged in meaningful and high-quality learning experiences.

"Mr. Peterson's goal is to provide the necessary support to create an inclusive school environment where all individuals feel safe, respected, and valued."

## The Funnies



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## PUBLIC NOTICE



### MUNICIPAL HERITAGE NOTICE (MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND)

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

The site described as follows:

The lands and premises commonly known as The Commons Site 5013 Road 1W, in the Village of Neuberghal, Province of Manitoba, and legally described in Certificate of Title No. 2198056 as:

In the Village of Neuberghal, in the Province of Manitoba, being Lot 1 which lot is shown on a Plan of Survey registered in the Morden Land Titles Office as Plan No. 45046. Of which the records of the Morden Land Titles Office show as owner: Neuberghal Heritage Foundation Inc. in the Province of Manitoba, as registered owner

AND

The site described as follows:

The lands and premises commonly known as The Schoolhouse Yard site, in the Village of Neuberghal, Province of Manitoba, and legally described in Certificate of Title No. 2987901 as:

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and all the lands and buildings thereon, have been designated as a municipal heritage site to be protected under the authority of The Heritage Resources Act by municipal bylaw No.2025-07 of the Municipality of Rhineland, adopted on the 19th day of March, 2025.

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT:**

A copy of this Municipal Heritage Notice shall be filed in the appropriate land titles office or registry office, in accordance with the provisions of The Heritage Resources Act.

Dated at Altona, this 19th day of March 2025.

Michael Rempel, C.M.M.A.  
Chief Administrative Officer

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY OF MORDEN 2025 FINANCIAL PLAN

Pursuant to Section 162 (2) of The Municipal Act, Council of the City of Morden invites all ratepayers of the City of Morden to a **Public Hearing** in respect to the **2025 Financial Plan** (Budget) for the City of Morden. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan. A presentation of the Financial Plan will be made in **Council Chambers at the City of Morden Civic Center, 100-195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.** Copies of the Financial Plan will be made available to the public on **April 1, 2025**. Additional information and other documents concerning the matter and the procedures to be followed at the hearing will be available for review at the municipal office at this time.



## CAREERS



### MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

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

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible. Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
  - Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
  - Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
  - Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience
- This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

Starting Wages:

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

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

**Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.**

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



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

## COMING EVENTS

# CARMAN GUN SHOW

**Date:**

**April 5, 2025**

**Time:**

**9AM to 3PM**

**Place:**

**Carman Hall  
\$7 ADMISSION**

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## NOSTALGIARAMA

**Vintage, Collectibles & Antique Sale SAT, Apr 5th 2025 10AM - 5PM**

Manitoba's **Biggest** Indoor Spring Vintage, Collectibles & Antique Sale with over **180** tables.

**Admission: \$5.00**  
12 and under **FREE**

**Assiniboia Downs 3975 Portage Ave, Wpg. FREE Parking**

Early (8AM) admission \$30.00

**For info: 204-990-3463 or 431-374-6925**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the Estate of Elmer Wiebe, late of Morden, Manitoba, Deceased.

All claims against the above estate, supported by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the attention of: Executor, 542 Ottawa Street, Regina, SK S4R 1P2, on or before the 5th day of May, 2025. Dated this 24th day of March, 2025.

Executor of the Estate of Elmer Wiebe

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## TENDER

# JANITORIAL TENDER

## Access Credit Union Dominion City

Access Credit Union Dominion City requires the services of a contractor to provide daily general cleaning duties for the interior and exterior of the building, sidewalk snow clearing and exterior plant care.

### Duties include:

- Vacuum all carpets and mop floors
- Gather and dispose of all garbage and recycling
- Dust and clean offices, staff room and public area
- Clean and sanitize washrooms
- Other cleaning requirements as necessary

Tenders or resumes, accompanied by a minimum of two references, must be received on or before **March 31, 2025, before 4:30 p.m.**

Tender information can be obtained by emailing vickie.addison@accesscu.ca.

Tenders may be delivered, mailed or emailed to:

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



## DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

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

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION

#### VOTING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TAKE NOTICE THAT voting for the Board of Directors is open to all members who have a share at any Credit Union branch. Voting will be done by electronic ballot and will be tallied electronically by a third-party provider. Voting will be open from 9:00 a.m. CDT on Thursday, the 3rd day of April, 2025 until 5:00 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, the 9th of April, 2025. Members of the Credit Union are invited to vote online at www.accessvotes.ca. Each member may vote on a personal electronic device or should any member prefer, devices for the purpose of voting will be available at all branches of the Credit Union during operating hours.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the AGM of the members of the Credit Union will be held on **Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. CDT** via virtual means, for the following purposes:

1. 2024 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
2. Board of Directors Report
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Announcement of Member Rewards
5. Director Elections Voting Results

All eligible members wishing to participate in the AGM are required to register online at www.accesscu.ca prior to April 16, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. CDT. Instructions for voting processes and how to ask questions will be displayed on the screen commencing at 6:45 p.m. CDT. These instructions will also be reviewed at the opening of the meeting.

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

DATED this 27th day of March, 2025  
ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED  
By Order of the Board of Directors



# Classifieds Announcements

The *Winkler Morden*  
**Voice**

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### CARD OF THANKS

The family of Juliette Des Lauriers would like to say thank you for all expressions of sympathy through flowers, messages and calls. Thanks to Bob Pauls and Doyle's Funeral Home for the compassion shown to us during this difficult time. A special thanks is extended to the staff at the Foyer Notre Dame for the excellent care that mom received during her time there

### IN MEMORIAM



Dave Zacharias  
1933 - 2020

Your unwavering devotion to faith, family and farming  
Embedded the very essence of a life well lived  
So treasure him Lord in your garden of rest  
Years roll on but memories last  
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### UPCOMING REUNION

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Class of '75 Reunion Committee



### ANNUAL BULL SALE

## 57th Annual LUNDAR BULL SALE

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April 5, 2025 1:00 P.M. Lundar Agri-Ed Centre - Auctioneer - Tyler Slawinski

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4 - 1 year Charolais	1 - Simmental Heifer
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For more info contact Jack (204) 739-3645 or Kevin (204) 371-8277  
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### EMPLOYMENT

**SUPER THRIFTY**  
LOCALLY OWNED WE CARE... Your Family Drug Store

### Pharmacy Assistant Morris, MB

Super Thrifty Drugs is seeking a full-time Pharmacy Assistant to join our health care team in Morris, Manitoba.

#### Duties & Responsibilities:

- General tasks associated with a pharmacy technician or assistant
- Preparing compliance packaging
- Prescription order entry
- Responding to phone inquiries as directed
- Inventory management: placing & receiving orders and stock replenishment

#### Qualifications:

- Previous practical experience or formal training in a pharmacy setting
- Superior communication skills
- Organizational and problem solving skills
- Customer service skills
- The ability to work in a team setting
- Previous experience with the Kroll pharmacy software system is an asset.

#### We Offer:

- A competitive salary commensurate to experience
- A comprehensive benefits package
- No evenings or Sundays and a flexible Saturday schedule
- The opportunity to join a team committed to providing customer service excellence

Please send your resume in confidence to:

**Nathan Friesen**  
nathan.friesen@superthrifty.com

### CAREERS

The RM of Roland is currently  
hiring for the following positions:  
**Public Works Operator**  
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For complete job description or for  
more information please  
email [cao@rmofroland.ca](mailto:cao@rmofroland.ca)  
or visit [www.rmofroland.ca](http://www.rmofroland.ca).



### EMPLOYMENT

**SUPER THRIFTY**  
LOCALLY OWNED WE CARE... Your Family Drug Store

### Pharmacist - Part-Time (hours negotiable) Morris, MB

Valley Super Thrifty Pharmacy is looking for a Part-Time Staff Pharmacist to join our team in Morris, Manitoba.

#### Qualifications:

- Licensed to practice as Pharmacist in Manitoba
- Authorized to give injections an asset but not required
- Prescribe for self-limiting conditions and smoking cessation an asset but not required
- OAT training an asset by not required

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

- Practice within federal/provincial, regulatory/legal requirements, provincial Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, and Policies
- Demonstrate professional integrity and act to uphold a high level of professional standard of practice
- Provide counselling on prescriptions, over the counter/behind the counter products and all health-related issues, including but not limited to indications, contra-indications, adverse effects, drug interactions and dosage
- Ensure accuracy and appropriateness of all prescriptions dispensed
- Strong problem-solving skills including experience formulating and executing action plans
- Superior customer relations skills and a strong sense of professionalism
- Hours: Monday to Friday is 9-6  
Saturday 9-5

Please apply in confidence to:

**Nathan Friesen**  
Valley Super Thrifty  
nathan.friesen@superthrifty.com

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY JANICE WHITE

## Junior spiel winners

By Siobhan Maas

Morris Curling Club hosted their inaugural Junior Spiel at Curl Morris over the weekend, bringing in 18 teams from across southern Manitoba.

Team Friesen from Altona Curling Club (photo at left)—made up of London Friesen, Myla Froese, Seolah Kim, and Ellie Friesen—won the U15 event. Team Winkler came in second.

Morris' own Team Hamblin (photo at right)—Katie Hamblin, Braydon Brown, Lizzy Hamblin, and Avery Rae—won the U13 event. The second Team Hamblin—made up of Maverick Hoffman, Paige Hamblin, Claire Hamblin, and Asher Hoffman—came in second.

Hudson Peters, U15, and Katie Hamblin, U13, won the "draw to the button" competition at 0.007 cm and 0.006 cm, respectively.



# Woman killed in single-vehicle crash on PR 201

By Voice staff

Emerson RCMP responded to what proved to be a fatal car accident on Provincial Road 201 near Sundown Road over the weekend.

Emergency crews received a report of a single-vehicle rollover just before noon on Saturday, March 22.

When they arrived on the scene they found a vehicle that had left the road, collided with some trees, and rolled.

The 47-year-old female driver, who was not wearing her seatbelt, was ejected from the vehicle and pronounced deceased on scene.

Investigators believe the vehicle was travelling westbound on the 201 at

a high rate of speed when it left the roadway and rolled sometime in the early morning hours of March 22.

Emerson RCMP continue to investigate.

## Sharing stories of healing and hope

From Pg. 12

Among the attendees was Cheryl Nelson, a woman from Treaty 1 territory whose connection to treaties runs deep.

"My dad, Oliver Nelson, was a chief at one time. He was one of the founders of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs," she said. "Reconciliation was something he wanted to see. For me, being here today was a learning experience, but also a deeply emotional one."

Nelson reflected on how powerful it was to witness so many people open up and share their experiences.

"Everybody sharing their stories touched me profoundly," she said. "It showed me that people are willing to recognize what is wrong and are finding the steps to healing. Seeing this map was incredible. It was so touching and profound to me."

She acknowledged that much of the misunderstanding and division in society comes from a lack of knowledge about Indigenous history.

"So much of the judgment comes from people not knowing," she

said. "I was angry a lot when I was younger, and I didn't understand where that came from until I learned about my own history and what my parents and grandparents went through."

But Nelson sees hope in the next generation, in their curiosity and willingness to ask questions.

"This map encourages that," she said. "It invites people to engage, to listen, and to learn."

### > RHINELAND BUDGET, FROM PG. 12

long-term. When there's uncertainty about production schedules, it increases risk because you need to be sure you can sell the products you plan to make."

Concerns were also raised about the closure of two bridges in northern Rhineland, located on municipal roads 7 and 11. These structures will be undergoing Level 1 and Level 2 inspections, which require waiting until ice and spring water levels recede to complete thorough evaluations.

"We don't know how long they'll be closed," Wiebe said. "It's a concern because those bridges serve a critical purpose. Hopefully it's just temporary."

The municipality is considering al-

Friesen, reflecting on the event's success, said it surpassed expectations in both attendance and emotional impact.

"We had three times as many people as we thought we might," he said. "That's incredible. What really stood out to me was the stories. Hearing people's personal, heartfelt stories—that's how we get to the truth."

Both Keffer and Friesen emphasized that learning about reconciliation is

alternatives, including replacing some bridges with low-level crossings where feasible.

"Some of these bridges were built decades ago for much smaller vehicles," Wiebe explained. "Now, we have massive trucks and trailers putting additional strain on these structures. Replacing all of them isn't realistic, but where it makes sense, low-level crossings might be a practical solution."

While Rhineland is not planning any major capital projects this year, smaller initiatives—such as the construction of a cold storage facility in Altona for equipment maintenance—are in progress.

With challenges in infrastructure,

an ongoing journey, one that requires patience, humility, and an open heart.

"We just want to feel cared for. We want to feel heard. And we want to learn," Keffer said. "And it's about reciprocity—giving something and getting something back. Sometimes, that's just sitting and sharing stories over coffee. That's where healing begins."

economic uncertainty, and increasing costs, Wiebe said the municipality is taking a strategic approach to growth and investment. Through careful planning, collaboration with neighboring communities, and ongoing advocacy, Rhineland officials aim to address key priorities while ensuring long-term sustainability.

"We can plan for all the contingencies that come with bridge closures, water supply challenges, and infrastructure demands," said Wiebe. "And we're still not sure what the water level situation will be like this spring. Right now, the outlook is favourable, but in Manitoba, you never know for sure."