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Tenants at Altona's Gardens on Tenth had some seasonal fun last week, decorating eggs for Easter. Margaret Harder found the smile on her unique design downright hilarious.

SUBMITTED PHOTO  
BY DEANDRA BRAUN

# Egg-cellent artwork

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# get informed

## Altona police chief joins provincial public safety committee

By Lori Penner

Altona Police Chief Dan Defer recently became part of an initiative to create a new strategy to ensure equitable, consistent, and culturally relevant public safety training options across the province.

Defer will represent the community as part of a Public Safety Training Strategy Steering Committee, joining 15 individuals from across the province who are tasked with developing a road map for the establishment of a public safety training strategy, including things like a common curriculum, cultural components, training delivery options, and facilities.

The committee was established through a request by the Department of Justice and is co-chaired by Clunis Consulting founder Devon Clunis and Ron Evans, former grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and

former chief of Norway House Cree Nation.

"I've long believed that our province could be an example for others. This initiative is poised to be world class in delivering community-centric public safety personnel training for the 21st century," Clunis said. "During a time of immense, often chaotic social and cultural change in our communities, we are optimistic that our work will help navigate these challenging times."

In announcing the committee's creation, Justice Minister Kelvin Goertzen noted that "accountability, supported by consistent standards, oversight and training, is central to ensuring Manitobans have confidence in their law enforcement officers."

"Having a common, provincially approved curriculum and training facility allows us to include a wider

spectrum of community input and culturally relevant content to form part of all core training for our public safety officers at all levels."

When the province first announced its intentions to form this committee, Defer admits he was skeptical.

"I expressed some concerns," he said. "Many times, the smaller agencies feel that we're not heard. Because we're not the big city voice. That was my concern. So, I decided I wanted to be there to make sure other ideas come forward. I'm bringing suggestions of what I'd like to see."

"We've already heard about the larger communities and their needs. I'm representing the little guy's voices at the table, making sure they have a voice."

Currently, there is no consistent training option for police and peace officers in Manitoba, which leads to many potential officers seeking training elsewhere in the country.

Defer says it's high time to establish one.

"It's 2023. We don't have anything standardized in Manitoba, which is crazy. Personally, I think we're the only jurisdiction in Canada with only one large city. Why are we sending our recruits to the Saskatchewan Police College? We should have something here. We need training that is consistent with our own province. That way everyone is doing the exact same thing the way the neighbouring agency is."

Defer is also part of a sub-committee to explore different training delivery options.

"There are going to be new standards coming up, and everyone will



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Altona police Chief Dan Defer is part of the province's new Public Safety Training Strategy Steering Committee.

be trained by those standards. What is that going to look like? That's what we're looking at.

"Yes, we have the brick and mortar building to go to for our training, but how else are we going to deliver training? It's a given that you have to go to a central location for recruitment training. But could a lot of the in-service training be done virtually? Can the college take the course on the road? There's us down here. There's Manitoba First Nations up in The Pas. Can we take this course to our communities?"

Out-of-town training is expensive, he adds.

"If I send an officer from Altona to the Winnipeg Police Service training, it's \$750 a week, plus accommodations and meals. There must be a more cost-effective way. Maybe, instead of sending 14 people at that expense, we could send four instructors back to the local communities? We're looking at all options and coming up with what works for us. That's what this whole strategic plan is about."

The timeline for installation of the new strategy is still unknown.

"It is being pushed by the province, they are requesting it, so I'm assuming they'll take it more seriously," Defer said. "But government wheels can spin slowly, and it will be a change. Hopefully, they'll see the urgency and necessity for this."



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REPRESENTING THE  
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AT THE TABLE."**

# Altona wins Manitoba's Best Municipal Flag poll

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Altona's municipal flag came out on top in a recent poll run by the Manitoba Vexillological Association (MBVA).

The MBVA selected 24 flags from around the province to battle it out over three rounds of virtual surveys.

Morden and Winkler's flags were also in the running, though they both got knocked out in round one.

The Altona flag's yellow sunflower on a blue background made the top three in the first two rounds and ultimately was voted Manitoba's best-looking municipal flag last week.

MBVA founder Lucas Stratton noted they had a few hundred people voting through each round of the poll, which was open to the general public.

The poll was meant to generate interest in vexillology—the study of flags—and get people thinking about

the flags they see every day hanging at local civic centres and public buildings.

"This was our first ever poll that we conducted," said Stratton, who founded the association two years ago. "The thought behind it was to hopefully grow some interest in our hobby, and it seems like it worked. We had hundreds of answers every week. People really got involved."

Stratton's interest in flags encompasses not just their design elements but also the stories behind them.

"For me it kind of started as an interest in history, which then brought me into the art of heraldry and the science and study of all that," he said. "I really can't pinpoint what it is about it that I love so much, but I do."

The association today has members from around the world. They have an active social media presence and

hold in-person events on occasion at Settlers, Rails & Trails Inc. in Argyle. The museum is home to the Canada's second-largest collection of flags.

## ALTONA STOOD OUT

As they moved through the survey rounds, Altona was a clear front-runner, and Stratton wasn't surprised.

"There's a few key points that go into a good flag, though it's all open to interpretation—there's no exact rules for anything," he said. "Altona's flag has always been a strong contender since the flag was adopted. People really like that flag. It got the most votes

in the first round and it was way at the top for the entire race.

"It's just a simple design. The colours work well together. And the symbolism is simple to understand but still very effective and fitting for the town."

The flag was designed three years ago by Edward Vincent Arcenal not long after he moved to Altona from the Philippines.

He drew inspiration for its design from the community itself.

"The sunflower was a given, because Altona is the sunflower capi-

Continued on page 8



MANITOBA VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The municipal flags of Altona, Brandon, and the RM of St. Andrews were voted the top three flags in a poll hosted by the Manitoba Vexillological Association this spring. Portage la Prairie, Morden, and Winkler's flags were the first to be knocked out of the running.

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# Winkler Festival of the Arts returns next week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler area piano, vocal, and choral students will be filling the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church with music all next week.

The Winkler Festival of the Arts runs there April 17-21.

It's their second year back post-pandemic, and the numbers are starting to get back to normal, shares festival board president Dorothy Plett.

"We have just under 300 entries," she says, adding that they're also welcoming back choirs to the festival this year. "So we've grown to almost the same size as we were before COVID."

That's certainly a relief, as for awhile there the future of the event was very much in doubt.

"We were a little bit concerned during COVID as to whether or not this would be the end of an era," Plett says, noting the festival stretches back to the early 1930s. "So we were so encouraged when people—teachers, students—were excited about the idea of the festival happening again.

"We had it last year and it was very last minute because of how everything opened up, but we were amazed, still, at how many entries we had.

"And the smiles on the people when they were there ... everybody was so excited to be back."

It was an affirmation that a festival of the arts still has something to offer.

It's an incredibly valuable educational experience for music students to prepare a piece, whether on their own or as part of a group, to perform in front of an audience of peers and adjudicators, Plett says.

"It's a very encouraging environment ... something for the kids to work towards."

This year's adjudicators are Mille Hildebrand (vocal/choral) and Tracey Regier Sawatzky (piano).

Hildebrand has been an active part of Manitoba's musical community for many years, including as a teacher, choral director, voice instructor, and festival adjudicator. She is co-president of the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg and has had a lengthy involvement with the Manitoba Choral



VOICE FILE PHOTOS

The Winkler Festival of the Arts runs all next week. In addition to piano and vocal performances, back this year are the choral sessions as well.



"Even though they've maybe heard it before from their teacher, it's good to hear it from another professional."

Preparing to perform in public is also a very different thing from simply playing in class.

"Even as teachers we prepare them differently ... it's not just a learning thing, it's a performing thing, and those are two different sides of the same coin."

All the festival sessions are open to

Continued on page 7

# Woman charged in assault at Winkler grocery store

By Voice staff

A Winkler woman remained in custody over the weekend after a disturbance at a local grocery store.

On Saturday, April 8, just before 3:30 p.m., Winkler Police received a report of an intoxicated female assaulting people in the store. Paramedics had also been called.

Officers arrived on the scene and found the suspect, who is believed to have been under the influence of methamphetamine, outside the store attempting to flee the area. She was placed under arrest.

Investigation revealed that the woman had been inside the business in an agitated state when she aggressively approached a 20-year-old female em-

ployee of the store who was assisting an 81-year-old male patron.

Police say the suspect assaulted the female employee and then assaulted and injured the male customer. The victims and the suspect were not known to each other.

The 81-year-old was transported to hospital where he was treated for his injuries and released later that eve-

ning.

Due to her level of intoxication, the suspect, a 32-year-old woman, was also transported to hospital by paramedics where she was treated and released the following day, though she remained in police custody.

She will be charged with assault and assault causing bodily harm.



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# "There are many pieces of this puzzle that need to come together"

By Lorne Stelmach

Manitoba still has a ways to go in the electrification of transportation in the province, but there are signs of progress.

That was the assessment of Dany Robidoux, executive director of the Winnipeg-based Eco-West, as one of the speakers at the Manitoba Sustainable Energy Association conference last Tuesday in Morden.

"There are many pieces of this puzzle that need to come together, and we're slowly starting to see things happen," said the head of the agency with a mandate to promote the sustainable economic development of rural Canada through the planning and implementation of a green economy infrastructure.

Robidoux said the province at least started on the road to making that transition with a study to figure out where charging infrastructure should be located.

"As well, Manitoba Hydro is working on their integrated resource planning project, so they're looking at what role they will be playing," he said. "After all, it requires their product and their service.

"Those two big pieces are starting to fall into place, and now we're looking at how do we make sure that, for everyone's benefit, that the funding that's out there, especially at the federal level, can come to Manitoba."

Other key stakeholders like Manitoba auto dealers are also playing role by looking at their needs to have the infrastructure in place.

"The charging infrastructure needs to continue to be rolled out," said Robidoux. "But electric vehicles is just one component of the solution. For heavy machinery, it's likely not so much going to be electric. There's likely a transition to other solutions such as hydrogen or others that need to be considered.

"In the end, if we're looking at ourselves as a transportation hub, that refueling capacity for larger vehicles is going to be very important for Manitoba because other jurisdictions are already kind of making that move," he added. "We have to make sure we're matching up.

"Hopefully in the next five years we'll see a lot of change, but we're also seeing supply chain issues coming into play."

Robidoux was among a number of speakers at the conference that focused on the theme of energy independence for Manitoba.

It brought together leading experts, innovative businesses, and government officials from across the province and beyond. Discussions explored sustainable energy solutions that could help Manitoba become more self-sufficient and less reliant on non-renewable resources.

Topics included integrated resource planning processes, energy savings for businesses and residences, phosphorous and biochar production from biomass, battery technology, and renewable technology opportunities and challenges.

One presentation highlighted how First Nations are leading the way in Canada's energy transformation.

One report has noted Indigenous communities and enterprises are the largest single owner of clean energy assets apart from the Crown and private utilities in Canada. Nearly 200 medium-to-large renewable projects and as many as 2,100 micro or small renewable systems with Indigenous leadership or partnerships are in operation or the last stages of development across Canada.

A major factor contributing to Indigenous communities being at the forefront is that there is a natural affinity and congruence of clean energy with Indigenous traditions.

Another presentation highlighted Manitoba Hydro's development of its integrated resource plan—basically a road map for making sure our electricity and natural gas supply and delivery systems meet the needs for the next 20 years and beyond.

It recognizes the need to remain flexible and adapt so Manitoba Hydro can continue providing reliable, affordable electricity and natural gas even as more of customers, for example, begin driving electric vehicles or generating their own solar power.

Alexander Lavoie, a board member of the Manitoba Sustainable Energy Association, was pleased with the conference's attendance of about 120 participants.

"Manitoba Sustainable Energy Association really tries to service and involve a lot of rural Manitoba first and foremost," he noted. "And we had some incredible individuals from different backgrounds and different organizations here to speak."

His hope was simply that people might come away from it "potentially with a different perspective. We're not here to change minds. We're here more on an educational basis ... any learning opportunity is a good one."



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Manitoba Sustainable Energy Association brought together about 120 people to Morden last week for its annual conference, which included speakers like Dany Robidoux (right), executive director of Eco-West, presenting on the topic of sustainable energy and what it will take to make Manitoba less reliant on non-renewable resources.



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## Leaders look forward

**S**ince we're on the verge of significant leadership change in the Pembina Valley with a new MP and MLA on the horizon, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on leadership.

Every time leaders (or people in general) spend more time looking backward into the past than forward into the future you can be sure it's because they are insecure about their present circumstances, criticism being received, and the decisions they are making or planning on making.

Let me explain. I use leaders as an example because this is most manifest with these types of people, particularly new leaders.

There are two ways leaders will bring up the past: as a glorious by-gone era that needs to be revived because recent leadership has made a mess of it, or as a horrific experience that only their leadership can help avoid because recent leadership has steered us back in that direction.

In each instance the past and past leadership is used as a way to strengthen positions and decisions they do not believe can stand on their own in the present.

Sometimes the past is brought up to defend against poor choices being made in the present. You have heard it said before: "It is because of these

bad decisions that we are caught in the current circumstances ..."

Most recently one can find examples of this kind of talk by listening to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Putin, with his eyes firmly fixed in the rear-view mirror, constantly reframes history and seeks to revise accepted narratives when he presents Russian aggression in Ukraine as a defensive response against pre-existing NATO and Ukrainian aggression, for example.

When Putin calls Ukraine and its leaders—leaders like Jewish Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy—Nazis, he is attempting to use a horrific twisting of the past as an excuse for his own horrible decisions in the present and as a defense against critics.

These are extreme ideas but you get the point: poor leaders use and abuse the past to excuse poor leadership in the present and defend against any criticism.

Here is another example.

Studies have shown that new drivers do not look as far down the road as experienced drivers. The new driver is focused on what is immediately in front of them while the experi-

enced driver naturally looks far down the road to allow for planning and to avoid having to react suddenly to things they did not see coming.

Similarly, new leaders (or just plain bad leaders) tend to be fixated on the present and the past, incapable of looking ahead. It is not a perfect analogy but it gets the point across.

This type of myopic leadership lacks vision and often leads to stagnation bogging down people and organizations in things that have passed and have little bearing on the future. Another danger with this type of leadership is history is often recorded and easy to look up. One can usually spot a leader seeking to twist the past simply by doing a little research.

Good leadership does not dismiss the past, it just doesn't fixate on it. The past has been accomplished and received—there is no changing it. Quality leadership takes what it has been given and frames the present as it looks forward into the future.

Strong leaders know that if they are always looking backward, they will inevitably drive themselves and their team into a wall and the consequences may be devastating.



**By Peter Cantelon**

### Letter policy

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

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

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

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

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# Letters

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to news@winklermordenvoice.ca. Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

## Council needs to move the community forward, not backward

I grew up in Winkler, and after a 30-year absence returned to my hometown last fall.

While away I was a librarian for 20 years with the privilege of working with library staff from public, academic, and government libraries. During those years I never encountered librarians who didn't care deeply about the community they served. This chance to serve their community is a major reason why many move into this profession. I am confident this deep concern for the people of the Pembina Valley is also shared by the staff and board of the South Central Regional Library.

Public libraries are one of the epitomes of a democratic society where everyone is welcome, and resources are available for everyone. The challenge of a democratic society is not everyone thinks or believes the same things, and so serving such a diverse community is an endless challenge.

I am deeply disturbed by the group of angry people who insist the government should enforce their own beliefs on what information people should have access to. This is especially egregious when the angry people, who claim to be promoting "safety" are instead promoting ignorance, shame, and repression. Ignorance, shame, and repression are in fact the recipe for an unsafe society. Never-

theless, the Winkler City Council is using their powers against the library system to potentially enforce these unsafe and undemocratic principles by asking the board to review its policies pertaining to books in its children's collection [Pg. 3, April 6 edition of the Voice].

I implore the Winkler City Council to cancel their requirement of the South Central Regional Library. I implore those making threats against the library system to recognize that they are fighting against the safety and liberty they say they espouse. I implore the citizens served by the South Central Re-

gional Library to show their support for the professionally led and valued resource this public library system is to our entire community.

Winkler has changed a tremendous amount in my 30 year absence. It has become an increasingly diverse and open community. I hope that this diversity and acceptance will only increase. The Winkler City Council has an opportunity to move this community forward not backwards. Please serve this community well.

Kevin Driedger,  
Winkler

### > FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS, FROM PG. 4

the public. Admission is free, though donations are most welcome to support the festival.

The piano performances take place Monday through Friday. Choral sessions are Wednesday morning. The vocal sessions are Wednesday afternoon.

Everything wraps up with the awards night at the church on Friday, April 21 starting at 6 p.m.

The complete festival program listing all the var-

ious competition categories and times is available online at [winklerfestivalofthearts.com](http://winklerfestivalofthearts.com).

That's also the place to go to get in touch with the festival if you'd like to get involved as a volunteer.

There are a variety of positions available that are vital to the smooth running of the event, Plett says.

"And it's not even that you have to be musical [to help out]," she stresses. "You more have to have organizational skills than be musical."

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# Winkler Senior Choir, DKSM Vocal Ensemble perform April 23

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Senior Choir is teaming up with the Douglas Kuhl School of Music (DKSM) Vocal Ensemble for an intergenerational spring concert next weekend.

The Sunday, April 23 show at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church (750 15th St.) is free to attend, though donations will be accepted in support of DKSM programming.

It's been a long couple of years for the senior choir, shares director Wes Hamm, as it was forced to halt rehearsals and performances through the pandemic.

They had tried to do some virtual choir rehearsals at the height of the

pandemic, he says, but it didn't create the same sense of community that most members were looking for in being part of a choir.

With restrictions easing last year, they decided the time was right to stage a comeback.

"In November and December we decided to do sort of a trial four-week period, and it turned into six weeks," Hamm says. "And then we ended up doing a concert together with the choir from St. Paul's United Church. So that was a good start."

About 16 people took part in the fall session, but what they lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm.

"So we decided we would do a spring session as well," says Hamm,

noting they now have about two dozen active choir members.

It's down a fair bit from the heights of year's past (the choir has been running since 1998), but he's confident they'll continue to grow once everyone gets back into the swing of things.

"I can really sense how much everyone's missed it and how happy they are to be together again," Hamm says.

"We've had some new members, we've had some that hadn't been there for awhile—it's a mix," he notes. "I think that when word gets out and when perhaps we can attract some of

these people to the concert, the numbers will go up again."

The group is excited to be performing with DKSM's Vocal Ensemble, which is made up of youth in Gr. 7-12.

"It's something we've done for many, many years," Hamm says, noting they've performed in the past with the Home School Harmony choir and various school choirs. "I think it makes for an interesting mix and an interesting audience as well."

Joining the two choirs on stage is special guest vocalist Ray Giesbrecht.

The music starts at 7 p.m.

**"I CAN REALLY SENSE HOW MUCH EVERYONE'S MISSED IT AND HOW HAPPY THEY ARE TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN"**

## > FLAG CONTEST, FROM PG. 3

tal of Canada," Arcenal noted last week. "But then I also wanted to design a flag that focused more on the people of Altona. So I decided the petals would be different shapes because it symbolizes the diversity in town. We have different cultures but respect each other's differences."

This isn't the first time Arcenal's design has received acclaim. Last year it made it to the semi-finals in Canada's Best Municipal Flag contest run by Municipal World.

That honour and now this most recent vote of approval is humbling for Arcenal.

"I am very appreciative of the people for their well wishes," he said.

Runners-up in the MBVA's poll included the flags of Brandon and the RM of St. Andrews.

On the other side of things, Morden, Winkler, and Portage la Prairie's flags were the first voted out.

"I hesitate to say they were the worst, because we did only pick 24 out of dozens and dozens that exist, so there could be others that are worse," Stratton said, "but those were our bottom three."

Stratton noted that while Morden's flag (which includes a stylized clocktower with the community's name and slogan beside it) is more of a standard logo than a winning flag design.

"It is a nice graphic. It's a nice looking script. But scripts and flags rarely work well together," he said.

"That's actually what happens to many of these small town municipal flags. It just becomes a logo on a piece of fabric. You see that in the wind and you can't read it. Or there's no wind and the flag is flopping down and you still can't read it. It doesn't lend itself so well to a flag."

Winkler's flag, meanwhile, has the opposite problem.

"Winkler's just has a lot going on," Stratton said. "It's got the bright blue and it's got a shopping cart on it, which is a very interesting choice."

The flag is basically a blue version of the Canadian flag, with a red maple leaf and the vintage city crest in the centre featuring icons (a shopping cart, wheat, a wheel) meant to represent Winkler's commercial, agricultural, and industrial roots. (Winkler updated its public branding a couple of years ago with a new "Dream, Build, Live" logo, though the old crest is still used for formal correspondence and the seldom-flown flag.)

It's unlikely the MBVA will do this survey again anytime soon—municipal flags so rarely change—but Stratton says they'll definitely be inviting people to weigh in on other poll topics in the future.

He encourages anyone interested in flags to get in touch with them on their social media pages.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Winkler Senior Choir will perform alongside the DKSM Vocal Ensemble at a spring concert on Sunday, April 23.

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# Carman Granite opens new shop in Altona Mall

By Ty Dilello

Carman Granite opened up its new sales outlet shop in Altona last week.

Carman Granite and Marble Works Ltd is a fourth-generation memorial business/countertop fabricator based in Carman. It recently celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022, making them the oldest family-run business in Carman.

The company had its humble beginnings when Joseph Billing began his career in the monument industry at age 14 in Newmarket, Ontario. He apprenticed under a Scottish stone cutter/memorialist for seven years.

He set up his own memorial business in Morden in 1894, later moving to Grafton, North Dakota, back to Ontario, and then finally settling in Carman in 1920. He took over an existing memorial business in town two years later.

He operated Carman Granite until 1946 when his eyesight became too poor to continue. His son, Howard Billing, joined him that year and purchased the business in 1947.

The younger Billing ran the business in its original location in downtown Carman until 1975. However, after being flooded eight times in 11 years, the vacant Carman Creamery building was purchased and moved to Carman Granite's present location, one kilometre south of town.

In the '80s, Howard's son Murray purchased the company. In 2007, Sean Billing came on board to mentor under his Uncle Murray. Thus, the fourth generation began.

Sean's background as a journeyman machinist made the transition go quite smoothly. He and his wife Lynne purchased Carman Granite in the spring of 2008.

"The need to diversify was imperative to keeping good help employed year-round," said Sean Billing. "Carman Granite is now a fully digital countertop production facility, servicing walk-in clients as well as wholesale customers in both the residential and commercial fields province-wide. The monument side has also expanded."

Carman Granite purchased a diamond etching machine for the memorials, a great asset to its monument sales. Recently, all the sandblasting equipment was upgraded, which has increased production and the working conditions for their employees.

"We continually monitor the entire industry to ensure that the products and services we offer reflect the highest quality and widest selection available," Billing said. "In maintaining these high standards, Carman Granite customers can make an educated decision when purchasing a memorial that truly reflects the personality



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY SEAN BILLING/CARMAN GRANITE

Carman Granite has opened a new sales outlet shop in the Altona Mall. The 102-year-old company has always been a family-run operation. It is led today by Sean Billing.

and memories of themselves or the deceased."

Billing is excited about the new opportunity in Altona. The sales office in the Altona Mall will be open weekdays 9 a.m to 5 p.m and on weekends by appointment.

"Our service area has been growing the past several years, so we decided it was time to better service areas that were having to drive a distance to get to us as we really enjoy serving

Southern Manitoba, so that's why we decided to open up shop in Altona," he said. "Our countertop sales continue to grow year after year as well. I have stuck to my roots and never sacrificed quality. Whether that is in the raw materials or the craftsmanship that we put into every job. So I am very proud of the team that we've assembled here and am very excited for the future."

# Altona chamber of commerce announces award winners

By Lori Penner

The Altona & District Chamber of Commerce has chosen the award recipients for the 2023 Annual Awards Gala.

Buffalo Creek Mills will receive the Business Excellence Award for companies with 11 employees or more. The oat milling company has experienced an impressive growth rate and a number of years of double-digit growth and currently are at their maximum capacity in the current building.

Buffalo Creek Mills supports local organizations of all types, including various sports teams, YFC Altona, and the Kiddie Sunshine Centre building project.

Human resources and marketing manager Meaghan Fehr says they are thrilled to have been chosen for this honour.

"We are so excited. We previously received the award in 2019 for the 10 and under category, so not only is this an honour, but it shows us how much we've grown. It's exciting to receive it again."

With 45 employees, they've more than doubled their staffing since 2019. Fehr attributes much of this to the introduction of new products.

"Over the last two years, we have gone from being a raw ingredient supplier to a human edible food product supplier. We've created a stabilized oat product which is then added to steel cut oats, quick oats, oat flour, gluten-free products, and a variety of food ready products."

The Business Excellence Award for companies with 10 employees or less will be presented to Altona Yoga.

Altona Yoga offers numerous classes every week for beginners to more advanced practitioners, kids, and folks with limited mobility. They have partnered with South Central Cancer Resource to offer discounted classes for those undergoing cancer treatment and also support numerous other local causes.

Each week they have anywhere from 60-120 people walk through their doors to train. They employ four contract employees in addition to owner Susie Fisher.

Continued on page 11

# On the Edge ballet tour makes a stop in Winkler Monday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet takes to the stage at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall next Monday for a show featuring dances old and new.

*On the Edge* features the talents of the RWB's Anna McCowan-Johnson Aspirant Program students.

"I think of the aspirant program as sort of the PhD of ballet," says program director Vanessa Léonard, who notes they have 16 students this year.

The annual *On the Edge* tour is an invaluable learning experience for the students, Léonard says.

"They're on the cusp of their professional careers, so getting performance experience and being on the road, it's all really great for their learning process as they go on to company life."

"For ballet dancers, touring is so important because each and every single city brings a new audience and each audience is so vibrant," says student Felix Jinga. "Most of our training and most of our preparing has been in a studio with four walls, so just getting out on the road and getting to see all these new places and interact with audiences is really a special experience for all of us dancers."

*On the Edge* is also a welcome opportunity to bring the RWB to audiences outside Winnipeg.

"I feel like it should be the Royal Manitoba Ballet," says Léonard. "We do represent the province, not just the



SUPPLIED PHOTOS BY JP MEDIA WORKS

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet comes to the Pembina Valley next week with its *On the Edge* tour, which performs at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler Monday, April 17.

city, so it's important for audiences from all over the province to see the treasure that this province has."

Students will perform excerpts from the classical ballet *La Bayadere*, the comedic *Fairy Doll*, as well as several world premieres of modern works.

"It's a great show because there's a huge variety of dance styles," shares Léonard. "We start with some really strong classical ballet—classics that were choreographed over 100 years

ago and have been shown on stages all over the world."

"Then we go into more a contemporary style of dance with pieces that have been created just right now," she says, noting those pieces have been put together by Gabriela Rehak, Maritel Centurion, Lesley Telford, Portia Adams, and aspirant Myles Mackesy.

"It's a really high-energy show and really has something that I think every audience member can connect to,

no matter what their likes are.

"We've been working a lot on this program for many months and I believe we're very prepared and we're very excited," adds Jinga.

"Come see the show ... be open to taking in the joy of dance," says Léonard.

*On the Edge* starts at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 17 at the concert hall. Ticket information is available online at [winklerconcerthall.ca](http://winklerconcerthall.ca)

## > AWARDS, FROM PG. 10

Fisher is thrilled to receive the award.

"This just demonstrates that my hard work and the work of the Altona Yoga community is doing some amazing things. It's a place of inclusivity where everyone is welcome and receiving this kind of notoriety is really big for me.

"It's amazing that we have this business, and I hope it helps more people develop an interest in yoga," she adds. "We'd love to increase our numbers and welcome even more new clientele. We've even developed a bursary program for people who can't afford to come to yoga, and they can use that anonymously. We want everyone to be able to come."

Marlen Bergen will receive the Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Bergen is the owner of KOMB Ag Services, ALT Marketing, Altona/Steinbach Memorials and Top Line Equine Feeds. He is recognized for his staffing and employee quality growth, quality strat-

egies, expansions/innovative ideas, overall contribution, and impact on the community.

He says that entrepreneurship is "risk and drive with not a fear of learning from the challenges that stand in the way of seeing what the future holds. Also not allowing opportunities to go by without exploring the unknown."

Finally, Regional Connection Immigrant Services will receive the Non-Profit of the Year Award. Over the

past 12 months, their Altona office has welcomed 238 newcomers to Canada and supported many returning clients from previous years.

Regional Connections along with Altona and area program partners work towards supporting the success of residents for a welcoming, integrated, and thriving local community. Their services started with an itinerant, part-time settlement worker operating out of a municipal office.

Since 2007, they have relocated three

times and expanded offices and staffing several times to better support local newcomers and work effectively in the community. They currently have six full-time staff and three to four part-time instructors supporting hundreds of newcomers each year through their Altona office.

The awards gala will be held on Thursday, April 20 at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre in Altona. Tickets can be booked by calling 204-324-9549 or emailing [chamber@shopaltona.com](mailto:chamber@shopaltona.com).

# New principal for Emerson School

By Voice staff

There will be a new face at the helm of Emerson School this fall.

Border Land School Division last week announced the appointment of Leanna Doig-Gray as the new teaching principal there, starting in September.

Doig-Gray has been an educator in

2006 and comes to the role with middle and senior years teaching experience in a variety of subject areas. She previously worked in Altona, Washington, and Nebraska.

"Leanna believes that the foundation for all leadership resides in relationships," the division shared in a statement. "She is passionate about

community building and she looks forward to continuing to grow the relationships between the school and the broader community.

"Leanna looks forward to supporting the staff and the students in teaching, learning, and in particular focusing on their mental health and wellbeing."

# Mennonite historical soc. AGM coming up at Neubergthal

Guest speakers, documentary screening on the schedule for the day

By Lorne Stelmach

The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society is inviting people to the historic Commons Barn at Neubergthal for its annual meeting later this month.

The Saturday, April 29 gathering at Neubergthal, which is regarded as the best-preserved single-street Mennonite village in North America, will be an afternoon of learning and networking with two feature speakers and presentations.

It will be a good opportunity for anyone with any degree of interest in this area of history, suggested Conrad Stoesz, who is chairperson of both the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society and the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada.

"There's a lot of interest in the community for historical things ... it is usually very local, and we are here to help people get involved and connect with their history," he said. "We're always looking for younger people to get involved ... it's something that happens naturally as people age that they become more interested in this type of history ... most people get interested in history later on in life.

"We would like more people to get involved and more interest from the Winkler-Morden area."

The Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society was established in 1958. Its objective is fostering an awareness of Mennonite history and culture in many ways.

It is an umbrella organization for a number of groups and organizations, and it has two standing committees that each focus on the east reserve and the west reserve. Other projects range from the periodical Heritage Posting to a media committee that assists with things like documentary projects.

"One of our projects right now is an atlas project that the west reserve group is working on ... and they're always looking for expertise and help," said Stoesz. "Part of what we do as well is we try to act as an umbrella organization that helps people fulfill what they would like to research."

It has been a longtime passion from a young age for Stoesz, who has been the archivist at the Mennonite Heritage Archives since 1999 and has experience working at the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies.

He will be the keynote speaker at 2 p.m. and will transport people back 130 years as he revisits the split of the West Reserve Bergthal in Manitoba.

Based on his extensive research, Stoesz brings to life the events and personalities that shaped this pivotal time in Manitoba Mennonite history



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Commons Barn at Neubergthal hosts the Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society's AGM April 29, featuring guest speakers like Conrad Stoesz (right) and a viewing of the documentary *Conform and the Mennonite Migration to Mexico*.



and the story of the formation of the Bergthaler and Sommerfelder churches in the 1890s.

At 3 p.m., there will be a viewing of *Conform and the Mennonite Migration to Mexico*. It is a thought-provoking documentary that explores the challenges Mennonites faced in Canada and their journey to Mexico after World War One, and it will be followed by a question and answer session with the film's director Andrew Wall.

The afternoon begins with the advisory council meeting and annual meeting at 1 p.m.

The Commons Barn is the perfect location for the meeting, Stoesz noted. Originally built in the east reserve

when Mennonites first came to Manitoba, the barn was later disassembled and rebuilt in its present location. The Neubergthal Heritage Foundation restored the barn in its village, which has a layout and architecture developed over centuries of Mennonite life in Europe and Russia.

"There is good historical interest there with it being it a national historic site," said Stoesz. "It is an ideal location."

## • SUSTAINABLE LIVING

# Creating more mobility inclusiveness in Altona

By Joel Martin, Altona Community Action Network

I'm sure that most of you have heard the expression "put yourself in someone else's shoes." It has happened to me numerous times where I hadn't thought of a situation as being a problem until it was pointed out to me. This has helped me to see things from a broader perspective and opened the door to seek more creative and inclusive solutions.

I'd like to draw your attention to the issue of what I call "mobility inclusiveness" in our community. Mobility inclusiveness is when all ways of getting around a community are given

equal value and attention. This would include walking, cycling, riding a wheelchair, driving an electric scooter and driving a motorized vehicle.

The vast majority of towns and cities in America are designed around the use and needs of motor vehicles. Most other modes of mobility are seen as secondary in importance. And Altona falls into that model.

I'd like to share two scenarios where mobility inclusion is an issue in Altona followed by possible solutions.

In the first scenario you are a senior that lives at Garden on Tenth that wants to get to the mall or the clinic after a snowfall. You don't drive, your walking is unstable but you make use

of an electric scooter. The sidewalk hasn't been cleared, so the only option for you is to drive on the street with your scooter. This is less than ideal and also unsafe.

In a mobility inclusive model, the solution would be to prioritize sidewalk clearing from Garden on Tenth to the mall and clinic so that seniors have equal access to community services.

The second scenario is a mother that would like her school-aged children to be able to walk or bike safely to school so that she doesn't have to drive them. The mother doesn't feel like roads are safe because of the car traffic.

Here a solution would be to create safe walking and biking corridors that lead to the schools for the periods of arrival and dismissal. This would alleviate traffic congestion around the schools during this time period.

Creating a mobility inclusive community has many benefits. It establishes a more level distribution of resources. People are more active and more likely to interact with their neighbours. It gives everyone a better chance to participate in community life and feel less isolated.

*ACAN seeks to inspire eco-friendly and sustainable practices in our community through education and action.*

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

# "You don't know what every hour is going to be like"

By Lorne Stelmach

Parkinson's is a humbling and challenging disease, and it only gets worse, as Henry Friesen and his wife Dell know very well.

One minute your body is working normal. The next, your legs, arms or voice might fail you, necessitating a quick change in plans.

"Everything is timed. He maybe wants to go do something, so we get all ready to go, and then maybe we have to wait because the pills don't kick in or he's frozen ... so everything alters quickly," Dell said recently in light of April 11 being World Parkinson's Day and April serving as Parkinson's Awareness Month.

"You don't know what every hour is going to be like ... it's just a real challenge. You just don't know, and it can change in a minute," she said. "Being truthful, there are days that I am simply overwhelmed watching what Parkinson's does to my husband and how hard he has to work just to do the simplest thing.

"You just have to keep on going best you can," reflected Henry. "The things that have changed the most are things I used to do ... going for long walks and talking to people and golfing ... there's a lot of things that I have had to put aside now."

More than 100,000 Canadians live with Parkinson's. Thirty more are di-

agnosed every day.

Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative disease. Movement is normally controlled by dopamine, a chemical that carries signals between the nerves in the brain. When cells that normally produce dopamine die, the symptoms of Parkinson's appear.

Parkinson's is characterized by slowness of movement, rigidity, tremor and postural instability.

The disease is commonly characterized by its motor symptoms, but many people experience other changes that are often not identified as symptoms. These are known as non-motor symptoms and are often left untreated.

There is currently no cure. One can live with Parkinson's for years, treating the symptoms with medication.

In Henry's case, symptoms started to show in 2004. He was diagnosed in 2006.

Dell noted now how much things have changed over the 17 years since that diagnosis.

"It has changed a lot over the last few years. Henry is not able to do all of the tasks he used to do. He can do some of them, but some of them are getting more challenging, so I'm then taking them over," she said.

"His walking distances are cut short, and that has happened because he wanted to start to fall forward, and that causes tiny steps and stumbling," she continued.

"At times, his legs freeze, and he is unable to step at all. He struggles to balance. He has trouble getting up from a chair, and sometimes, his arms don't work. His voice gets very quiet, so people can't hear him, and his handwriting is becoming harder to read," Dell shared. "So as Parkinson's progresses, he's finding he is unable to complete tasks that we were able to do a long time ago.

"I think the big thing is Parkinson's is different for everybody. It's not the same; symptoms are different, and the progression is different," she said. "And as Henry's Parkinson's continues to progress, my role as his full time caregiver constantly changes. For example, not long ago, he was able to complete many household and yard tasks that we both took for granted, but now those tasks are slowly becoming my tasks."

Coping through the pandemic also became an additional challenge for the couple.

"If I get sick, who's going to look after him for starters, and we didn't want him to get sick. We stayed pretty close to home," Dell said. "You lost three good years of your life. Your life is different, but you just do your best."

"A lot of things are so hard, even the simplest tasks," said Henry. "They take a lot of effort and time to do them. I get through it. I exercise, and



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Henry Friesen was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease 17 years ago.

you try to get your mind off things and get on with life the best I can."

"I am very thankful for family and our close friends for being there and giving us emotional support when needed," said Dell, who noted they are hopeful about efforts going on to try to start up a support group in the region again. The Friesens had previously facilitated the former group but are unable to do so now. "You get speakers in, and you go there as groups, and you can talk to each other, so I really hope they do get it started again."

## Local Muslim community begins final week of Ramadan

By Lorne Stelmach

Local Muslims have been among an estimated 1.9 billion followers worldwide who have been observing Ramadan this past month.

Ramadan is one of the holiest months for Muslims and is marked by a period of fasting, which is considered one of the five pillars of Islam.

"This is where, I would say, Muslims engage themselves in an incredible, spiritual boot camp, which is like moral training and self discipline," says Abdul Hadi, who is part of the growing Islamic community in the Pembina Valley. "This is the boot camp that gets you ready to throughout the year implement that spirituality and good habits that you build throughout this month."

"It's kind of a training month for the whole year ... to just increase the obedience in ourselves," agrees Winklerite Zahid Zehri. "It's part of the training; it's like a part of the discipline which gives us strength."

The pillars of Islam include not only

faith, prayer, and fasting but also Zakat and Hajj. Zakat requires Muslims to donate a 2.5 per cent portion of their wealth to charity, while Hajj is a sacred pilgrimage to Mecca that is required of every Muslim at least once in their lifetime.

Fasting serves several purposes during Ramadan, shares Anis Adil Qureshi.

"Fasting allows Muslims to empathize with those who are not fortunate and experiencing hunger ... this encourages us to give to charity and have compassion towards those who are in need," he says. "Fasting is a way to purify the soul and increase one's devotion to God by abstaining from food, drink and other physical needs. We are encouraged to focus on our spiritual well being and strengthen our relationship with God."

"You can fast any time of the year," adds Hadi. "Fasting for Muslims is basically we start from the dawn and throughout the day ... in Ramadan, this is the mandatory fasting period.

"The fasting has a big impact or a big effect on the community connections also ... to have the community connected and inter-linked."

As our area's Muslim community grows, they're able to lean on one another in observing the holy month, Zehri says.

"You can feel alone ... you can feel this is tough if everybody else is eating and drinking," he says, comparing it to how things are in a predominantly Muslim country like Pakistan where "when you have a fasting month, you have the environment around you. It's supporting you ... the community actions around you help you to continue to do the fasting."

Fifteen years ago in Winkler there were very few Muslim families to celebrate Ramadan alongside, Zehri recalls.

"It was tough ... now we have more of a Muslim community here, so we can have a get-together breakfast; we can have collective night prayers. We also read the Qu'ran together.

"The good thing is when you have more people around here then we always try to finish the recitation of the whole Qu'ran ... all in one month. It helps give them strength in their spiritual uplifting."

"When you have some community around you, that really helps," agrees Hadi.

Letting the wider community know a bit more about their faith and traditions is important, all three stress.

"If we have the awareness in the community and at the business level, that they know the month of Ramadan is going on ... those kinds of things can go a long way in the community," says Hadi. "I'm blessed with my employers ... sometimes after half a day or three o'clock, if there's nothing critical, they let me have time."

"How do people know that you are fasting or not?" adds Zehri. "That's why it's very important to have understanding along with the diversity here."

Ramadan ends next week Thursday.

# getinformed

## Busy year for Pembina Valley Pregnancy Centre

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year presented challenges for the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre with an increased need for its services.

In fact, the organization saw its numbers rise significantly in 2022 between all three of its offices in Winkler, Altona, and Morden. There were over 100 clients who came for help compared to just over 70 a year earlier, and new clients went up from over 30 to over 50.

There was also a noticeable increase in the requests for mom and baby items, likely due to pandemic supply chain disruptions over the past few years and rising inflation, executive director Linda Marek suggested following the agency's recent annual meeting.

"It was a good year in many ways ... but the challenges were with the community growing ... and there was a perfect storm for new moms, young families needing things, and they were just getting a little farther out of reach financially," she suggested.

"We noticed there was a much, much higher need for mother and baby items ... that was an area where we spent three times more than we had budgeted. We just didn't realize the extent of the need, so for this year, we've increased that part of our budget for sure."

The vast majority of their clients are women, though some men accessed supports as well. The ages range, and some are married and others single, but the commonality is they are all impacted by the possibility or reality of pregnancy, whether it's planned, unexpected, or complicated.

Most people came to the centre for pregnancy options information, prenatal/child birth education, parenting education and support, and baby items like diapers and formula.

"It doesn't matter what age you are, as there can be circumstances that create challenges and pressures in pregnancy," said Marek.

"If the relationship ends, or there is an adverse diagnosis during the preg-

nancy, finances are tight, your family might be pressuring you to make a decision or you have regrets about your past experiences—women are facing a huge range of situations and are looking for help."

A program that they see as helping make a difference is Steps in HOPE, which was developed thanks to a grant from the Morden Area Foundation Power of the Purse program.

The service is a free and confidential support group for women impacted by miscarriage and stillbirth. It ran a session last fall and has another starting up this week..

"The sharing, emotions, insights and encouragement in the group was beautiful," shared Marek. "It's wonderful to see the warm connections, learning, and support that takes place."

Registration is still open, so you can call 204-325-7900, text 204-362-0797, or e-mail [stepsinhope@gmail.com](mailto:stepsinhope@gmail.com) for details

Another Morden Area Foundation grant helped the organization get some larger items like car seats and cribs.

"It really does make a difference to a young mom or a family," said Marek.



The Pembina Valley Pregnancy Crisis Centre celebrated the completion of renovations at its Winkler offices last fall.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Financially, the year ended with a small surplus mostly due to reduced spending, but Marek also credited community support.

"The community was generous and those who gave were extra kind to us, which means so much with an unpredictable economy," she said. "Overall, fewer people made donations as compared to previous years, though we were able to live within our means while meeting community needs."

"We are so thankful for those folks who have found a way to support on a monthly or annual basis. This has made a huge difference coming out of these past few years."

Finally, in August 2022, the organization completed renovations at the new location in Winkler at 500 Main Street. Thanks to generous local businesses and a grant from the Winkler Community Foundation, the project

was done on time and on budget.

"It has turned out to be a longer term space for us. We weren't sure when we moved in if it would be short or long term," said Marek. "We needed a few renovations to make it more workable for what we needed in terms of confidentiality and a dedicated meeting space."

"We're a small organization, but we want to continue to meet the community's needs," she concluded. "We would like to grow our team ... so we will be looking for volunteers or potentially board members as well."

Next up for the organization is a drive-thru fundraising dinner Thursday, April 27 at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6:30 p.m.. You can e-mail [registerforthisevent@gmail.com](mailto:registerforthisevent@gmail.com) or call 204-325-7900 to book tickets. Meal details are available at [pvpcc.com](http://pvpcc.com).

### "We are deeply concerned that centres like ours have been falsely accused ..."

The Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre has continued to closely follow the plans of the federal government around reviewing charitable status for all pregnancy centres for allegedly providing dishonest counselling.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau sent a letter to Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland outlining her mandate for the Liberal Party's new term in government following their victory in the 2022 election.

Among the long list of upcoming objectives that Trudeau highlighted was a directive to "introduce amendments to the Income Tax Act to make anti-abortion organizations that provide dishonest counselling

to pregnant women about their rights and options ineligible for charitable status."

Linda Marek, executive director of the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre, responded as part of a news release following the organization's recent annual meeting.

"We agree that dishonest organizations should not benefit from charitable status, which is why we have always been and will always remain committed to honest, ethical and compassionate care for all clients," she said.

"Women come for help voluntarily, and they receive much needed support during a critical point in their life. Everyone receives com-

passionate care, accurate information, and unequivocal respect regardless of their circumstances," Marek stressed.

"We are deeply concerned that centres like ours have been falsely accused with this proposed policy, and it is unclear what the government plans to do," she continued. "We hope that politicians of all parties see the value of pregnancy care centres who exist to help women facing pregnancy and parenting challenges."

"We remain committed to client care and meeting community needs despite these political shenanigans."

—Lorne Stelmach

# sports & recreation

## Pistons put an end to Flyers' playoff run

Steinbach takes game seven 4-2

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers' season came to an end in game seven of their quarterfinal series against the Steinbach Pistons last week.

Winkler had battled back from the brink of elimination by winning games five and six to tie the series at 3-3 and force a decision Tuesday, April 4 in Steinbach.

As with most of the games in this series, game seven proved to be another close one.

Steinbach drew first blood in the second minute for a 1-0 lead that held until halfway through the second when Mike Svenson, working off passes from Gavin Waltz and Zachary Brault, lit up the net.

The Pistons retook the lead nearly nine minutes later.

Kyle Crewe, assisted by Lucas Ens and Nicolas McKee, evened things out once more, scoring for Winkler at 4:53 in the final period.

But when the Pistons pulled ahead again one more time, scoring at 8:53, Winkler simply wasn't able to return the favour.

As the clock wound down, the Flyers pulled goalie Malachi Klassen (who had a 26-save night) for the extra man, but all that did was give the Pistons the chance to cement their victory with an empty-net goal with 27 seconds left on the clock.

The 4-2 victory gave Steinbach a ticket to the semifinal round of the MJHL playoffs, where they'll take on the Swan Valley Stampeders. Also vying for a seat in the finals are the Portage Terriers and the Virden Oil Capitals.

It's not the ending the Flyers had hoped for, reflected general manager and head coach Justin Falk the next day, but he's still proud of the team's efforts in the post-season.

"It was a very close series. To go seven games and have a lot of one-goal games ... everything was tight, everything was close. It was a very good series.

"We had to fight through a lot of injuries and a lot of adversity," Falk noted. "We had a lot of young players playing and gaining experience, a lot of injuries to our key players. So we kind of had our backs against the wall a little bit from the get-go.

"But I'm really proud of how the guys played and all the really valuable experience they got."

Looking at the season as a whole, the Flyers had a respectable third-place finish in the MGEU East Division standings with a record of 35-16-6-1 for 77 points. Ahead of them were the Portage Terriers in first (90 points) and the Pistons in second (85 points).

"We want to try to continue to grow every single year that we play," Falk said, "and continue to evolve the next wave that will come through the door, and continue to build that culture each year and try to continue to go in the right direction."

He feels the players kept their eyes firmly on the prize for the duration of the season.

Malachi Klassen makes a save in what ended up being one of the Winkler Flyers' final home games. The team forced game seven in their playoff series against Steinbach, but it was the Pistons who came out on top in the end, winning the game 4-2 and the series 4-3.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

"It's a long season, and I really feel like our team this year really tried to make the most of each opportunity we had when we stepped on the ice to play a game," Falk said. "You only really noticed that at the end of the season when you can reflect back on your end-of-the-year standings how important all the games were throughout the season ... all those points add up at the end of the year. I was really proud of how our team really never took their foot off the gas throughout the entire season."

The Flyers coaching staff will now spend some time evaluating the year in more detail with an eye to what improvements can be made for the 2023-24 campaign.

"Things that went well, things we'd like to do a bit better on, some tendencies that we're noticing a variance that we have to try to pull some holes in—all that will take place within the next few weeks," Falk said, noting he feels he has a strong group of staff supporting the players on and off the ice. "It takes a whole village."

Next year's roster will be absent several veterans as Daniel Isaak, Trent Sambrook, Cole Mackenzie, Kyle Crewe, Owen Lugowski, Gavin Waltz, and Zach Brault all age out of ju-

nior hockey.

But Falk is confident the younger guys will have no trouble stepping up, especially given the ice time they saw in the back half of the season due to veteran injuries.

"A lot of good young players got to some expanded opportunity and role ... a little bit of a taste of being able to play more, so hopefully that will provide some good motivation for them during the offseason to want to take that role even further."

Falk sends his thanks out to the community for its support.

"I hope the fans realize how much appreciated the support is," he said. "Whether it's fans at games or corporate support in the community to be able to provide this environment and this atmosphere for these kids, these young men.

"You go to a playoff game in Winkler and there's really nothing like it. You go to a regular season game, especially in the second half of the season, in Winkler and there's nowhere in the league that it compares to.

"It's a really great place for these players to play. We can't do it without the community support."

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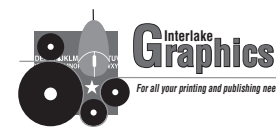
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-Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Office  
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If you fit this description please email resume to [Bigandcolourful@mts.net](mailto:Bigandcolourful@mts.net)



## 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.

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

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

## Reporter/Photographer Wanted

Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news? Carman-Dufferin Standard is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer to join its multi award-winning weekly community newspaper.

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

### Qualifications:

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

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to:

Lana Meier  
Email: [news@stonewallteulontribune.ca](mailto:news@stonewallteulontribune.ca)



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**



**CITY OF WINKLER PESTICIDE USE PROGRAM PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Permit No. 2022036-3RR**  
**May 1, 2023 - October 1, 2023**

Public notice is hereby given that the City of Winkler and/or its designated agents may conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2023, if necessary, depending on infestations.

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

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

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

**Environmental Approvals Branch**  
**Department of Conservation and Climate**  
**Government of Manitoba**  
**1007 Century Street, Winnipeg MB R3H 0W4**

The City of Winkler's integrated pest management approach has greatly reduced the use of Pesticides.

**MORTGAGE SALE**

**MORTGAGE SALE**

The land and building known as 350 Edith Street, Manitou, Manitoba, as described in Certificate of Title No. 2435100/4 will be sold by public auction by a Licensed Auctioneer on May 3, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.  
The auction sale will be held by way of video or teleconference. There will be no in-person attendees at the auction.  
In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Matthew Underwood at either (204) 954-6421 or [auctions@fillmoreriley.com](mailto:auctions@fillmoreriley.com).  
The Vendor is informed that the property consists of a one storey dwelling approximately 910 square feet with full basement on a lot with frontage of approximately 50 feet.  
Realty taxes (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to December 31, 2020.  
Prior Charges: Nil.

**TERMS OF SALE**

A deposit of \$10,000.00 by way of certified cheque or bank draft payable to Fillmore Riley LLP, or cash (the cash component of the deposit not to exceed \$7,500.00), and the balance according to conditions which will be available electronically by contacting the individual below prior to the auction. The property will be sold subject to a Reserve Bid of \$85,000.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 5th day of April, 2023 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale.  
The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: [www.teranetmanitoba.ca](http://www.teranetmanitoba.ca)  
Should the successful bidder have attended by teleconference and/or video conference, the bidder will have 24 hours to execute the Auction Sale Conditions and to provide them together with the deposit to our office as set out below.  
Further information may be obtained from:  
**FILLMORE RILEY LLP**  
Barristers and Solicitors  
1700 - 360 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3  
File No. 400784-3829/MTU/bk (lea)  
Attention: Matthew T. Underwood  
Phone: 204-954-6421  
[auctions@fillmoreriley.com](mailto:auctions@fillmoreriley.com)

**FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER**

**FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER**

Sealed, written tenders for property in the RM of ARMSTRONG described below will be received by:  
**McCulloch Mooney Johnston Selby LLP**  
**Box 1670, 14 Main Street S.**  
**Carman, Manitoba R0G 0J0**

**PROPERTY**  
SW ¼ 29-20-2 EPM  
Being Approx. 159.33 Acres  
Section 6-21-2 EPM  
Being Approx. 654 Acres  
SW ¼ 32-20-2 EPM  
Exc Sly 1320 feet per  
Being Approx. 82 Acres  
SE ¼ 32-20-2 EPM  
Being Approx. 162 Acres  
NE ¼ 30-20-2 EPM  
Being Approx. 155.89 Acres  
NW ¼ 29-20-2 EPM  
Being Approx. 162 Acres  
NE ¼ 29-20-2 EPM  
Being Approx. 162 Acres

**CONDITIONS OF TENDER**

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property.
- Tenders may be placed and accepted on one or any number or all parcels of land.
- Tenders must be received on or before 2:30 pm on April 28, 2023.
- Tenders must be accompanied by a **\$10,000.00** cheque payable to **MMJS LLP** in Trust as a deposit. Deposit cheques accompanying unacceptable bids will be returned.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE**

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid on or before the date of closing which shall be **June 1, 2023**, or evidence provided that the purchase funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit the deposit may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
- Successful bidder will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2023.
- The purchaser shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess for GST.

For further information contact  
Scott W. Johnston at:  
Ph: 204-745-2546  
Fax: 204-745-3963  
email: [scott@mmjlaw.com](mailto:scott@mmjlaw.com)



# Classifieds

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## Office Administrator

Competition: #2023-24-02  
Location: Morden, Manitoba

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Under the direction of the Client Service Manager, the Office Administrator is responsible for clerical and administrative functions in support of MASC and Manitoba Agriculture programs in a service centre. This position also provides client intake in support of the Client Service Representative.

**MASC values excellence, integrity, and accountability.** We strive to enhance existing products and develop new products, transform service delivery to enrich the client experience, pursue customer driven organizational change, and maximize performance, engagement, and development of all employees.

**MASC has five core competencies: communication, decision making, initiative & innovation, leadership, and organization.** Competencies relate to every position at MASC and along with the technical requirements, are included in the qualifications for all positions at MASC.

### ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

- A certificate in a related discipline or a combination of education and related office experience may be considered.
- Experience performing clerical/administrative support duties including reception related duties, processing cheques, preparing bank deposits, tracking and distribution of documents, and file maintenance.
- Experience in data entry and processing correspondence.
- Experience interpreting and explaining programs, policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Ability to provide customer service.
- Ability to maintain accuracy and pay attention to detail.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Experience using Microsoft Office 365 (SharePoint, OneDrive, Excel, Word, Outlook) in a cloud-based environment.
- General knowledge of the agriculture industry.

### DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience in agriculture is an asset.

### CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

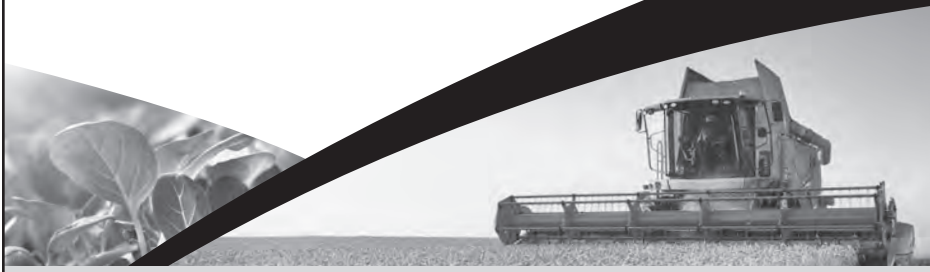
- Must be legally entitled to work in Canada.
- Must possess a valid driver's licence, access to a vehicle, and the ability to travel within the Province of Manitoba.

### APPLY

This position has a salary range of \$41,212 – \$47,283 per annum (under review). Interested candidates are requested to send their résumé and cover letter, marked Confidential, no later than **Friday, April 21, 2023** to:

MASC – Human Resources  
Unit 100 – 1525 First Street S.  
Brandon, MB R7A 7A1  
E-mail: [hr@masc.mb.ca](mailto:hr@masc.mb.ca)

*We believe diversity strengthens our ability to provide excellent customer service in a positive work environment. We encourage all to apply. Only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.*



[www.masc.mb.ca](http://www.masc.mb.ca)

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**Email Cindy at [cindyek@mts.net](mailto:cindyek@mts.net) or call 204-362-7151 for more information.**

### SENIOR RENTALS

## OAK WEST ESTATES HAS 1 SUITE AVAILABLE.

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**Call Cindy at 204-362-7151 or email: [cindy@jacobmanagement.com](mailto:cindy@jacobmanagement.com) for more information.**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2023-003 and By-law No. 2300-23, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2300-23, is to zone the land described below,  
Namely:

**224 Victoria St, legally described as Lot 10, Block 1, Plan 30045 MLTO.**

as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

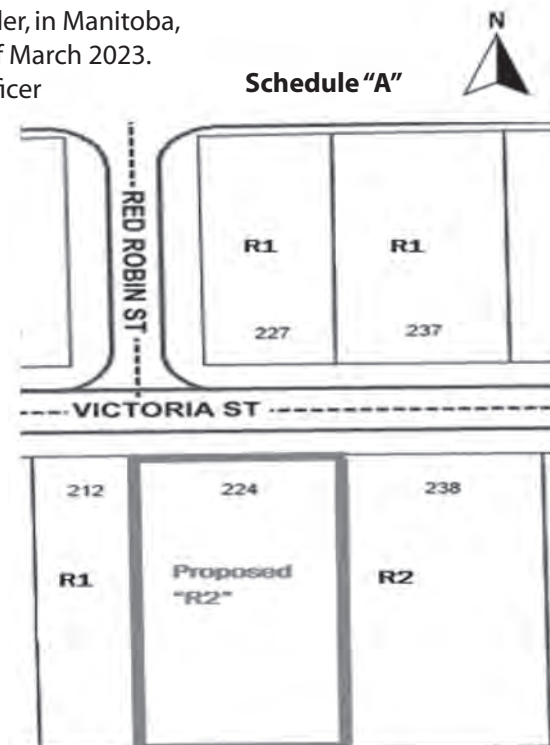
FROM: "R1" DEVELOPMENT RESERVE  
TO: "R2" RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM DENSITY

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2300-23 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

**Date of Hearing:** May 9, 2023  
**Time of Hearing:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Winkler Council Chambers,  
185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba,  
this 29th day of March 2023.

Designated Officer  
City of Winkler



# Announcements Classifieds

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**OBITUARY**



**Elisabeth Dyck (nee Dyck)  
1919 – 2023**

Elisabeth Dyck of Horndean, MB. formerly of Winkler, passed away peacefully at home at the age of 103.

She was born to Peter R and Justina (nee Schmidt) Dyck in the Osler district of Saskatchewan on June 13, 1919. Her earliest education was in German and later, English reaching grade four by age 13. The family moved quite often, so her education ended there. However, this did not stop her quest to learn as she was an avid reader. The last place they lived in Saskatchewan was at Barne's Crossing near Meadow Lake where they lived in a log house. She had some of her best memories from their years there. And this would have become "home" if it had not been for her brother, Peter's accident in Manitoba. Because of his critical condition, the

family felt they needed to be near him and moved to Manitoba. Elisabeth was baptized upon the confession of her faith in 1939. In Manitoba, she found work as a housekeeper. Her last employer was a recent widower (with three children) whom she later married. On September 1, 1946, Elisabeth married Peter D Dyck and was instantly blessed with three children. Their marriage of 36 years added four more children to the family. Over these years, married to a sportsman, Elisabeth took up hunting and fishing. She also enjoyed sewing and gardening as well as feeding and watching birds. Her dream of writing her life story came to fruition when she published her book "Window into my Past" in 1999.

Elisabeth is survived by two sons, Norman (Sue) of BC, Lloyd (Marilyn) of Ile des Chenes, MB.; four daughters, Agatha (Abe) Froese and Katie Dyck of Winnipeg, MB., Devina Dyck of Winkler, MB. and Stella (Charles) Thiessen of Horndean, MB. as well as 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, 13 great-great-grandchildren and one sister.

She was predeceased by her husband, Peter in 1982; son-in-law, Abe in 1989; son, Bill in 1992; daughter-in-law, Sue in 2005; grandson, Kennedy in 2008; granddaughter, Jo-Anne and grandson, Douglas in 2022; great-grandson, Cole in 2012 as well as six brothers (three in infancy) and five sisters (one in infancy).

Funeral service was held on Saturday, April 8, 2023 at the Winkler Reinland Mennonite Church with interment at the Winkler Cemetery.

Donations may be made in Elisabeth's memory to Faith Mission.

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



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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Shrimp Pad Thai with Jasmine Rice

1/4 cup fresh cilantro leaves, chopped  
2 tablespoons dry roasted peanuts, chopped  
4 lime wedges

Prepare rice according to package directions. Set aside.

In small bowl, combine brown sugar, fish sauce, lime juice, soy sauce and chili garlic sauce. Set aside.

In large wok or skillet over high heat, heat 1/2 tablespoon oil. Quickly scramble egg. Remove from pan and reserve.

Add remaining oil to wok over high heat. Add shrimp and garlic; stir-fry 5 minutes, or until shrimp are cooked. Add reserved sauce and rice; stir-fry 2 minutes. Add green onions and reserved egg; toss to combine.

Divide pad Thai between four bowls. Top each with bean sprouts, cilantro and peanuts. Serve with lime wedges.

Prep time: 15 minutes  
Cook time: 10 minutes  
Servings: 4  
1 bag Success Jasmine Rice  
3 tablespoons light brown sugar  
2 tablespoons fish sauce  
2 tablespoons lime juice  
2 tablespoons soy sauce  
1 tablespoon chili garlic sauce  
2 tablespoons canola oil, divided  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
1 pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
3 green onions, thinly sliced  
1 cup bean sprouts



## Successful Crab and Rice Cakes

1 lemon, zest and juice only  
lemon wedges (optional)

To make crab cakes: Prepare rice according to package directions. Allow to cool.

In medium bowl, beat eggs lightly. Stir in rice, crabmeat and seafood seasoning; mix well. Refrigerate 5 minutes. Shape mixture into eight patties.

In large, nonstick skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Working in batches, carefully place patties in skillet. Cook 5 minutes on each side, or until golden brown. Transfer to paper towel-lined plate.

To make aioli: Stir together mayonnaise, garlic, lemon zest and lemon juice.

Serve aioli with crab cakes and garnish with lemon wedges, if desired.

Prep time: 20 minutes  
Cook time: 20 minutes  
Servings: 4  
Crab Cakes:  
1 bag Success Brown Rice  
2 eggs  
1 pound lump crabmeat  
2 tablespoons seafood seasoning  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
Aioli:  
1/3 cup mayonnaise  
1 teaspoon minced garlic



## Fizzy Orange Pineapple Punch

6-8 scoops orange sherbet  
orange slices, for garnish  
mint leaves, for garnish

In large punch bowl, combine pineapple juice, condensed milk and orange juice concentrate. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Before serving, add ginger ale and top with scoops of sherbet, orange slices and mint.

1 can (46 ounces) pineapple juice, chilled  
1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk  
1 can (6 ounces) frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed  
1 bottle (2 liters) ginger ale

# Ask the Money Lady

Dear Money Lady Readers: Why do we have trouble saving money?

Everyone can agree that improving our daily habits should greatly impact our life and our future, yet we all tend to do the same things every day, rather than something better. Many people walk through life in a cognitive slumber, blindly following the norms attached to their identity. "I'm terrible with directions." "I'm not good with technology." "I'm not a morning person." Why is it so easy to repeat bad habits and so hard to form good ones? This time next year – will you have made things better or will you be like most – not any further ahead than you are right now? Why is that? Are we lazy? Why do we keep trying, and then give up?

Let me make something very clear – you are NOT lazy. Someone who wants a better outcome may just be trying to change their habits the wrong way. You see it takes a change in your identity to create new habits. Simply wanting more money but having the habits of a spender will never make you wealthy. You may want to be thin and healthy, but if you continue to prioritize comfort over exercise and eating more than you should, you will continue to be overweight and unhealthy. There are so many people, myself included, that write down our hopes and dreams, creating goals and future targets, even creating a game plan on how to achieve it. We start our new plan with enthusiasm, believing that we will do it this time out of sheer mindful willpower, only to be devastated once again when we succumb to failure and find ourselves slipping back into our comfortable self-destructive habits. So, how can you make meaningful changes for the better?

True behaviour change is an identity change. To really stick to something and create a new habit it must become part of your identity. You must start acting like the type of person you wish yourself to be. Let me give you an example: if you have decided to quit smoking and someone offers you a cigarette. Do you say: "No thanks, I'm trying to quit." Or do you say: "No thanks, I don't smoke." Changing your identity to be a non-smoker signals a shift



Christine Ibbotson

in your thought process and makes you more apt to become who you believe you are: a non-smoker. To change who you are, you must first change what you do – that is, you must change your old habits into new habits that define your new identity.

Remember, improvements are only temporary until they become part of your identity. So, if you want to have more money in the bank, to retire comfortably in the future you must become a saver, (we all know that). Becoming someone that saves, must be part of your entire life. When your behavior and your identity are fully aligned, you are no longer pursuing change. You simply act like the type of person you already believe yourself to be: a saver. We change bit by bit, day by day, habit by habit, continually undergoing an evolution of ourselves. Every action we take towards the goal: to be a saver, transforms the belief that you are not.

Becoming the best version of yourself requires you to continually change and expand your beliefs as you focus not on what you want to achieve, but rather on who you wish to become.

*Good Luck & Best Wishes,  
Christine Ibbotson*

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

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