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VOLUME 1 EDITION 9

THURSDAY,
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Making the most of it



Altona's Kinsley Klassen decided to make the most of her family's flooded property by doing a bit of backyard fishing. Last weekend's rain and snow has flooded communities and closed roads throughout the region. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LEIETTE KLASSEN

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Altona holding its own against floodwaters

By Ty Dilello

As of Monday afternoon, the Town of Altona was holding its ground in the fight against the floodwaters caused by last weekend's dump of rain and snow.

All three lift stations were operating normally by Monday, and wastewater was no longer being redirected to ditches, the town announced midday.

Mayor Al Friesen expressed cautious optimism for the coming week.

"We are holding our own so far, and water is moving away from the community at the moment, so we are hopeful for this coming week that floodwaters will taper off," he said. "However, if there's more rain this week, then that can impact us as well."

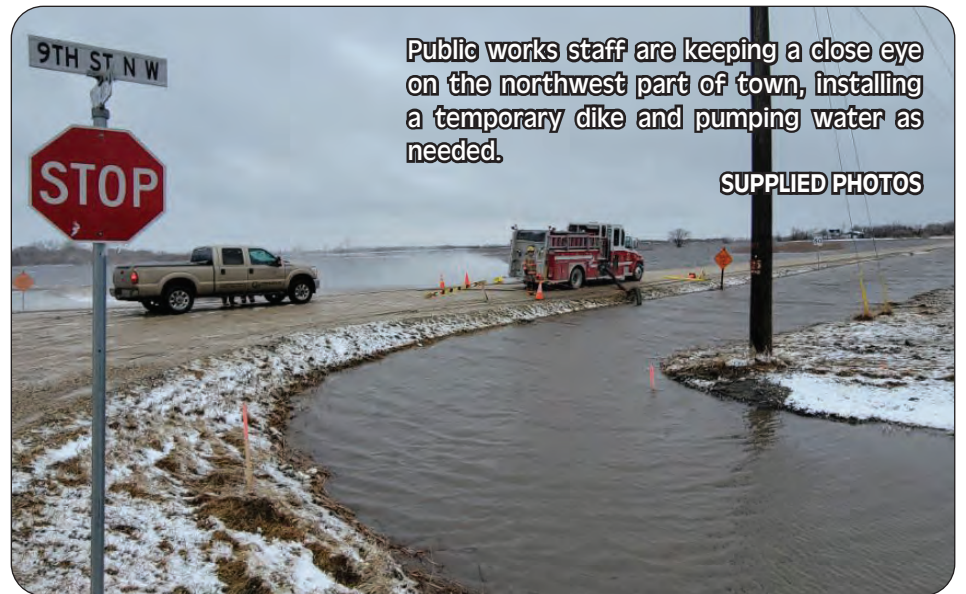
"Our public works supervisor said that Sunday night was a good night, which meant lots of water was moved and our lift stations and storm drains are operating effectively. Our community looks much better than it did 24 hours ago."

Most streets were draining well throughout town, though public works staff were keeping an eye on potential flooding in the northwest corner. A temporary dike had been constructed along 9th St NW, with pumps redirecting water as needed.

"At this point, we've heard that Buffalo Creek to the west has crested, but we're not entirely sure as there's more water on the way," Friesen said. "So that's our primary concern on the northwest corner of Altona. We've done some things to hold that at bay, like pumping water. We've also plugged some culverts and will do that again to keep water from entering the northwest corner of the community."

The town also has a kilometre of tiger dam ready to deploy if Buffalo Creek water threatens to breach the dike.

A sandbag filling machine has been put into action and 25,000 sandbags are available to any Altona and Rhineland area residents who need them.



Public works staff are keeping a close eye on the northwest part of town, installing a temporary dike and pumping water as needed.

SUPPLIED PHOTOS

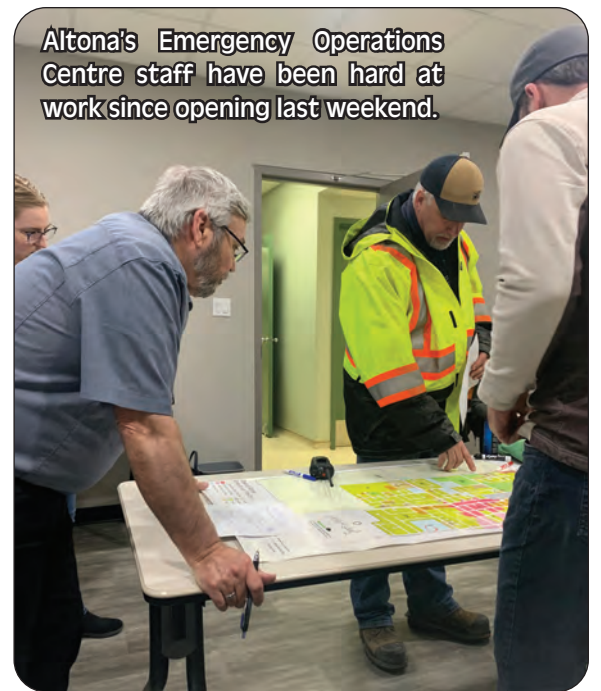
They can be picked up at the Millennium Exhibition Centre parking lot.

"The public works and utility team is on 12-hour shifts, and they're doing a lot of the heavy lifting for the town right now," Friesen noted. "It's a significant responsibility for a pretty small team, so you have to give them a lot of credit."

All residents are asked to do their part to reduce the strain on the wastewater system, including ensuring sump pumps are not pumping water into it. That water should be diverted into one's yard or the street.

Residents and businesses who need help with flooding can contact the Emer-

Altona's Emergency Operations Centre staff have been hard at work since opening last weekend.



gency Operations Centre at 204-324-8190 or by emailing mec@altona.ca.

Rhineland roads suffer water damage

By Ty Dilello

Last weekend's rain storm left numerous roads in the RM of Rhineland with water damage.

Water levels on most ditches and creeks rose quickly last Saturday and Sunday. As of Monday afternoon, most of the creeks and ditches appeared to have stabilized, and water levels in some were dropping.

Rhineland's emergency coordinator Michael Rempel didn't have a confirmed number of sites that were impacted at press time, but said public works crews were hard at work mapping out all of the damaged areas.

"There were some pumping operations set up in Gretna, Plum Coulee at various points throughout the weekend," he said "The public works staff were also monitoring water levels and opening plugged culverts."

The forecast on Monday for the rest of the week was for colder temperatures, which should hopefully slow

the runoff and ease the strain on the drainage system.

Rhineland's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was opened late Saturday afternoon and is still operating.

"So far, we have received about 30 calls. The calls range from inquiries about water levels to water impacting homes," Rempel said. "We are aware of several basements that had water or sewer backup, and I am sure that there are other properties that were affected that didn't call the EOC."

The RM has set up two sites for people to get sandbags if they need them, one at the MEC in Altona and the second in Plum Coulee at 215 Railway Ave.

"Since these sand piles are self-serve, it is difficult to know exactly how many sandbags have been used so far," observed Rempel. "Our public works staff will be monitoring the sand piles and bags to ensure that we have an adequate supply at each location."

Emergency Warning Systems Test

May 2nd, 2022 at 1:00 pm

Altona's outdoor warning siren will be activated for four minutes as an annual test to check that the equipment is working properly. The Warning Siren will also continue to be tested for a few seconds every day at noon.

The siren may sound when Altona is threatened by any hazard to alert anyone outdoors of a potential emergency and let them know to seek shelter right away. When the siren sounds for longer than 30 seconds, seek shelter and tune in to CFAM 950 am on your radio to find out what the threat is, and how to protect yourself.

Outdoor sirens are an effective method of outdoor notification, but shouldn't be relied upon for early warning if you are indoors. Each home and business should have another method to receive warnings and notifications, such as an Emergency All Hazard Radio, or by signing up for notifications to your email, cell phone, or landline through the Altona CONNECT system, which will also be tested May 2nd.

Sign up for emergency alerts & municipal updates. Scan here, or call us at 204-324-6468

Altona



Immigrant survey reveals service gaps, integration challenges

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The results are in on the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership's first large-scale Immigrant Survey.

PVLIP reached out to newcomers to our area earlier this year to find out where the service gaps and integration hurdles might be.

"One of the biggest things we were hoping for was to hear from immigrants and newcomers who aren't necessarily connected to settlement services," said coordinator Elaine Burton Saindon.

A total of 271 people fully completed the survey, providing an interesting glimpse into some of the challenges facing the Pembina Valley's newest residents.

Some issues were very much expected, including things like a lack of affordable housing and public transportation. Finding a family doctor was also identified as an area that could use some improvement.

These are issues that have been well-identified in our communities for some time now, Burton Saindon pointed out.

"Some things weren't a surprise, but it shows they're still impacting the newcomers that are coming to town."

While 86 per cent of survey respondents voiced satisfaction at the settlement services available in the region, there seemed to be a real disconnect between that number and the awareness of exactly what programs and



services are being offered.

Many survey respondents expressed a desire to see more skills training and English classes for newcomers—things Regional Connections is already offering.

"There was a large number of people who seemed not to know anything about it," Burton Saindon said, noting it's a very clear indication that more work needs to be done to get the word out about these programs so more immigrants are able to access the full range of supports available to them.

She noted that creating an online information hub is one way this barrier could be overcome, as could including a detailed settlement services package for all newcomers when they arrive in rural Canada.

On the whole, survey respondents said they found the Pembina Valley to be pretty welcoming to newcomers, though some did share stories of discrimination.

Nearly 45 per cent of respondents felt they have been treated unfairly in their community due to their accent or language (26.9 per cent), race or skin colour (21.4 per cent), ethnicity or culture (21 per cent), or religious beliefs (17 per cent).

accepted there, some did note they feel like their career advancement has been hindered due to language barriers or racial discrimination.

"I think overall it shows us there is work to be done in the area of inclusion and maybe education for the greater community on how do we be more aware of the way that we make people feel? What are our unconscious biases?" Burton Saindon observed.

On the positive side, 84 per cent of respondents agree that they are welcome in their community, almost 76 per cent said they have a strong sense

Continued on page 7

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SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Many Hand Resource Centre benefited greatly from the hard work of ÉMMS students this month, who collected hundreds of items for the food bank.

Students lend Many Hands a helping hand

By Lorne Stelmach

École Morden Middle School students worked together recently to help out those in need in the community.

The Grade 5-8 students were all in-

involved in the school's food drive, and the classes in the end came up with quite a haul of food for Many Hands Resource Centre, which oversees the food bank program operating out of the 500 Stephen Street community

centre.

"We loaded it all up and took it to Many Hands ... and we had collected about 1,800 non-perishable food items. We had the backs of three trucks completely full," said teacher

Tara Chewings, who also works with the school's student council. "I think they were really overwhelmed and happy with the amount of food that was brought in ... it was great."

Continued on page 7

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Heavy rain causes overland flooding across the region

By Lorne Stelmach

A second major wintry springtime storm over the weekend wreaked havoc across the region.

Hwy. 32 in Winkler was closed Monday night due to a failed culvert and area residents were warned to prepare for potential evacuation if the dike failed, the City of Morden had to construct a temporary road access for residents cut off as a result of damage to the Alvey Street bridge, and roads all across the RM of Stanley were impassable thanks to the quickly rising waters.

"We were warned there would be overland flooding, but the rain and the previous week's snow, that combination, just really accelerated it all," said Stanley Deputy Reeve Ike Friesen. "There were well over a hundred locations where water was running over the roads, so we have a lot of roads that have had erosion as well as driveways that have been washed out."

"It's likely going to be an ongoing problem for a little while," Morden Mayor Brandon Burley said Monday with more rain in the forecast for this week. "The weather can be a split personality with the extremes of last summer and now this ... it's not been an easy year to manage."

Monday night at around 10 p.m., an emergency alert went out in Winkler warning residents that a drainage culvert had been compromised at Hwy. 32. Water was backing up west of the highway as a result and there were

concerns over whether the south dike would hold.

Emergency crews were on the scene through the night pumping water and the need for evacuation was averted. Hwy. 32 remained closed at press time.

Closer to midnight, the city announced that Pembina Avenue just west of 15th St. at the cemetery was closed due to overland flooding. Residents were advised to avoid the area, as well as the area around the dike and 14th St. South.

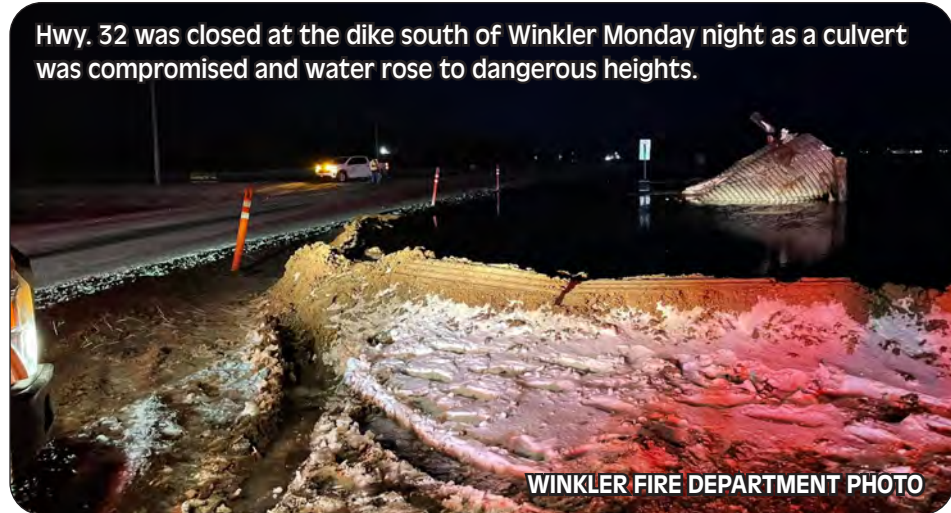
"WE ARE NOT OUT OF IT YET"

Southern Emergency Response Committee (SERC) emergency co-ordinator Darin Driedger noted the fact the flooding is affecting so many areas at once has been a challenge to combat.

"There were so many areas where water was going over roadways," he said. "Stanley public works was really working very diligently over the entire weekend ... and I know there were some contractors delivering sand and supplies right through the night."

"Thankfully, things kind of started to stabilize as of Sunday afternoon ... but it's still a precarious situation ... so we caution people that we are not out of it yet."

SERC issued an update Sunday that there was hardly any area of the RM of Stanley not affected by overland flooding. Aside from well over 100 locations where water was running over roads, there were countless



Hwy. 32 was closed at the dike south of Winkler Monday night as a culvert was compromised and water rose to dangerous heights.

WINKLER FIRE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

homes with flooded basements in a number of areas.

The water in the western portion of the RM was receding later in the day Sunday, but the east was still receiving a tremendous amount of water, and SERC noted warmer temperatures in the next few days could easily lead to another peak in water flows, although the forecast was favourable for a slower melt.

Another concern was there is still enough of a snow pack up on the escarpment that is going to come east, but only the weather will decide how fast that comes, SERC added. In the meantime, it was coordinating volunteer response as well as arranging assistance with sandbagging.

"The challenge is managing it," added Driedger. "But it's always encouraging though to see people reaching out and wanting to help."

Friesen noted that Stanley council met Sunday at noon with staff to assess the situation and get updates. As of late Monday, they were seeing improvement in terms of water levels, and there had been about 20,000 sandbags distributed with close to 20 homes or buildings sandbagged.

"The water was receding, but we still had concern about an area north of Winkler," he noted. "The colder temperature was helping us ... but, of course, the next RM is having to deal

with it."

"All of this of course just really accelerates hammering the roads. So people should be aware our roads are not in ideal condition. They will need to have patience. A lot of our guys were operating pumps and looking after the water, so we were not able to get on the roads to do a lot of repair there yet."

"I really give our guys credit," Friesen said. "Our public works and staff were just working so hard. They were working 24 hours there."

OVERWHELMED SEWERS

Meanwhile, both Winkler and Morden issued warnings that their sewer systems were overwhelmed due to the rains.

There was a request made to the public to minimize overall water usage to reduce the strain on the systems, but the main concern was sump pumps directing water into already overflowing sewers.

"The biggest message we want to get out is the sewer system simply cannot handle drain tiles going into the sewer," said Winkler Mayor Martin Harder. "We know there are lots where they are being pumped directly into the sewer, and the system cannot handle it."

He added it will take a little bit of

Continued on page 7



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

High water caused major damage to the Alvey St. bridge, cutting off residents from the rest of the community until a temporary access road was created.



Water flooded across many roads in Morden-Winkler-Stanley this weekend, making travel difficult if not outright impossible in some areas.

SUBMITTED PHOTO BY JOEL NICKEL



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



I Am Canadian

What does it mean to be Canadian?

The Canadian identity is something that has plagued Canada and Canadians ever since Confederation in 1867 (and likely before).

One of my Canadian literature classes at university spent a huge amount of time on the subject recommending books like *The Mountain and the Valley* by Earnest Buckler, *The Fruits of the Earth* by good ol' F.P. Grove, and many more.



By Peter Cantelon

There are many definitions of what it means to be Canadian. It could simply mean a person who lives in Canada, but this is unsatisfying.

It really depends a lot on who you are and where you are from.

A person in Toronto may give you a very different definition than a person from Chortitz, for instance. A person from Montreal will give you a different answer than a person from Toronto. A new immigrant from Pakistan or Ukraine will give you a different answer than a fifth generation Canadian living in Calgary or Vancouver just as BIPOC or LGBTQ+ Canadians will likely differ in their response from those who do not identify as such.

Sometimes it feels as if being Canadian simply means wondering what it means to be Canadian. If any country has an identity crisis it's us.

I used to think we were the polite people who were quick to apologize. We don't want to cause problems. We

like to live under the radar. Canadians, I thought, were slow to anger and generally the friendliest people on earth—proud of our beer and coffee.

Sure, there may be some people from other parts of the planet who see us simply as maple syrup sucking snow dwellers, but of course we know there is much more to us than this.

We are the First Nations and we are the children of colonizers and immigrants.

Canadians are fond of the outdoors, we love BBQ, camping, and any mention of a Canadian anywhere else in the world.

If you are a Canadian and you have managed to become successful in Hollywood or as a musician it is almost certain we would elect you as Prime Minister if you ever chose to run (I'm

talking to you, Ryan Reynolds).

I never thought of us as big flag wavers. We were never the LOOK AT HOW GREAT WE ARE!!! obnoxious types but perhaps that is changing given the number of torn up, dirty Canadian flags being inflicted on restaurants, trucks, and trailers lately. Suddenly everyone wants their Canadian neighbour to know they are Canadian.

What does it mean to be Canadian? It means something different to everyone ... but it also comes down to an average. Canada is the patchwork quilt we all learned about in elementary school. We're not a melting pot. We have not historically asked people to assimilate like some sort of Borg

Continued on page 7

Our mistake

Sometimes things can go a little wonky when the editor's away on holidays ...

The final paragraphs of Peter Cantelon's Pg. 6 column "Smoke on the Water" last week were cut off.

For those of you looking for that story turn in vain, we sincerely apologize!

If you missed the piece entirely, Cantelon went through some of the cons that come with allowing motorized vehicles on Lake Minnewasta, including polluting Morden's main source of drinking water with fuel.

Here is the proper end to that column (you can re-read the start of it in our archives online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or on our

Facebook page):

The good news is that one good thing that may have come out of the horrible drought we all just suffered through was a ban on motorized vehicles from the lake. Morden is now in the enviable position of simply not having to make a decision. This is a rare place for a politician to be.

Council can simply leave the status quo and have a much healthier lake that is easier to clean.

Of course I realize that we might lose some motorized boat tourism, but the question is how much tourism money is worth dumping a gallon of fuel (or even 2.5 ounces) an hour into your primary drinking water source?

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> PVLIP SURVEY, FROM PG. 3

of belonging here, and 73 per cent said they feel safe here.

"It's a big compliment that generally, yes, people feel welcomed, they feel safe, they feel like they can raise their families without fear here," Burton Saindon said. "I think that is a very positive message to take away from this."

PVLIP will use this feedback as it develops its action plan for the years ahead.

"It is the first time this has been

> FOOD DRIVE, FROM PG. 4

The students got actively involved in organizing and promoting the drive and the collection and sorting of the food from April 6-19, Chewings said.

"It was kind of a real life, hands-on math activity, which was really neat," she said. "We offered little incentive prize for the top class in each grade ... something like that kind of spurs them on, and there's the competition between classes ... a little healthy competition helps."

And after two years of being restricted in what they could do during the pandemic, the food drive was a great way to get back to doing some good in the community, Chewings said.

"Especially over the last two years, we haven't been able to do as much. So now that we can do this sort of thing again and be more involved ... we were limited for awhile. We couldn't even get together in our school with other classes.

"We also just recognize that there is a need in our community. We knew that Many Hands gives out about 60 hampers a week to families in need,

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

nation into a boring, homogenous people.

We are a country that has said "bring your culture, language and tradition here and let us celebrate your distinctiveness with you." We are a nation of Little Italies, Indias, Greek Towns and more. We are a culture rampant with multicultural festivals. Canada is everyone and everywhere and, like a many-threaded rope, we are incred-

done to this level in the region. So even though it's not perfect ... it is a good baseline to go forward," said Burton Saindon. "It will build some of our content that we're looking for as we work on our Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Toolkit as well as ongoing needs for resources in the area."

PVLIP intends to post the full survey online at www.pvlip.ca. You can also find their action plan and other resources there.

and of course some of those are our own families. The students all felt pretty good about all of the food that came in."

"It's amazing to see kids getting involved with this issue, and it really touches my heart," said Tracey Krause, program co-ordinator for Many Hands Resource Centre.

"Over the last two weeks, actually, kids have actually been incredibly generous toward the food bank," she added, noting there was also support from a local under 15 hockey team as well as the St. Pauls United Church Sunday School.

"I was so surprised when they showed up with the three truckloads," said Krause of hhte ÉMMS contribution, noting they are overall getting a lot of support from the community for the food bank program.

"There's everything from those small amounts to the larger amounts ... and we are able to give out decent hampers to the families even with the increased usage."

ibly strong.

Why write about this now in April? Why not save it for Canada Day and July 1st weekend? I don't know ... maybe our identity crisis has heightened a little bit over the past two years of bickering and outright fighting.

Maybe we need to be reminded that we live in the friendliest part of the friendliest province in the friendliest nation on earth.

> FLOODING, FROM PG. 5

time for the system to fully recover, and of course it also depends on what the weather does in the days ahead.

"The roads in the RM were certainly taking a hammering, but even here in the city, you take a look at the number of potholes that have never been there before, and they keep showing up," Harder said. "So people are going to need to have a little patience."

"This time of year, there's always concern with the amount of ground moisture involved that not only is our lagoon taking on a lot of water just because of snowfall and rain but our wastewater network itself is under stress," said Burley on how Morden's system is faring through all this.

"Based on our monitoring, there's clearly a substantial number of homes that aren't being diverted outdoors," he said. "The household loads right now that are going into the wastewater system need to be reduced as well ... and if people can conserve water and what goes down drains, that will help us as well."

Meanwhile, Morden also had to deal with the Alvey Street bridge getting damaged and leaving some residents cut off as a result of losing

their only road access.

The city was having an engineering assessment done, but in the meantime they were able to construct a temporary road over the railway tracks thanks to Sawatzky's Furniture allowing the use of their parking lot for access and CP Rail also giving its approval.

"That will be the access until we can get that bridge rebuilt or replaced ... it will be local traffic only," said Burley. "This was a pretty quick fix, relatively speaking, from the time the bridge washed out to the time we were able to get this road open ... within roughly a half day."

The Alvey and Parkhill bridges have been particular points of concern, and it is an issue that the city needs to address, Burley acknowledged.

"We have to look at all of our bridges. We need to do some work on our bridges. The one on Parkhill was on our radar already ... this isn't just a one-off; we can get this sort of flooding every so often.

"We'll have to look at whether we can continue to rely on this method of using culverts as a bridge rather than building proper bridges."



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

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

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Winkler Community Foundation enjoys steady growth

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Community Foundation (WCF) board of directors gathered for their annual general meeting last week to reflect on the many successes of the past year.

The foundation experienced steady growth in 2021, with its various endowment funds growing by 11.7 per cent from \$5 million to over \$5.5 million.

That growth was due in part to donations totalling \$255,089 as well as a 10.6 per cent return on investments.

“One of the big focuses that we’ve had over the past year and will have over the next number of years is to grow our Community Fund to \$1 million by 2025. And we’re getting closer all the time,” said board president Corey Hildebrand, who takes over in the role from Scott Doell (Doell remains on the board as vice-president).

Last year saw that fund grow by nearly \$168,000 to reach \$871,155, putting them a stone’s throw from their goal.

“We’re more than on track for 2025, which is great,” Hildebrand said. “We only have about \$130,000 left to raise and we’ll be at a million dollars.

“Despite COVID and everything that’s resulted from it, our community’s just been so generous and we



FILE PHOTO

The Winkler Community Foundation board met recently to review the success and challenges of the past year.

have felt that very strongly as a foundation.”

The interest from WCF’s other endowment funds generate grants each year for specific organizations and projects in the community. They include funds for Katie Cares, Fire Rescue, Gateway Resources, the Winkler Cheer Board, Winkler Minor Ball (a new fund created this past year), among many others.

The Community Fund, meanwhile,

is the foundation’s unrestricted fund, from which grants can be issued to support a broad range of projects—everything from arts and culture to recreation to social services.

Getting that fund to \$1 million is going to expand WCF’s capacity for giving significantly.

“It will allow us to meet the needs of so many more worthwhile local organizations in their requests for funds,” Hildebrand said. “We get so many

requests from such incredible organizations, but we have a small pool of money to play with for granting. So that million dollars just really increases how much we’re able to give back every year.”

When it comes to giving back, the foundation granted a total of \$165,731 in 2021. That includes \$81,420 from the Gordon Wiebe Scholarship Fund and \$22,184 from the Community Fund.

They were also able to help other community organizations give back, Hildebrand noted, pointing to the nearly \$186,000 that flowed through the foundation on behalf of Mend the Gap and the Falk Fehr Foundation.

Looking ahead, the foundation is preparing to launch its third Vital Signs report in 2023. The community survey was first organized by WCF in 2013 and then again in 2018.

It’s meant to be a sort of community checkup, Hildebrand explained, to see how the community is faring in terms of factors such as demographics, economics, and societal needs.

“It’s important for us to take the pulse of our community,” he said, “and I think that the foundation is in a really good position to have some real and honest conversations with residents of Winkler and then be able to distribute that information in an unbiased way.”

Previous Vital Signs reports have gone a long way towards identifying the needs of the community and getting programs and projects going to try to fill some of those gaps.

“There were a number of really positive initiatives that came out as a direct results of our last Vital Signs campaign and some of the vital conversations we were having afterwards,” Hildebrand said. “It really served as a bit of a catalyst ... and that’s something that we would love to repeat.”

Citizen of the Year Award to return in 2023

The Winkler Community Foundation has decided to push back the return of the Citizen of the Year Award to 2023

It marks the third year the award has been cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

President Corey Hildebrand said it was a difficult decision, but one they felt necessary on a number of fronts.

“We felt like maybe now was a really good time to sit back and reevaluate exactly how the nomination process works and what it looks like and we felt like we

needed a little bit more time to do that,” he said, noting the depth of the nomination form has scared a few potential nominators off in the past. They plan to work on streamlining that for next year.

“We also felt that maybe people weren’t 100 per cent ready for that traditional awards banquet just yet,” Hildebrand noted. “We wanted to give a little bit more time and a little bit more space in order to make sure that we’re able to do this as best as we possible can.

“We’re very excited to resume it again in 2023.”

Nominations open May 2 for P.W. Enns Business Awards

Winkler chamber awards gala to make its return this fall

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its milestone 100th anniversary in 2022 with the return of the P.W. Enns Business

Awards.

The chamber is aiming for early October for the awards gala, which was cancelled the past two years due to the pandemic.

A guest speaker has not yet been booked but the hunt is well underway, says executive director Tanya Chateaufeuf.

“We’re looking at having a big name speaker again, and it is our 100th year so we’re also looking to add some new elements to the gala to celebrate.”

But even as the chamber takes some time to look back on a century of work on behalf of the business community, the gala will be very much focused on the winners of the five awards up for grabs: the P.W. Enns Business Excellence Award, P.W. Enns Community Builder Award, P.W. Enns Business Builder Award, P.W. Enns Customer Service Award, and the P.W. Enns Not for Profit Service Award.

Nominations for these awards will be accepted May 2 to June 17.

Anyone in the community can nominate a business or non-profit organization, Chateaufeuf stresses.

“The nomination process is very, very simple. It really takes just a few minutes to fill out.”

All a nominator needs to do is provide a few sentences about why they feel the business deserves the award and then the chamber will round up any other needed details to complete

Continued on page 9

Cutting the ribbon on Venture Parts and Supply

By Lorne Stelmach

Their new business very much seems to be an ideal fit for co-owners James Friesen and Abe Siemens.

The duo, who both grew up in rural Manitoba and have an agricultural background, see Venture Parts and Supply as filling a void in the Morden area.

"We've both worked in other retail areas, and we saw a need for this here, so that's what got us interested in starting this up," Friesen said Saturday as they held the official opening. "We both like to work with people, and we wanted to be involved in the agriculture sector in some way ... so it's about being able to help farmers and the ag industry.

"We've both seen that there is a need for this here ... and it's important to keep business in the community," he added. "What we have here, people have had to drive outside of our community to get this stuff. People want to stay in the community, if they don't have to drive somewhere else to get something. And it can help grow the community here as well."

Venture Parts and Supply offers a wide array of products for everything from smaller to larger equipment, and while it is largely geared towards the agriculture community it is certainly not limited to that sector.

"Hardware is a big one for us ... and water pumps, pressure washers and things like that are also something we do," said Friesen, who added they also offer various maintenance sup-



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden chamber president Scott Hoepfner (far left) and chamber board member Grant Nicholson (far right) helped James Friesen and Abe Siemens cut the ribbon on Venture Parts and Supply last week.

plies.

He sees their location in the Morden industrial park as being ideally suited for them.

"The reason we picked this location is it was in an industrial community here, and it's easy access for ag equipment and heavy trucks to come in and out," he said. "We're hoping it will be good for everyone ... it's easy access for the people we will serve."

Venture Parts and Supply is located at 4929th Street South. You can reach them at 204-542-0789.

> BUSINESS AWARDS, FROM PG. 8

the application for the selection committee.

"And people can send in multiple nominations if they like," Chateaufeuf says. "You don't have to just nominate one business."

The awards are an opportunity to really showcase businesses and organizations that are growing and thriving in Winkler.

"Focusing on the positive things in the community—the positive business growth, the great customer service, and the wonderful stories behind it all—is more important now than ever, I think," says Chateaufeuf. "It's time to get back into the mode of celebrating our accom-

plishments again and being proud of what we've been able to do as a community."

The gala will be held at the Meridian Exhibition Centre, giving the chamber more room than ever to play with.

"WE'RE GOING TO PICK UP RIGHT WHERE WE LEFT OFF ..."

"It will really open things up and allow for more people to attend," Chateaufeuf says. "We're so thrilled to be planning this for an in-person event again. We're going

to pick up right where we left off ... and go bigger and better than ever."

You can make a nomination for the 2022 P.W. Enns Business Awards online at winklerchamber.com/awards-gala or by contacting the chamber at 204-325-9758.

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Manitoba 

Canadian chess great called Altona home

By Ty Dilello

A relatively unknown Altona carpenter was one of the all-time great Canadian chess minds.

Jacob Funk is best known for perfecting the technique of the chess problem where White is challenged to force checkmate in either two, three, or more moves. Such problems are popular around the world, and are considered mini works of art.

Born on April 20, 1889, Funk and his brothers (Peter, John, and Henry) would come to Altona from the Hochstadt area in 1939.

Funk was something of a genius from a young age, teaching himself algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. He won so many math contests that a number of sponsoring groups barred him from re-entering in order to give other competitors a chance at the prizes.

It was chess that became Funk's favourite strategy game. He was a member of numerous chess clubs worldwide.

"Personally, I always enjoyed a brain challenger," Funk said in a 1960s issue of the *Red River Valley Echo*. "So my preferred hobby has been the Advanced Mathematical Circle, a group from the States, to which I belonged for a number of years and quit only

because of the paper shortage during World War I.

"I well remember how I spent many a winter evening sitting over these tough problems exchanged in the Circle. We not only solved mathematical problems but also had to find the best solutions and shortcuts to the answers."

Funk's first published problem was in the *Pittsburgh Gazette-Times* in 1918. He continued to compose and submit his problems for publication to magazines and newspapers around the world for more than 40 years.

He was also a member of the British Chess Problem Society for four decades before retiring in 1963.

Funk and two of his brothers took up carpentry in their adult years and built many of the houses in Altona between the 1930s and 1950s. It is said that their measurements were so meticulous that they could start building a house at opposite corners and meet perfectly in the middle without consulting one another.

Though having a reputation as master builders, they worked only long enough each year to earn \$1,000. This allowed Funk and his brothers more time to pursue their other interests in music, mathematical problem solving, chess, and devising puzzles.

Funk also got paid to design cross-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Jacob Funk (second from left) shown here with siblings John, Henry, Peter, and Mary. Funk was one of the all-time great Canadian chess minds.

word puzzles for magazines for a number of years and used some of that money to purchase Altona's first television set.

Towards the end of his life, he made a hand-made, hand-printed book featuring many of his original chess problem compositions. He donated the book and some others to the W.C. Miller Collegiate library before passing away in 1967 at the age of 78.

Today, Funk's chess problems and solutions from nearly a century ago are still celebrated and get brought up by grandmasters and chess historians alike.



Multiple cases of avian flu confirmed in Manitoba

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Avian influenza has officially arrived in Manitoba, with samples from a snow goose near Waskada and a bald eagle in the Dauphin area testing positive for the illness last week and a case confirmed in a commercial poultry flock on Sunday.

All three birds tested positive for the highly pathogenic avian influenza subtype known as H5N1. Poultry and water fowl are most susceptible for contracting the virus.

Manitoba Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Scott Zaari stressed at a media briefing last Wednesday that the risk of avian flu to human health is low.

"There are no known cases of transmission of this strain of the virus from birds to humans in North America," he said, adding this strain of the flu does not pose a food safety risk.

"Manitoba poultry and eggs are safe to eat, when proper handling and of course cooking takes place."

Zaari expressed confidence in the province's protections at the commercial poultry farm level, which includes samples being sent regularly to the provincial lab for testing and precautions when it come to farm visitors.

"Really it's a matter of maintaining our existing structure and following the biosecurity protocols that our producers already have in place," he said.

Small flock or hobby farm owners are being advised to take precautions as well, as birds in such settings often have access to outdoor pens or are free range, putting them at greater risk for coming in contact with wild birds carrying the virus.

If possible, small flock owners are

encouraged to confine their birds indoors during this high-risk period of wild bird migration, the province has said. Small flock owners can also submit samples through their vet for testing at the provincial lab at no cost.

Zaari noted there are currently no plans to issue any regulatory orders on this matter.

It's expected more cases of avian flu will be identified and reported in bird samples throughout the summer.

"This is an evolving situation," noted Maria Arlt, acting director of the Fish and Wildlife branch of Manitoba Agriculture. "Manitoba is constantly monitoring the latest guidance and advice from our partners and we will be adjusting accordingly."

"It is important to note that the overall impact of avian influenza on the wild bird population is expected to be low."

Monitoring wide-ranging wild bird populations across Manitoba is a challenge, Arlt said, which is why the province is asking the public for their help.

Manitobans are asked to contact the toll-free TIP Line at 1-800-782-0076 if they find any of the following:

- clusters of six or more dead wild waterfowl (e.g., ducks, geese) or other water birds;
- any number of dead raptors or avian scavengers (e.g., ravens, crows, gulls); or
- large groups of dead birds, such as more than 20 of any species.

While the transmission risk to humans is low, people should not touch any dead birds or other wildlife they come across with their bare hands.

If you have to handle a dead bird,

get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

2021 tourism awards handed out to local groups

Explore Morden Winkler, PVLIP honoured

By Lorne Stelmach

Two local initiatives were honoured as part of the annual awards of the Central Manitoba Tourism agency.

The honours for 2021 were only just recently handed out after being delayed amidst the pandemic.

Among the recipients were Explore Morden Winkler with the Marketing Excellence Award for its themed food weeks, while Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership (PVLIP) won the Event of the Year with a budget under \$5,000 for its Connecting Cultures and Communities celebration.

The Explore Morden Winkler food weeks were cited for showcasing local restaurants and to rally the community in support of food, small business and creativity.

"We don't do these things for recognition or getting awards," executive director Shane Neufeld said of their poutine, pizza, burger, and appetizer weeks. "It's just something we felt we needed to do for our struggling restaurant businesses during COVID.

"We had seen what these food weeks were doing for other regions, so we thought let's put that in place here for us," he said. "Poutine absolutely has been our biggest one ... but they all have been great. We've gotten to a point where they know exactly what we want from them."

PVLIP was cited for the multicultural celebration that was hosted virtually due to the pandemic.

"It was very humbling to be recognized by your community in this way," said co-ordinator Elaine Burton Saindon.

"For us, it's nice because it shows that people do see what we're doing and recognize the efforts we're trying to make in our region," she said. "It's rewarding in the sense that people have noticed the work that we do, which is primarily behind the scenes. So when we do this kind of community engagement like with this event, it's nice to know that it was appreciated.

"Our hope is that people may embrace the idea that okay, what can I do in my community to be more proactive in being welcoming and inclusive to others."

Among the other honourees was Tracy Enns with the Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with Boyne River Keepers, Syl's Drive-in in Carman with the Award of Distinction Business Award, Tyler King with an individual Award of Distinction for his work with Carman-Dufferin economic development, Portage Junkyard Dogs with the Innovation Award, and Event of the Year to the RM of Victoria for its New Year's Eve celebrations.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS
Central Manitoba Tourism reps recently made the rounds delivering the 2021 tourism awards, which were delayed due to the pandemic. Above: Morden Councillor Gord Maddock (right) presents Shane Neufeld of Explore Morden Winkler with the Marketing Excellence Award. Right: Winkler Coun. Karina Bueckert presents Elaine Burton Saindon of the Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership with Event of the Year (budget under \$5,000).



Thunder alumni basketball game is on this Friday

By Voice staff

Morden Collegiate's gym will be filled with the roar of Thunder this Friday as current and former students battle it out in the annual alumni basketball game.

The high school is inviting the entire community to come cheer on the MCI varsity girls and boys teams as they

face their predecessors in the event's post-pandemic return.

"This is always such a great community event for our school and our alumni," says vice-principal Tania Sigurdson. "I have seen alumni bringing their spouses and children to watch them play in their old school. It is really special to see our graduates from various years return to the court.

"We are very excited to open our doors and celebrate our Morden Thunder athletes both present and past."

Varsity boys basketball coach Ashley Hoitink hopes to see a lot of familiar faces both on the court and in the stands.

"I am excited to see our alumni being welcomed back to the gym they

played many hours in," she said. "I am hoping this is also a welcome back to our community as we open our gym up to the public again."

The action starts at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 29 with the women's game followed by the men's match at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is by donation to Many Hands (either cash or a non-perishable food item).

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

Province unveils its new plans for education reform

By Lorne Stelmach

The province hit the reset button last week on education reform with a new strategy that leaves out at least one key controversial piece that led to the government scrapping its previous proposal.

The new Manitoba K to 12 Education Action Plan is in response to 75 recommendations from the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education.

It's the sequel to Bill 64, which was otherwise known as the Education Modernization Act—a widely unpopular piece of legislation that among other things aimed to replace school divisions with a centralized education authority run by government appointees.

The new plan puts aside the plan to consolidate the province's public school boards into six to eight regional boards consisting of five to seven trustees, the majority of whom would have been appointed.

"We heard loud and clear from Manitobans that they didn't want us to change the governance structure," Education Minister Wayne Ewasko said in announcing the new plan that will be implemented over the next five years.

He touted the strategy as "a vision where all Manitoba students succeed no matter where they live, their backgrounds or their individual circumstances."

"All children deserve a high-quality education, and our government is committed to strengthening and improving education in the province," said Ewasko. "This action plan redefines our focus on actions that improve educational outcomes with student achievement and well-being at the centre of all planning and decisions."

The action plan is focused on ensuring access to high-quality, equitable education, preparing students for their future, supporting excellence in teaching and leadership and strengthening the public education system.

As part of the strategy, an education

council will be established to provide strategic guidance and advice on the implementation of the action plan, which has four pillars for student success:

- High quality learning - to improve learning and outcomes for students through responsive and relevant curriculum and learning experiences in safe and inclusive learning environments.
- Student engagement and well-being

- to respond to diverse life experiences, engage students, promote well-being, support successful transitions and leverage partnerships.

- Excellence in teaching and leadership - to ensure teachers, school staff and leaders have the knowledge, skills and tools to support student achievement and well-being.
- Responsive systems - to ensure an equitable, aligned and effective public education system that focuses on

engagement, inclusion and planning for provincial and local needs.

"Despite everyone's best efforts, there continues to be inequities in our education system," said Ewasko. "There's work to be done to advance truth and reconciliation, to ensure personal and social circumstances aren't a barrier to education and to create safe, welcoming and respectful

Continued on page 13

Breaking down the action plan

The provincial government's new action plan on education reform released last week is built around four key pillars.

While perhaps short on specifics in some places, the plan does cover a lot of ground, so here is a selection of some highlights including measures already underway or in the plans:

High-quality learning

- Implement Indigenous Education Policy Framework in partnership with the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate Advisory Council.
- Establishment of a curriculum advisory panel.
- Establish a minister's advisory council on inclusive education.
- Strengthen Français and French Immersion curriculum policy.
- Implement a curriculum renewal process with an initial focus on physical education, health education and science.
- Shift the provincial assessment program to include Manitoba curriculum-based assessments in early years, middle years, and Grade 10.
- Update the provincial report card to ensure it is inclusive for all learners.
- Introduce consistent early years assessments, focusing on children entering Kindergarten and students who have experienced disrupted learning.

Student engagement

- Establish a student advisory council to provide advice and perspectives to the minister.
- Launch an elder and knowledge keeper in schools initiative in 33 schools across Manitoba, with the program expanding in the 2022/23.
- Establish a poverty and education task force to remove barriers to participation and engagement in learning.
- Launch a mental health in schools strategy.
- Develop a provincial remote learning strategy including an online high school to enhance access to programming across the province
- Undertake a needs assessment and program review for technical vocational learning.
- Develop a strategic plan to enhance access to adult education.
- Explore approaches to expand access to the arts, including music, visual arts, dance, drama and other value-added community activities.

Excellence in teaching and leadership

- Consult on options for a regulatory body to guide teacher practice and certification.
- Create a workforce planning framework focused on recruitment/retention of school staff in rural and northern communities and increasing French, Indigenous and Indigenous language educators.
- Assess and plan for professional learning needs including the exploration of a provincial consortium model
- Ensure every principal takes concrete actions to improve the achievement of Indigenous students and includes improvements as part of their annual school plans.
- Explore options for preparation and deployment of literacy and numeracy coaches.
- Review requirements and processes to streamline certification for internationally educated teachers.

Responsive systems

- Launch a review of the education funding model.
- Measure system-wide progress towards the achievement of the truth and reconciliation calls to action.
- Launch an education council with representatives from the education system, youth-serving organizations and partners to support provincial planning and alignment across divisions and schools.
- Develop a provincial data and performance measurement strategy that will measure and report on all students' achievement and wellbeing at the provincial, school division and school levels.
- Launch a provincial survey for students, parents, staff and leaders to inform provincial, divisional and school-level plans and broader decision making.
- Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of those responsible for an effective, efficient and accountable public education system and develop a strategy to assess effectiveness.
- Build and promote a user-friendly public platform with access to information, data and policies about the public education system.
- Explore shared-services opportunities to promote equitable access to programming, learning supports and information technology systems and to enhance efficiencies within the K to 12 system.
- Consult on strategies to enhance school, family and community partnerships and engagement.

"WE HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR FROM MANITOBANS THAT THEY DIDN'T WANT US TO CHANGE THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE."

MCA's virtual choir returns for Music Monday

By Ty Dilello

The Manitoba Choral Association (MCA) will be releasing a video performance of their virtual choir this year on May 2.

Riding on the success of last year's virtual choir project, MCA once again invited singers of all abilities, ages ten and up, to come together virtually in the spirit of Provincial Honour Choirs, which needed to be cancelled again for 2022 due to pandemic restrictions.

This year the choir's director was Dr. Jamie Hillman from the University of Toronto for the piece "Wide Open Spaces" by Canadian composer Sarah Quartel.

The project ran for six weeks from February to March. A PDF score, learning tracks, and rehearsal notes were made available to participants, and live online rehearsals took place over two weekends so the singers could engage with the conductor. New for this year, participants had the opportunity to attend a live virtual Q&A session with the composer.

Like other virtual choir projects choirs have produced during the pandemic, singers recorded themselves singing their voice part at home.

"Once MCA received all of the individual recordings, we worked with a technician to put everything together," said Jenny Steinke-Magnus, executive director of the Manitoba Choral Association. "We had 100 singers from across the province, including some from as far away as the Maritimes and the USA, take part in this year's project. It was



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Rehearsals for the Manitoba Choral Association's virtual choir were done online again this year, with participants then asked to record their part and send it in to create a video that will be posted on Music Monday May 2. Leading the online choir this year was Dr. Jamie Hillman (top row, second from left).

very exciting to still see so much interest in this type of program, even though choirs have slowly started to resume singing in person again."

The MCA will share the full video performance on Music Monday, May 2, as our province's choral

contribution to the day.

You can check it out online at www.mbchoralassociation.ca or the MCA social media pages (@mbchoralassociation).

MB Teachers Society "cautiously optimistic"

From Pg. 12

learning environments..

"We need to undertake this work in a co-ordinated, systematic way to better support young Manitobans and to ensure all children can receive a high quality education," he continued. "By working together, we can realize our vision where all Manitoba students succeed, no matter where they live, their backgrounds or their individual circumstances."

The minister emphasized an open and collaborative approach moving forward with the plan, which he added can continue to evolve.

"There are going to be some things that we're going to learn throughout this whole process," said Ewasko, who noted the lessons learned during the pandemic also means they are "trying to make sure that we're nimble and flexible to be able to provide those different learning opportunities for our students ... I think, moving forward, we learnt a lot from the pandemic."

"LOTS OF POSITIVE HOPE"

Stephen Ross, superintendent of Western School Division, in general liked much of what he initially saw in the plan with its more reasonable objectives and realistic timelines.

"I think there's lots of positive hope that we are heading in the right direction to continue to focus on making things better for kids in schools," he suggested. "Since Bill 64 disappeared, there has been a lot of work on a number of things listed in this as action items."

"I think school divisions will feel that they've been heard," he said. "Clearly, we can do more, and we always want to do better. I think it's good to have some targets and some things to work on that are connected together, and that's one of the things that we see in this action plan ... they've made the effort to make sure they are connecting these things together and that they are not all operating as isolated silos."

Janice Krahn, interim superintendent of Garden Valley School Division, could not be reached for comment.

Manitoba NDP leader Wab Kinew saw very little of what he was looking for in the plan.

"We know parents and educators want smaller class sizes, more learning supports for their kids to help them recover from the pandemic and more community involvement in their schools," he said. "Premier Stefanson had the chance to meet the needs of students, but she chose to stick with Pallister's failed road map instead."

"We know there are fewer teachers working in Manitoba classrooms this year because of PC cuts, and unfortunately, under Premier Stefanson, nothing has changed."

A representative of the Manitoba Teacher Society suggested the plan does represent a distinct and wel-

come departure in tone and focus and is perhaps better rooted in the heart of the K-12 commission recommendations.

"It's gratifying to see that the extensive consultation undertaken by the commission is finally reflected in the government's planning," said president James Bedford. "It's clear that MTS, along with other education stakeholders and indeed thousands of private citizens committed to public education have been heard."

"We are cautiously optimistic today, however we will continue to speak out in the interests of teachers and an effective, inclusive and appropriately funded public education system for all Manitoba students."

> AVIAN FLU, FROM PG. 10

wear gloves, Arlt urged. Protective eyewear and masks are also advised as additional precautions, and hands should be cleaned thoroughly afterwards.

When it comes to backyard bird feeders and baths, the province is

not currently recommending people put them away.

"If you have a property without domestic poultry, backyard bird feeders are okay as long as they're regularly cleaned and sanitized," Arlt said.

arts & culture

Artist shares his awakening as a LGBTQ+ artist

By Lorne Stelmach

His artistic explorations have seen Tye Dandridge-Evancio venture into a number of styles, but one key part of the journey was fully embracing his identity.

The programs and outreach co-ordinator for the Pembina Hills Arts Council touched on that as part of his recent Third Thursday art talk where he emphasized the need for society to continue to embrace diversity.

It wasn't always easy for Dandridge-Evancio, who described himself as "a queer, sometimes male artist creating images and stories as a means of administering a

much-needed dose of queerness into mainstream society."

"My studio practice is the result of growing up in a largely conservative society with very few LGBTQ role models," he explained.

"With my Masters studies, I kind of view it as my awakening as a queer artist. I realized I could be making art about being queer," he said. "I was struggling with my Masters degree until I was told ... I had been kind of been toying with the idea of making queer art ... then finally one of my supervisors told me you can make art and be gay ... I don't why, it was just one of those weird things that it didn't occur to me."

Even to this day, there's still some of that stigma to be overcome, but it was even more so for Dandridge-Evancio "having grown up as a youth in a smaller town.

"In sex education, I think there was one small mention of being gay, and it was met with laughter," he said. "And if there was anyone in the media I could look up to or any role models even in the community, I didn't see them."



Artist Ty Dandridge-Evancio emphasized the need for society to continue to embrace diversity in his talk at the Pembina Hills Arts Council last week.

Some of his experiences have helped him embrace the role he could play, such as serving as a curator in Wasagaming.

"I wanted each of the artists to have a best shot at showing their work to the public .. for a lot

Continued on page 21

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Uncover your roots

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A local woman's desire to learn more about her family history has spun off into a new business.

Dusty van der Steen, who grew up on a farm near Morden-Winkler and today calls the Elm Creek area home, has spent the last few years filling out the branches of her family tree.

"Growing up I knew that my father's side were Mennonites," van der Steen shares. "One of my great aunts was

kind of the family genealogist and so for the most part for my father's side there were genealogy records ... I kind of knew where everybody came from.

"But on my mom's side we knew absolutely nothing other than just family stories."

Inspired by the detailed genealogical records she had for her dad's side, van der Steen began diving into a research project that has taken years but continues to yield results.

"It turns out my mom's side is a mix



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Dusty van der Steen (below) has turned her passion for genealogy into a new business: Rural Roots Genealogy.

of English, German, German-Jewish, Irish, and Scottish," she says, noting she also dug up some interesting stories about her ancestors, including one who fought in the American Civil War and another who ran a bakery in a village in England.

"It's quite extensive what I've been able to uncover and it's just been such a great experience learning to do it for myself," van der Steen says, explaining she's made use of online databases, newspaper archives, and historical society archives in multiple countries.

"There's multitudes of places to look for information. It can take a lot of digging around ... a lot of searching."

Proper genealogical standards also call for more than one supporting document, which can make it an even greater challenge to confirm details you find the further back you go.

"It can be kind of a game of cat and mouse sometimes and trying to be creative in thinking where you might be able to find the right information," van der Steen says. "Some countries have a lot of records ... others not so much and it can be a bit more difficult to find anything."

But the thrill of the hunt has kept her going and her knack for this work led her to take on projects for a few extended family members.

"I really enjoy the challenge of it all ... it kind of just came to a point where I thought why don't I start doing this as a side business? And here we are."

Van der Steen recently launched Rural Roots Genealogy, offering to help people track down the names and stories that make up their own family histories.

Continued on page 27



Hog manure: fertilizer close to home

Over the last two years, the ability to ship and receive essential goods across stretched supply chains has been compromised. More recently, there was sudden concern for prairie crop farmers as to if and when they would receive fertilizer needed for the spring planting season. Imported and non-renewable fertilizers must be shipped in by rail or truck, which in today's marketplace, adds to already high production costs.

Hog manure is a valuable organic fertilizer that has been used by farmers for over 10,000 years to help build and maintain soil health. Using manure as fertilizer helps recycle key nutrients, creating healthier soils and better crops. The use of manure is highly regulated. Hog farmers work with professional agrologists who assist them in making informed decisions regarding their environmental impacts.

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Richard Neufeld retires from Altona's Blue Sky

By Ty Dilello

Long-time director and general manager of Blue Sky Opportunities Richard Neufeld will be retiring on April 30 after a 20-year career.

Blue Sky Opportunities started in 1954 as a school. Back then, children with intellectual disabilities were segregated and had to begin school independently. In time, when these children were allowed to attend regular school, the Blue Sky location turned to primarily teaching work skills and training. From there, it developed into what it is today.

In addition to skills training, Blue Sky today provides residential services for 40 people in eight different homes alongside supporting independent living for a number of its participants. It also boasts a thriving woodshop and manages the recycling for the Town of Altona.

Neufeld is only the fourth director in the history of Blue Sky. During his tenure, the agency has grown from 60 to 130 staff members.

Neufeld started his work career in the grocery business for a number of years. When the Blue Sky job posting came up, he didn't know much about the field or information about working with adults with intellectual disabilities. But it soon became one of the biggest passions in his life.

"Getting to know everyone we support in the community has been the highlight of my career," he said. "Creating a real deep bond with so many

people, I've learned so much from the people we support.

"Over the past 20 years, I've gained so much respect for the people we support and all of our staff. I've been fortunate to work with amazing staff that have stayed with our management group for a long time."

Neufeld points to the building of a new recycling facility as another highlight of his time at Blue Sky.

"We recycled for the community and municipality for a long time, but it had grown over the years and we outgrew our facility. So we came up with a plan to build a new one. And within eight months we raised \$1.4 million within the community. The support was overwhelming from everyone as people really saw the value of recycling."

Blue Sky advertised throughout all of Manitoba to replace Neufeld in the director position. Ryan Potter stood out above the rest and was hired. Originally from Dryden, Ontario, Potter has been living in the Altona area for the past decade.

"I have 15 years of management experience from running hotels to private schools to liquor stores, so I've worked in this field a little bit, and I really wanted to get back into it," said Potter. "I'm just really excited to work with people with intellectual disability again."

One of the first events for Potter to take the lead on with Blue Sky Opportunities is its annual clean-a-thon held in conjunction with West Park



PHOTO BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

Richard Neufeld (right) is retiring from a 20-year career with Blue Sky Opportunities in Altona. Stepping into the general manager role is Ryan Potter.

School, scheduled to take place on May 6. Students collect pledges and earn prizes for their fundraising efforts. The event has been going on for over 30 years.

"On the day of the event, Grade 4 students get a tour of Blue Sky and get an understanding of what we do here before the Grade 4-6 students all hit the town to clean up any garbage and recycle anything that they can find," said Neufeld. "It's unbelievable, but in those 30-plus years, West Park has

raised over \$430,000 for Blue Sky."

Regarding what's next for Neufeld, he's a passionate long-haul motorcycle rider who puts on many miles over the summer. He also runs a small side business out of his home, rebuilding classic Harley Davidson motors from engines made between 1954 and 1984.

"I'm 63 years old and had some family that died younger around this age, so I want to live life and do the things that I dreamed of, and hopefully I get a few years to do that!"



PHOTO BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

Neufeld, who begins his retirement next week, with Ken Ungur. Neufeld says getting to know the people the agency supports has been a highlight of his time with Blue Sky.



Public Notice is hereby given that Enbridge Pipelines Inc. (Enbridge) intends to conduct the following Pesticide Program from May 01 2022 - November 15 2022 to control noxious weeds on Enbridge ROW's, temporary workspaces, stations and various facilities along the Enbridge Mainline and Bakken corridors.

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Community built hand in hand

Common mission found in the Winkler MCC Thrift Shop

By Nikki Hamm Gwala,
MCC Manitoba

If you found yourself at the Winkler MCC Thrift Shop on a Monday morning, you might be impressed by the industrious pace of volunteers sorting household donations, pricing new stock, repairing sewing machines, or refreshing shop displays.

You might find yourself following aromas of home baking and freshly brewed coffee into a brightly lit staff room, where you'd hear a combination of Low German, High German and English. Maybe even a few phrases in Spanish or Russian.

Mostly though, you would be drawn in by the laughter shared between a hearty group of Winkler area residents, who realized a common mission in their local Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Thrift shop.

The Winkler store was founded in 1974 and quickly became a hub in the growing community. Moving four times within the shop's first 12 years and expanding its current location four times since then, the shop has contributed more than \$12 million to the global relief, development and peace work of MCC since its establishment.

When the shop opened, Winkler and the surrounding area made up a

close-knit rural Mennonite community. But, over the past two decades, the Winkler area has seen steady growth in its diversity and numbers.

Today, the Winkler MCC Thrift Shop operates with a generous pool of 300 volunteers and serves approximately 1,200 customers a week. As a community hub, it's bridge-building for people of varying church affiliations, ages, abilities, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

So, why does the shop have such a large volunteer pool?

When Eduard Richter began his role as assistant manager two years ago, he was surprised to find that more than 10 area churches—across denominational lines—supplied a ready stream of volunteers to operate the shop. There aren't many places where local churches, with varying affiliations come together, but Richter says that at the shop "we [all have] the same purpose."

Peter Kornelson, the shop's manager, says that the volunteers inspire his work.

"They say Freedom 55 and you're supposed to retire and kick back and do nothing. When I look at the people we have here, that's just not so. You need a purpose to get up in the morning, and that encourages me."

Volunteers come through the thrift shop's doors for varying reasons. For many it offers vocational purpose. For others it offers a welcoming and safe space to connect during isolating times. And for the newcomer, it's a place to learn English, gain work ex-



PHOTO BY JOSUE FIGUEROA/MCC

Jakob Hildebrandt has a long-standing history with MCC and continues to repair the Winkler shop's small equipment and appliance donations at the age of 93

perience and make new friends.

For Heather Dyck, the shop offers a flexible vocation when chronic illness otherwise limits her options.

"[Volunteering] is one of my favourite things that I do ... I really like being able to do something that is productive and feels useful and working for an [organization] that is doing good things," says Dyck.

At 93, Jakob Hildebrandt continues his 25-year-long volunteer commitment for a handful of reasons.

Since the mid-1990s, he has repaired computers, small appliances, bicycles and his specialty, antique sewing machines.

For Hildebrandt, values of recycling, reusing and reclaiming used goods were ingrained at a young age.

"When you see an item coming in that probably would go to the dump or scrap heap and you're able to make something out of it, [it] gives you satisfaction that you were able to make something," he says.

His commitment to MCC runs deep. As refugees in southern Germany during the Second World War, Hildebrandt and his mother received emergency food supplies from MCC and were later helped by the organization to immigrate to Canada.

Approximately 20 years later, he signed up to serve with MCC in Nigeria through the Teachers Abroad Program (TAP). And today, although admittedly slowing down a bit, he continues to give back to MCC, looking in at the Winkler thrift shop three

to four times a week for donations in need of repair.

Still, the most common drawing factor for shop volunteers is a shared belief in MCC's mission in the name of Christ. Local board chair Dave Penner says that the Winkler MCC Thrift Shop offers people like him an opportunity to do mission work right at home.

"They can walk to work and yet they can help people out in Afghanistan and Iraq and Haiti," says Penner. "I

know it encourages them, and it's good to see that people feel useful living in our community and being able to help."

Hildebrandt says, "As volunteers, we all come together as brothers and sisters and we do our work. We never point out that this is

from that kind of church or the other kind. It doesn't come into the life of MCC ... We know that there are different churches represented there, but they all work together as a unit, so it's wonderful."

The shop's community is a collective effort, built "hand in hand," adds Kornelson.

As MCC Thrift celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, shops across Manitoba encourage people of all ages to join an MCC Thrift volunteer community.

Visit mccthriftmb.com to learn more and connect with your local MCC Thrift shop.



PHOTO BY JOSUE FIGUEROA/MCC

Heather Dyck prepares clothing donations for display in the storefront.



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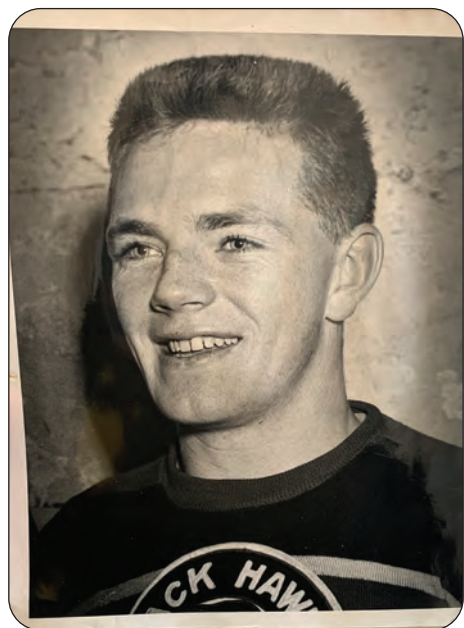
Bud McCormick left his mark on the hockey world

By Ty Dilello

The first professional hockey player to come out of Dominion City passed away April 13 at the age of 92.

Bud McCormick was born in Dominion City on March 15, 1930. The family moved to Winnipeg when he was eleven, where his hockey career began to take off. His talent for the sport was first brought to light when he was awarded a prize and certificate for being the most outstanding player of playground hockey at the age of 12.

McCormick went through the ranks of bantam and midget with Fort Rouge and was a member of the Winnipeg Canadiens Juveniles for two years prior to playing junior hockey.



After having played two months as a member of the Winnipeg Canadiens junior team, McCormick became dissatisfied with the manner in which the club was handled. He was snapped up by the Winnipeg Black Hawks junior team and had a great two seasons with them, where he was scoring at over a point-per-game pace.

He later attended a Chicago Black Hawks NHL training camp in the fall of 1950, where he rubbed shoulders with the likes of Hockey Hall of Famers Bill Mosienko and Doug Bentley.

In 1951-52, McCormick played pro hockey in England for the Harringay Racers, where he was one of his team's leading scorers. He then returned to Winnipeg for work, while still playing hockey in southern Manitoba for the likes of the Dominion City Combines and Emerson, winning championships with both in the mid-1950s in the Provencher (Southeast) Hockey League.

Bud and his wife Diedre were married for 67 years. They had three children together and settled in the Fort Garry neighbourhood of Winnipeg, where he had a successful career in sales and marketing for Labatts Breweries for over 25 years.

He continued to coach and play hockey during this time with the Manitoba NHL Oldtimers from 1965 to 1977. McCormick is perhaps best known for then organizing and founding the Winnipeg Clubs Oldtimers hockey team.



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Bud McCormick was Dominion City's first professional hockey player. He is pictured above holding the trophy after winning a Provencher Hockey League championship with Emerson in the mid-1950s. McCormick passed away last week.

"There were so many oldtimers that wanted to play, but there wasn't room on the Manitoba Oldtimers team, so Bud went to Labatts and asked if they'd like to start a team," recalled Diedre McCormick. "So Labatts sponsored them, and the Winnipeg Clubs was born."

"Dad asked Ab McDonald to be the captain," added son Clark McCormick. "And that helped give it more

legitimacy, and then a few more guys that played in the NHL headed over. They ended up going to play over the years all over in places like Russia and Germany. It was a big thrill for a lot of retired hockey players."

McCormick left his mark on the hockey community in Manitoba and will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him.

New asst. superintendent for BLSD

By Voice staff

A familiar face will be taking on the assistant superintendent role at Border Land School Division this summer.

The division announced last week that Shauna Hamm has been selected for the position, effective in August.

Hamm comes to the job with 25 years of experience in the education field, including the last seven as BLSD's student services manager.

Her professional qualifications include a master's degree in distance education, a graduate certificate in special education, a bachelor's degree in education, and a Level 1 administrator's certificate.

In a statement, the division noted that Hamm is "a lifelong learner and always engages in new and challenging work with a growth mindset.

"We welcome Shauna to her new role within the Border Land School Division and we look forward to working with her as the assistant superintendent."

The **Voice**
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Do you have a suggestion for our news team?
Is there someone you would like to see recognized in the newspaper for their accomplishments - athletic, academic or community service.



Left: Rachel Hesom sings "Where is Love." She won the top vocal award for the week. Above: Alexi Ginter sings "Bel Piacere."



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
The Winkler Festival of the Arts hosted its awards night last Friday. Above: Gr. 4 piano student Gavin Buhler played "Rigadoon in A Minor." Left: Janika and Jaselah Friesen's "Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho" won them the duet award.

Winkler Festival of the Arts returns

By Voice staff

The Winkler Festival of the Arts made a triumphant return last week.

For the first time since 2019, nearly 200 young performers took to the stage at the Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church April 19-22 to demonstrate their vocal and piano skills.

Participants had a chance to win awards and scholarships and also receive constructive criticism from vocal adjudicator Loretta Thorleifson and piano adjudicator Anneli Loepp Thiessen.

In the vocal sessions, Rachel Hesom took home the Justina Wiebe Trophy for best all-around performer as well

as a scholarship.

Also winning vocal scholarships were Norah Thiessen, Zahira Dyck, and Alexi Ginter.

Dyck and Ginter also received provincial recommendations, which means they can compete at the 2022 Provincial Music and Arts Festival taking place in Brandon next month.

In the piano sessions, Evelyn Alles won the Adjudicator's Choice Award. Alles also took home the Gr. 10 award.

Other awards went to Kaylin Guse (Gr. 2), Rachel Hesom (Gr. 3), Cadence Martens (Gr. 4), Keziah Dyck (Gr. 5), Grace Xia (Gr. 6), Emily Maier (Gr. 7 and sacred music divisions), Jakob Klassen (Gr. 8), Janika and Jaselah

Friesen (duet), Breanna Dyck (popular music), and Michael Wall (stud-ies).

Scholarships went to Luanne Guse, Moise Onishchuk, Gavin Buhler, Jael Schaefer, Nathanael Mierau, Emily Maier,

Elias Mierau, and Joy Zia.

And earning the chance to represent Winkler at provincials was Moise Onishchuk, Rachel Hesom, Cadence Martens, Jael Schaefer, Nathanael Mierau, Grace Xia, Emily Maier, Elias Mierau, Jakob Klassen, Joy Xia, and Evelyn Alles.

> DANDRIDGE-EVANCIO, FROM PG. 14

of these people ... that may be their first show ever," he said, adding as well that it was an opportunity to give people a platform. "I recognized the importance of people being allowed to have a voice and to have space, be given the chance to take up space in the most successful and enjoyable and effective way possible."

One particular style of art that Dandridge-Evancio became especially interested in at one point was pochoir, which is a stencil process for making colored prints or adding color to a printed key illustration.

"Practice-wise, this is probably the most interesting thing I do ... this is basically a manual form of print making," he suggested.

"It was one of the first forms of creating a full image through kind of stencilled on pieces, and it was particularly popular and vibrant in the 1930s and 1940s in France as a response to the machine printing."

Dandridge-Evancio sees it as a great way to produce more rich and colourful images.

"That's kind of why some now are going back to it," he suggested. "What I particularly like in it is the kind of meditative aspect of it, breaking

down the image into it's smaller parts."

He learned this technique while attending school in Lethbridge and learning about print making.

"I kind of fell in love with it; everyone else just hated it because it just took so long," he added.

His artistic journey has continued to go in interesting directions.

In 2021, he spearheaded an Instagram takeover for the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba.

"I reached out to three other artists ... they all submitted work for this takeover, which ultimately culminated in a live panel discussion," he noted. "It was the most ambitious thing in which I've seen myself in regards to a PRIDE thing."

He currently has his exhibit The Cabela Boys on display at the Turtle Mountain Arts Council gallery in Killarney. The show is described as having been conceived as a humorous criticism of female dress in popular media but having evolved into a sincere exploration of queer identity.

Dandridge-Evancio also has other projects in the works, including graphic novel.

RAIN BARREL SALE

We have rain barrels for sale! They are \$65 each and can be ordered online at www.RainBarrel.ca/Redboine.

Each rain barrel includes a leaf and mosquito filter basket, an overflow adaptor, a spigot and an overflow hose. Downspout diverters and stands are also available for purchase. Pre-ordered rain barrels will be available for pick up at the Redboine Watershed District Shop, 99 South Road Allowance, Holland, MB on Friday June 24, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information check out the website or contact us at 204-526-2578. Redboine Watershed District will receive \$10 from every rain barrel sold; and \$2 from each downspout diverter or stand sold. Proceeds from the sale will support the Treherne Elementary School Pollinator Garden



THANK YOU!



Wondrous WEDDINGS



5 tips for planning a successful wedding

Did you recently get engaged? Are you planning your wedding? If so, follow these five tips to ensure your big day is a success.

1. ARRANGE ACCOMMODATIONS

If your reception is taking place in the countryside or you have guests attending from out of town, consider making arrangements with nearby hotels. This way you can ensure people attending your wedding will have somewhere to stay.

2. BE PREPARED FOR ANY WEATHER

It's important to be prepared for any weather on your wedding day, especially if your ceremony or reception will take place outdoors. You should think about what to do if it rains, how to keep your guests warm in the evening and if there's a need to ward off bugs.



3. SET AND KEEP A BUDGET

Wedding costs can escalate quickly, so it's essential to keep an eye on your budget. Consider placing all your important documents and bills in a binder and only using one credit card to pay for your wedding expenses.

4. DETERMINE IF KIDS WILL BE INVOLVED

Decide if you want to invite little ones to your wedding. If children are welcome, specify whether they must be under parental supervision or if childcare will be provided.



5. KEEP A LIST OF CONTACTS

You must co-ordinate many different people and services on your big day, including the caterer and DJ. Therefore, it's a good idea to keep all important phone numbers on hand leading up to and during the wedding.

If you want to make sure you don't forget anything on your big day, consider working with an experienced wedding planner.

Brunch receptions: an emerging wedding trend

It's becoming increasingly trendy to host a wedding brunch instead of a dinner. If you're planning your big day, here are a few good reasons to consider having a brunch reception.

AN EARLY EVENT

Do you find it hard to stay up until the wee hours of the morning? Are you inviting several seniors or young children to your wedding? Do some guests prefer not to drive at night? For all of these reasons, a morning wedding might be a great option. This way, everyone will be in high spirits from start to end.

AN IRRESISTIBLE MENU

Contrary to what some people say, brunch doesn't have to be simple or pared down. In fact, you can serve up a variety of fancy hot and cold dishes, including:



- Local cheeses
- Belgian waffles
- Dauphinois potatoes
- Salmon gravlax
- Duck breast
- Eggs benedict
- Fruit cocktails
- Game sausages
- Niçoise salad
- Viennese pastries

If this trending wedding idea appeals to you, find out if the restaurants, reception halls and caterers in your area offer a brunch menu.








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Wondrous WEDDINGS



How to choose the perfect wedding dress

Choosing a wedding dress can be both exciting and nerve-racking. To help you create the look of your dreams, here are a few tips.

MAKE A PLAN

Before you try on a single gown, make a list of the criteria you're looking for in a wedding dress. Do you want a certain cut, style or length? Do you want to show off your shoulders or hour-glass figure? Establishing some criteria will allow you to narrow down the choices.

USE PROPS

In addition to your list of criteria, bring along pictures of dresses to show to the bridal store consultant. They can use the information you provide to quickly find several different gowns for you to try.

TRY DIFFERENT STYLES

After the first fitting, you may realize that the dresses that look good in pictures aren't the right fit for your figure. Don't worry, your consultant can suggest other styles until you find the dress of your dreams.

Additionally, keep in mind that all wedding dresses need to be altered. Therefore, don't be dissuaded if a dress is too long, short or loose.

Whether you decide to buy or rent a wedding dress, choose the one that makes you feel most beautiful. For inspiration, visit your local bridal stores.



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5 original wedding themes

Are you planning a wedding? If you're currently getting ready for your big day and looking for an original theme, here are five you may want to consider.

1. CANDY

Choose decor elements in bright colours that evoke sweets, candies and pastries. You can tie this theme together by setting up a candy bar for your guests.



2. FAIRY TALE

Book your venue in a castle-like setting, choose an outfit worthy of royalty and arrive in a horse-drawn carriage. You could also include props from the fairy tales you love to decorate the tables.



3. GLOBETROTTER

Incorporate suitcases, passports, airplanes and maps into table settings, photo booths and other decor. You could also decorate each table to represent a certain country or continent.

4. RAINBOW

Hang origami flowers, balloons or umbrellas in an array of hues from the ceiling, and decorate your chosen venue with accessories in all the colours of the rainbow.



5. RETRO

Decorate your venue with vintage accessories and second-hand furniture, and visit your local thrift store to find old-fashioned cutlery, vases, tablecloths and picture frames.

To stock up on accessories that match your theme, contact a wedding planner or visit your local stores.

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Impacts of seed-placed fertilizer on canola emergence

By Warren Ward,
Canola Council of Canada

Toxicity and salt effect from fertilizer can damage canola seed and seedlings, and reduce the return on investment for seed. One way to increase canola emergence rates is to keep all fertilizer out of the seed row —except for a starter rate of phosphate.

The risk of seed-placed fertilizer comes from the nitrogen component of ammonium phosphate, ammonium sulphate and all nitrogen fertilizers. Ammonia can damage crops through direct toxicity while nitrate will damage seedlings by desiccation through the salt effect. Potassium fertilizers also have a high salt index and should not go in the seed row.

Why is phosphorus the exception?

Phosphorus supply during the first two to six weeks of canola growth is critical to achieve optimal yield. Given that phosphorus availability is reduced under wet, cold conditions, canola benefits from a seed-placed supply of phosphorus fertilizer.

But not too much. Apply just enough to give each seed equal access to starter phosphate prills or droplets but not so much that the ammonium reduces emergence. A seed-placed rate equivalent to 20 lb./ac. of P₂O₅ (~40 lb./ac. of monoammonium phosphate) will balance those two objectives.



CANOLA COUNCIL OF CANADA PHOTO

The Canola Council of Canada urges producers to consider keeping fertilizer out of the seed row, except for a starter rate of phosphate.

This approach shows the interactions of the Right rate at the Right time in the Right place as part of 4R Nutrient Stewardship.

How to reduce the nitrogen risk

Under some circumstances, growers can safely apply a little extra ammonium phosphate or nitrogen fertilizer with canola seed. Factors that reduce the risk from seed-placed nitrogen are:

Seedbed moisture. Water dilutes the concentration of nitrogen molecules around the seed and seedling, and disperses nitrogen molecules

throughout the soil. This moisture reduces fertilizer concentrations around the seed.

Fertilizer source. Polymer coating or urease inhibitors slow the release of ammonia and ammonium from urea.

Seed bed utilization (SBU). High SBU – which can be achieved with wider openers and narrow row spacing – will lower the risk because seed and fertilizer are spread over a larger area.

Soil pH. Lower soil pH reduces the risk from seed-placed nitrogen. That is why safe rates are generally higher in Saskatchewan and Alberta than in

Manitoba.

Soil texture. Heavy (clay) soils lower the risk and light (sandy) soils increase the risk.

Test the safety of seed-placed rates

These factors don't eliminate the risk entirely, so a large percentage of fertilizer will still have to go outside the seed row to give canola seeds a safe place to emerge and contribute to yield.

To test the effect of seed-placed fertilizer, turn off seed-placed fertilizer runs for a 100-foot strip in some fields. Mark these areas and then go back and do plant counts early in the season to compare treated and untreated strips.

The Nutrient Management section at CanolaEncyclopedia.ca has more on the placement of fertilizer (under each macronutrient heading), and a chapter on the 4R stewardship practices – Right source of fertilizer used at the Right rate, at the Right time and in the Right place. For a more detailed version of this article, look for "Right rates for seed-placed fertilizer" at canolawatch.org/fundamentals. While there, please sign up to receive our timely Canola Watch agronomy emails.

Warren Ward is an agronomy specialist with the Canola Council of Canada. Email wardw@canolacouncil.org.

Critics give provincial budget the thumbs down

By Lorne Stelmach

The 2022 provincial budget unveiled earlier this month came up short of what is needed in the eyes of some critics and provincial organizations.

Premier Heather Stefanson's first budget fails to deliver the solutions families need, suggested Opposition NDP leader Wab Kinew.

"Rural families are looking for hope. With her first budget, Premier Stefanson had the chance to deliver it, but she failed to meet the moment," he said following the April 12 budget presentation by Finance Minister Cameron Friesen.

"We know this isn't the budget rural families wanted," Kinew said. "Instead of setting herself apart from Brian Pallister, she repeated his mistakes by continuing to under fund health care and schools. Instead of making life more affordable, she's raising hydro rates at the cabinet table and freezing funding to municipalities."

Manitoba Liberal leader Dougald Lamont described the budget as "flimsy" with over \$1 billion in promises that had been made before.

"They are passing off pouring concrete as investments in health and education, when we have nursing shortages and children going hungry," he said. "This is a lost opportunity to reinforce critical systems like health and education and making sure Manitobans can fulfill their potential through education."

He particularly noted that the PCs are extending the freeze on funding for municipalities across the province for a sixth straight year. And while the \$11 million increase in Manitoba Housing funding is desperately needed, due to the decades long maintenance deficit it is nowhere near enough given the dire state of many complexes.

"People are the economy, people are health care and people are our education system. The PCs promised a

change in tone, but the problem was substance, and there's no change there," said Lamont.

Frustration came from a number of other fronts as well.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business expressed its disappointment that the budget included few measures to really help small businesses' post-pandemic recovery and in fact excludes small businesses from some of the budget's only cost relief measures.

"Two years into the pandemic, many small businesses are still in survival mode. Only 41 per cent are back to normal sales, and many have accumulated tens of thousands of dollars in pandemic-related debt," noted Kathleen Cook, CFIB provincial affairs director. "The budget was a missed opportunity to help small firms facing massive cost increases on virtually every line of their own budgets."

"We were hoping to see cost relief

measures introduced in the budget to help small businesses recover. The Manitoba government has missed an opportunity to help small businesses move beyond survival mode."

The Canadian Union of Public Employees, which is Canada's largest union representing more than 700,000 members, suggested the budget continues to put public services at risk.

"Manitobans expect to see a budget that protects the public services they rely on," says Gina McKay, president of CUPE Manitoba. "This government continues to cut taxes for ideological reasons rather than fully supporting our schools and health care facilities."

CUPE is concerned that the government's plan to reach a balanced budget by 2028 will come on the backs of Manitoba workers and public services families rely on, she further suggested.

"We are also deeply concerned the government will look to privatizing,

Nine great reasons to use a rain barrel or two

Submitted by the Redboine Watershed District

An old-fashioned idea is gaining new interest for home dwellers, gardeners and people interested in protecting waterways and the environment while saving money on their water bills—rain barrels are back in style.

Rain barrels collect free water from a roof and store it for future use in gardens and for watering lawns, shrubs, and trees.

There are many great reasons to use a rain barrel or connect several in series to collect even more rainwater.

1. Rain barrels provide a free supply of water for many uses.
2. Rainwater is free of chlorine and

fluoride, typically found in tap water and it is the preferred choice of local residents with the best looking gardens.

3. Rainwater can help reduce the pollution. Homeowners with rain barrels can disconnect their downspouts from the sewer systems, resulting in redirection of rainwater to permeable ground surfaces that filter and absorb the water. This natural filtering helps ensure a cleaner and replenished water supply for the entire community's streams and rivers and prevents rainwater from going into the storm management systems.

4. When communities don't have to manage as much stormwater, they can keep down water costs and related charges and taxes.

5. Rainwater, which is naturally acidic, can balance out the alkaline nature of soils near chemically basic concrete.

6. Rainwater also has the benefit of being a similar temperature as the air, and does not shock plants' roots like tap water does. Overall, rainwater is a healthier option for plants.

7. When outdoor water restrictions are in place, water from a rain barrel can be used to wash vehicles or water lawns.

8. Residents can also use the water to clean floors and do laundry, and having a source of stored water can be beneficial if an emergency ever arises.

9. Redirecting rainwater away from a home's foundation by using a rain barrel can help avoid flooding in base-

ments, and prevent damage caused by cold water.

The Redboine Watershed District has recently launched a rain barrel sale to raise funds for the Treherne Elementary School Pollinator Garden Project, with a recognition of the need for and the value of rain barrels in maintaining the health of our home gardens and the environment.

Rain barrels can be ordered in advance of the June 24 distribution date online at www.RainBarrel.ca/redboine.

For more information contact the Redboine Watershed District at redboinewd@gmail.com or 204-526-2578.

TRIP rebates up for grabs again in 2022

You can get reimbursed in part for Manitoba hotel stays, attraction admissions next month

By Voice staff

An initiative created amidst the pandemic is back this year to continue to encourage Manitobans to be stay at home tourists.

The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce is again offering its Tourism Rebate Incentive Program (TRIP) from May 6-16.

In 2021, TRIP returned \$2.2 million in rebates to Manitobans who embarked on adventures, road trips, and staycations to help bolster tourism throughout the province, and the tracked activity resulted in a total of \$5.5 million in direct spending at recreational properties.

"This program made a huge difference to tourism in Manitoba and we're excited to be able to do it again," said Chuck Davidson, president and CEO of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce.

"To say that TRIP 2021 was a success would be a huge understatement because, thanks to almost 25,000 Man-

itobans who took advantage of the rebate, this recovery program had a massive impact on Manitoba's beleaguered tourism industry," he said. "With this new round of TRIP rebates, we're encouraging Manitobans to get out there this spring to tour our beautiful province while supporting our valuable recreational assets."

Surveyed TRIP participants indicated they spent an average of \$510 on their trip for total estimated spending of \$11.2 million, which represents roughly a 5-to-1 return on investment.

Fifty-six per cent of surveyed participants noted their trip was not planned prior to the launch of the program, and over half said the incentive motivated them to take an overnight trip.

In all, TRIP 2021 resulted in Manitobans paying for almost 17,800 individual hotel nights, 2,877 hotel stay and play packages, and more than 4,700 attraction admission fees for a total of \$5.5 million in direct spending at recreational properties, organizers note.

For 2022, Manitoba residents age 18+ are eligible for a \$100 rebate on hotel, motel, or resort stays booked between May 6-16 and a 50 per cent rebate on general admission to one of 31 participating star attractions across the province that week.

Proof of purchase receipts need to be submitted online at www.tripmb.ca by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 23.

Travel Manitoba President and CEO

Colin Ferguson said TRIP is a terrific way to find a staycation that speaks to you.

"You might be dreaming about recharging on a weekend spa getaway, or thinking about rediscovering a hidden gem you visited long ago," he said. "You could explore a region of the province that has always piqued

your interest or book a fun waterslide hotel stay with the kids.

"Whatever type of getaway you design, TRIP is a win-win. You'll enjoy a break, see our beautiful province, and get something back."

Learn more at tripmb.ca.

"WE'RE ENCOURAGING MANITOBANS TO GET OUT THERE THIS SPRING TO TOUR OUR BEAUTIFUL PROVINCE ..."

The Funnies



sports & recreation

End of the road for Winkler Flyers

By Ty Dilello

It wasn't meant to be for the Winkler Flyers as they fell in the MJHL semi-finals in five games to the Dauphin Kings.

From start to finish in this second round series, the Kings controlled the pace of play for the majority of each game. Dauphin outshot Winkler in four of five games and was perfect on home ice, going 3-0.

After losing the first two games of the series on the road in Dauphin, the Flyers rallied to win Game 3 at home 5-4.

Just when the momentum in the series looked to be shifting in Winkler's favour, they dropped Game 4 at home 5-2 to put them on the brink of elimination.

Winkler travelled to Dauphin through the rainstorm last Saturday for Game 5, but it just wasn't meant to be. Dauphin was victorious 5-1 to win the series four-game-to-one and end the Flyers' season.

"Coming back here to Winkler and winning the first game at home was exciting," said Flyers' head coach Justin Falk on Monday. "We lost our captain in Game 2 due to injury, and we rallied to win Game 3, which was great. In that crucial Game 4, we had a few bounces and calls go against us, and that's sometimes all it takes. But they were all close games, and our guys battled hard. I really loved our effort."

Despite the season ending a little prematurely, Falk is tremendously proud of the way his team carried themselves the entire year.

The boys finished the regular season in second place in the league's East Division on the strength of a 33-16-3-2 record, trailing only Steinbach. They then knocked the Winnipeg Blues out of the playoffs in the first round in six games.

"These guys all worked very hard since day one of training camp. They've grown their character, their game and grown as a team. Seeing the tears on their faces after the final game, I feel for them and am right there with them. I'm just so proud of them."

"On behalf of the city of Winkler,



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Above: Neither Jackson Arpin nor Dylan Meilun were able to keep the puck out of the net for the Kings' third goal of game four last Thursday, which went Dauphin's way 5-2. Right: Winkler's Justin Svenson tries to retain control of the puck despite the efforts of Dauphin's Nick Braun.

the investment these guys put in our community—everyone should be proud of these young men and their efforts. It's a special group."

First-year head coach Falk hopes to be around next season and attempt to bring another MJHL championship to Winkler.

"I'm excited about the work I've been able to do in Winkler one year in here and proud of the staff and everyone around the scenes that have been along here for the ride," he said. "This season we've had doesn't happen without them, so I'm proud of our support staff and our players here. Next season, we're looking to keep up the momentum that we've built this year."

The Dauphin Kings will now wait and see who they will compete against for the MJHL championship, with the Steinbach Pistons leading the Virde Oil Capitals three games to two in their best-of-seven series.



CWE returns to Morden May 14

By Lorne Stelmach

Pro wrestling is set to make its comeback in Morden this spring.

The event set for Saturday, May 14 marks the return of Canadian Wrestling's Elite for the first time after a number of aborted attempts thanks to the pandemic.

"We tried multiple times throughout the pandemic, then restrictions would happen, and things would close down," said organizer Danny Warren, who also wrestles as six-time CWE champion Hotshot Danny Dugan.

"We were able to do a couple outdoor event. Definitely wasn't at capacity or the level we would like to be, so we're excited to begin that again," he said, noting that their last indoor event locally was way back in November 2019.

Warren said a lot of their top stars are being lined up to be in action, including the return of his alter-ego "Hotshot."

It will be part of a smaller scale, regional tour, as the typical cross country tour is cost prohibitive right now, especially with gas prices.

"So we're going to be doing a lot of mini-tours, and we're going to be strictly putting together some smaller size tours in regions and then go from there," Warren said.

Warren sees them possibly coming back through Morden every three or four months, but perhaps more often if the events are successful. The Morden-Winkler area has usually brought them a good sized crowd.

"It started off as a town we would do maybe a couple times a year ... but with us being based out of Winnipeg and the success of the events, we've

been able to come back with a couple more throughout the year," said Warren.

"The wrestling fans there are pretty passionate and continue to support us as many times as we come out," he added. "We also have a lot of community and business support as well that help make these events possible.

"We're very grateful for all the community support that makes wrestling possible there. We're coming back with a full size card, so it's going to be exciting.

The action takes place May 14 at the Access Event Centre with VIP doors opening at 6 p.m., general admission at 6:30 p.m., and bell time at 7 p.m.

VIP tickets are \$26 while general admission is \$21 in advance or \$24 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Giant Tiger or for purchase online at cwetickets.com.



CWE's Hotshot Danny Dugan

Canucks beat Twisters to win MMJHL title

By Voice staff

The St. James Jr. Canucks are the MMJHL champions.

In Game 5 on Monday, the Canucks swept things 5-0 to take the best-of-seven series four games to one.

Kale Price, Zach Greenwood, Tyrone Willan, Brady Whitely, and Ashton Romaniuk did the scoring while net-

minder Noah Gilbert had a perfect night, denying all 24 shots the Twisters sent his way.

The Canucks headed into what proved to be the series' final match ahead by two games.

They had taken a 2-1 series lead with a 2-1 home win last Thursday (St. James goals came courtesy of

Whitely and Griffin Haight, while Nathan Ayotte scored for the Twisters), following on the heels of Pembina Valley's 4-2 Game 2 win two nights earlier (scoring that night was Ayotte, Jordan Keck, TJ Matuszewski, and Tyler van Deynze for Pembina Valley while Haight and Matthew Mason-Vandel did the honours for St.

James).

Game 4 went their way as well 5-2, with Kale Price, Rory Neill, Trent Haf-danson, Luke Kurtis, and Ethan Unruh scoring for the Canucks. Pembina Valley's two goals that night came from Mike Heppner and Jacob Carels.

> FIND YOUR ROOTS, FROM PG. 16

A lot of people start to dive into researching their ancestors and become overwhelmed by the prospect of digging into all the potential sources of information out there.

"It looks real easy when you watch the commercials and you go onto Ancestry.com ... but it's not always that simple," van der Steen says, noting there are a lot of family trees available online that are filled with incorrect information. It can be daunting to track down the right records to correct them—or to even know how to find out if they're wrong in the first place. "Not everybody knows how to look or where to look. It can take a lot of patience to sit there and read old documents and go through all this old information—and there's lots.

You can go through so much stuff ... and then get frustrated and give up.

"I enjoy the chase. I enjoy the challenge of trying to find the right information for people."

Rural Roots' services range from help tracking down a particular ancestor's story all the way to filling out an entire family tree, with fees based

> BUDGET CRITICS, FROM PG. 24

contracting out and selling off public services in order to balance their budget," McKay said. "We need a government that takes bold steps to support public services, especially during a pandemic that is not yet over. This budget doesn't do that."

Doctors Manitoba president Dr. Kristjan Thompson, meanwhile, was encouraged by some of the health care commitments from the province.

on the scope and complexity of the project. She offers consultations for free.

Van der Steen is fond of a quote by author Laurence Overmire: "History remembers only the celebrated, genealogy remembers them all."

"I think it's important to know your family history, even if they just lived regular lives," she says. "When you do this research, you start to realize

that the people hundreds of years ago that are at the beginning of your family tree are real people ... you want to know where they came from, who they were.

"You want to remember them."

You can learn more and get in touch with van der Steen online at rural-rootsgenealogy.com or call 204-436-2616.

"From a financial perspective, the Manitoba budget has appropriately prioritized investing in health care, though the results will be measured not by dollars spent but by shortening wait times, clearing the pandemic backlog, and recruiting and retaining more nurses, doctors and other health care workers to ensure patients get the care they need.

"The significant investment in

health care is an important step toward rebuilding a medical system that has been under tremendous pressure," Thompson added. "While this can't be undone with money alone, matching the government's financial investment with a meaningful partnership with physicians will help to ensure our medical system recovers and is better prepared for the next health crisis."

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Spicy Alaska Sablefish in Lettuce Cups

1/2 cup pickled ginger, chopped
1/2 cup bottled Asian-style salad dressing with wasabi and ginger
8 medium-large butter lettuce leaves
1/2 cup cilantro leaves
Preheat oven to 450 F.

Blend miso, chili paste and honey; spread onto Alaska sablefish portions. Place portions on nonstick cooking spray-coated, foil-lined baking sheet. Roast 5-7 minutes, or until fish is opaque throughout and deep golden brown; cool slightly.

In mixing bowl, combine avocado, rice or quinoa, cucumber, radishes and ginger; pour in dressing. Toss to coat.

To serve, place about 1/3 cup vegetable-rice mixture in each lettuce leaf. Top with one sablefish portion. Sprinkle each lettuce cup with 1 tablespoon cilantro leaves.

Recipe courtesy of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 4 (2 lettuce cups each)

1/4 cup yellow or white miso

1 tablespoon Korean chili paste

1 tablespoon honey

1 pound Alaska sablefish (black cod), cut into 2-ounce portions

nonstick cooking spray

1 small avocado, pitted, peeled and chopped

1-1 1/4 cups cooked sushi rice or quinoa

1/2 cup chopped English cucumber

1/4 cup thinly sliced halved radish



Blackened Alaska Cod Tacos

Bake 5 minutes, set oven to broil and broil 3-5 minutes. When fish is done (when it flakes easily with fork and is opaque throughout), remove from oven and break into small chunks with fork.

In flour tortillas, add avocado and slaw. Top with chunks of cod and drizzle with additional hot sauce, squeeze of lime juice from remaining 1/2 lime and additional blackening seasoning.

Photo courtesy of Sari Diskin (Blackened Alaska Cod Tacos)

Recipe courtesy of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and Sari Diskin

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 2-3

2 cups slaw mix

2 tablespoons mayonnaise

1 teaspoon hot sauce, plus additional for serving

1 lime, divided

salt, to taste

pepper, to taste

nonstick cooking spray

1/2 pound Alaska cod

olive oil

blackening seasoning, to taste, plus additional, divided

sea salt, to taste

4 small flour tortillas

1 avocado, sliced

Preheat oven to 400 F.

In bowl, mix slaw with mayonnaise, hot sauce, juice from 1/2 lime and salt and pepper, to taste; set aside.

Line baking dish with parchment paper and spray with nonstick cooking spray. Place Alaska cod on top and coat lightly with olive oil. Generously season with blackening seasoning and sea salt, to taste.



Servings: 6
1 jar (16 ounces) Aunt Nellie's Sliced Pickled Beets

1 jar (about 6 ounces) marinated artichoke hearts

1/2 cup pitted kalamata or ripe olives, sliced

3 tablespoons sliced green onions
freshly ground black pepper, to taste (optional)

6 romaine lettuce leaves

1 pound thinly sliced deli turkey

6 ciabatta or sandwich rolls, sliced hori-

Expert patient here to help!



Susie Schwartz

By Susie Schwartz

Life can be painful, and it seems especially so these days. Personal struggles, health woes, a pandemic, and now a war in Ukraine, thanks to Russia. I'm overwhelmed, you?

I had to avoid the news leading up to the first bombings of Ukraine. I tend to soak in the pain of others (Hmm...a contributing health factor?) and I felt powerless to do anything but worry. I'm sure I'm not the only one. When our fears became reality and Russia struck, I forced myself to open my eyes and heart to the truth – whether this turns into another world war or not, people are dying and need help.

But how?

For me, that answer slammed me in the face as I opened social media on day two of the bombings.

We all know that money is needed in times such as these, but we don't always know where to send it (if we have some to send at all.) I saw an

Instagram post saying something like, 'Where there are people, there are people with Type 1 Diabetes, and they need our help.' It went on to describe how there were not only shortages of insulin, but power outages for refrigeration for insulin. And a need for batteries. And pump hoses. And insulin pens. It hit me hard: People were not only desperate to get to safety from the bombs and gunfire, but also might die from a lack of medical supplies. I had my answer of what to do. I could send extra supplies and/or money to the Ukrainian people towards diabetes supplies specifically.

This column is not about just Diabetes though, as there are so many needs. It is about helping where we can, and even better in an area we are passionate towards. You see, this will better keep us motivated to do our part, but also can be a gift of perspective and take us out of our own problems. Self-focus can be our worst enemy sometimes. (Although, sometimes necessary.)

Even if unable to help with the needs of Ukraine, you can still apply this principal. Phone a friend going through a hard time; donate unwanted goods to charity; send a 'just because' card to your grandmother. I promise you, it will lift your spirits as well as the beneficiaries.

And we could all use our spirits lifted, I'd say.

Less health stress, yes?

A published author and musician, Susie currently lives in the UK. Find her on FB @medicalmisstress, Instagram @susie.suscha, and lesshealthstress.com

Picnic-wiches with Greek Artichoke Beet Salad

zontally

1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese

1/4 cup pine nuts, toasted

Drain beets and artichoke hearts, reserving 1/4 cup liquid from each. Coarsely chop beets and artichoke hearts. In medium bowl, combine beets, artichokes, olives and green onions; set aside.

In small bowl, whisk reserved beet and artichoke liquids. Pour over beet mixture; toss gently to coat. Season with black pepper, to taste, if desired.

Layer lettuce and turkey on bottom halves of rolls. Top with relish, as desired; feta cheese; and pine nuts. Top with remaining halves of rolls. Wrap tightly; chill up to 4 hours. Serve with remaining relish.

Bean, Tortellini and Pesto Salad

Servings: 6

2 cans (15 ounces each) READ 3 or 4 Bean Salad

1/4 cup prepared basil pesto

1/2 teaspoon salt (optional)

1 package (9 ounces) refrigerated tortellini

grape tomatoes (optional)

halved cherry tomatoes (optional)

chopped bell pepper (optional)

thinly sliced green onions (optional)

Drain bean salad, reserving 1/2 cup liquid. In bowl, combine reserved liquid, pesto and salt, if desired; set aside.

Cook tortellini according to package directions; drain, rinse in cold water and drain again. Add pesto dressing; toss to coat. Add grape tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, bell pepper and green onion, as desired. Toss with bean salad.

Serve at room temperature or chilled.

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MUNICIPALITY of RHINELAND

Title #	Legal Description	Total Acres
Part: 2777051/4	The Wly 1320 Feet Perp of the NE ¼ of Section 22-3-2 WPM	80

When submitting an offer, please note:

- The highest, or any, offer will not necessarily be accepted.
- The date of closing and possession will be May 20, 2022.
- The date of adjustments will be January 1, 2022.
- You must provide a certified check or bank draft in the amount of \$10,000.00 payable to Cole & Mace Law Office. The cheques accompanying unsuccessful tenders will be returned.
- You must rely on your own research of the property.
- Tenders are binding upon acceptance and not subject to any conditions precedent.
- Tenders may only be submitted in the form provided by Cole & Mace Law Office; a form of tender may be requested from Cole & Mace Law Office in person at the address below, or by emailing: adam@colemacelaw.com.
- The Vendor will be responsible for the taxes on the property up to the date of adjustments.
- The Purchaser will be required to pay GST unless the Purchaser is registered for GST and agrees to self-assess.
- Title to the land will be transferred free and clear of all encumbrances and liens.

Signed and sealed Tenders will be received up to 12:00 noon on May 6, 2022 at:
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PUBLIC NOTICE

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT

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

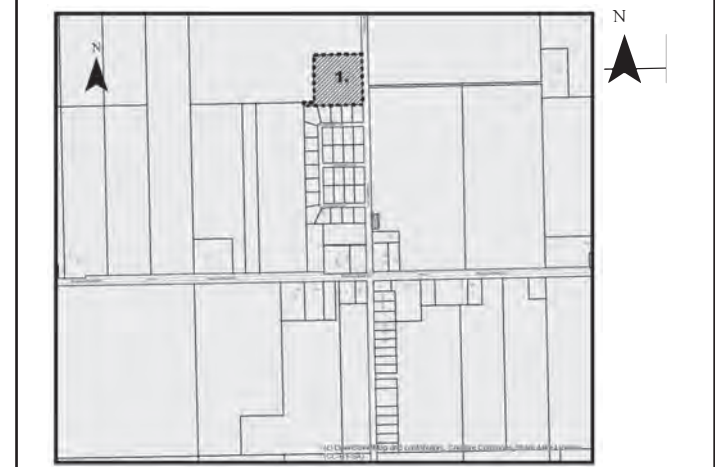
THE MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND ZONING AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 2022-03
 Being an AMENDMENT to the MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND ZONING BY-LAW NO. 2021-06

HEARING LOCATION: 109 - 3rd Avenue NE Altona MB
DATE & TIME: Wednesday May 11th, 2022 at 9:00 AM

GENERAL INTENT: To amend the Municipality of Rhineland Zoning By-law No. 2021-06 as follows:
 To rezone the property, legally described as Block 4 plan 47092 in the NE 1/4 33-1-1W in the Municipality of Rhineland from "AR" Agricultural Restricted Zone to "RR" Rural Residential Zone as per attached schedule "A"


FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Stein, General Manager
 109.3rd Avenue NE, Altona, MB R0G 0B0
 Phone (204) 324-5357
 Email: manager@rpgamb.ca

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



Schedule "A"
 Attached to and forming part of By/Law No. 2022-03

Amending Schedule "A" of the Municipality of Rhineland Zoning By/Law No. 2021-06

LEGEND:
 Portion to be rezoned

From: "AR" Agricultural Restricted Zone
To: "RR" Rural Residential Zone

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CAREERS



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

TERM MUSIC & SENIOR YEARS TEACHER

FOR ROSEAU VALLEY SCHOOL IN DOMINION CITY, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

CAREERS



Border Land School Division invites applications from exemplary leaders for the position of

STUDENT SERVICES MANAGER OR STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

REQUEST FOR QUOTE

REQUEST FOR QUOTE

Ag-Quest Inc

Ag-Quest Inc. located in the RM of Grey 1.5 miles from the corner of Hwy. 2 and Hwy. 13, is requesting quotes for the construction of a 30 by 40-foot addition to its office facilities.

Interested parties can contact the facility manager David Pankhurst at

David.Pankhurst@agquest.com or (204) 436-3080 for more details.

Request for quote will remain open until tender accepted

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.



LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for property in the Municipality of Rhineland described below will be received by:

AVS LAW LLP

200-600 St. Anne's Rd.

Winnipeg, Manitoba R2M 2S2

PROPERTY (Land)

1. The W 1/2 OF NE 1/4 30-3-3 WPM

EXCEPTING

FIRSTLY- ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN.

SECONDLY - PUBLIC DRAIN PLAN 36760 MLTO

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 more of the above-described parcels of land. Offers to subdivide will be considered.
- Tenders must be received on or before 2:00 p.m. on May 6, 2022. A deposit cheque in the amount of \$10,000.00, payable to "AVS Law LLP Trust", must accompany each tender. 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 15, 2022, 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, 2022, and taxes shall be adjusted at possession.
- The purchaser shall be responsible for payment of GST or shall self-assess of GST.

For further information contact S. Tristan Smith at:

Ph: 204-254-3511

Fax: 204-257-5139

Email: Tristan@avdkslaw.ca



CARRIERS WANTED

to deliver

The Winkler Morden
Voice
and Flyers in the
City of Winkler

For more info please contact
Christy at 1-204-467-5836

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Bush Pilot required at Slims Cabins

-located along the Churchill River, near Sandy Bay, SK. Cessna 180.
-Maintenance skills an asset.
-Personal hunting perks available.
-To apply, call 204 937 4007.

McSherry Auctions

12 Patterson Dr., Stonewall, MB

Online Timed Auctions @ iCollector.com

Estate & Moving
Closes Wed May 4 @ 7:00PM

Estate & Moving
Closes Wed May 18 @ 7:00PM

Consignments Welcome!

(204) 467-1858 or (204) 886-7027
www.mcsherryauction.com

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Marymound's Treatment Foster Care Program (TFC) is seeking treatment foster parents.

TFC provides children and youth with a therapeutic home environment to grow, develop and experience belonging. Caregiving can be carried out by individuals, couples and families. Training and support provided by Marymound Clinical Case Managers.

For more info, please visit www.marymound.com or email fostercareinfo@marymound.com

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Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING?

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www.kaldecktrailers.com



Join the fight against Prostate Cancer

RIDE DAY
Saturday
May 28, 2022

10am
Earls Polo Park (Winnipeg)

Visit ridefordad.ca/manitoba

to register or make a pledge

CAREERS



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

TERM EARLY YEARS TEACHER (0.6 FTE)

FOR RIDGEVILLE COLONY SCHOOL AT RIDGEVILLE COLONY

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

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www.mcna.com

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The Voice
Call 467-5836 Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

EMPLOYMENT

Farm King

INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN WELDING?
No experience required!

Farm King Morden is offering the opportunity for on the job training to become a welder. You will be hired to work alongside skilled welders in the prep department where you will be taught the weld process from the ground up, earning a starting wage of \$18.25/hr. Receive 2 hours per day of on the job weld training and after 8 weeks you will be given a practical and written weld test. Once passed, you will be officially transferred into our welding department with a wage increase to \$23/hr.

Training includes:

- 2 hours per day of paid training
- Reading and interpreting blueprints and welding process specifications
- Set-up and operation of semi-automatic welding equipment for MIG welding application
- Inspecting welds for defects
- Operating plasma and oxy acetylene cutting torch
- Performing minor maintenance repairs of welding equipment
- Additional time to practice (after hours)
- Safety training
- Working alongside experienced welders

Working Conditions:

- 40 hour work week
- Extremely hot material and intense light
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required
- Long periods of standing and walking
- Light to heavy lifting required

Benefits of working at Farm King:

- Competitive wages
- Optional pension plan matched by Farm King
- Discretionary days
- Opportunity for overtime
- Subsidized safety boots and prescription safety glasses
- Dental and health spending account
- Cash incentives
- Safety rewards
- Evening Shift employees received a \$3.00/hr premium

If interested apply to careers@buhlerindustries.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE



CORPORATE SERVICES
Finance & Administration

185 Main Street,
Winkler, MB, R6W 1B4
204-325-9524
204-325-5915

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding By-Law No. 2279-22 for Revised Water and Wastewater Rates

The Council of the City of Winkler has scheduled a public hearing at Winkler City Hall, 185 Main Street, Winkler, MB on the 10th day of May, 2022 at 6.30 p.m. to present the Revised Water and Wastewater Rates.

The City of Winkler is responsible for setting the water and sewer rates for their Utility. The utility consists of both old and new infrastructure, with plans for major investments in a new wastewater treatment plant as well as a water treatment plant expansion. The aggressive growth in the community is driving the need to expand and upgrade the utility, this aggressive growth is anticipated to continue into the foreseeable future.

The City produces ~ 70% of its own water supply and purchases the remaining ~30% of the supply from the Pembina Water Cooperative. Therefore, the City is accustomed to passthrough charges as PVWC rates increase.

Although the current rates have been in effect since 2012 and have generally been self sufficient, the pending WWTF and WTP expansion will significantly impact the City's budgets with new debentures, assets, and O&M costs. The main intent of this rate assessment is to provide a gradual rate process over the next 3-4 years as the new plants come online. The City's objective is to show a consistent stepped increase (~ 5% per year) to the projected rates required by 2025 for the new assets; avoiding a large single increase in 2025. The proposed interim rates should also be fair to customers while providing adequate revenue to the utility for operations, maintenance, and reserves for future capital and replacement costs.

Although the proposed interim rates may be approved for a three-year period; a five-year horizon was shown to project the utility into a more stable operating period. The intent is to minimize a drastic rate revision in three to four years when the utility is more stable and has more accurate historical operation costs.

The current rates and proposed rates are provided:

	Current Rate	Proposed 2022	Proposed 2023	Proposed 2024	Proposed 2025
Quarterly service charge	\$18.15	\$27.50	\$27.50	\$27.50	\$27.50
Water per 1,000 Imperial Gallons	\$9.98	\$10.18	\$10.21	\$10.23	\$10.28
Wastewater per 1,000 Imperial Gallons	\$6.42	\$7.13	\$7.84	\$8.54	\$9.25
5/8" Minimum Quarterly Charges	\$67.35	\$79.43	\$81.65	\$83.81	\$86.09
Sewer only for Residential Customers	\$69.51	\$85.54	\$90.22	\$95.82	\$101.50
Bulk Water per 1,000 Imperial Gallons	\$13.73	\$12.84	\$12.84	\$12.84	\$12.84
Reconnection Fee	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Hydrant Rentals (annual)	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00

Jody Penner, City Manager

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The Voice Winkler Morden

Call: 467-5836

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ads@winklormordenvoice.ca



BIRTHDAY



Happy 100th birthday
to Mary Friesen of Winkler!
-With love,
Anne, Bill, Mary
and all your many nieces and nephews

IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of
Lyle Meeks
who left us on April 30, 2018
Always loved,
Never forgotten,
Forever missed.
-We miss you,
Leona Meeks and family

ANNIVERSARY



65th Wedding Anniversary!
Sixty-five years ago, in spring of 1957, wedding invitations were sent to family and friends of Miss Hilda Heppner and Mr. Abe Driedger, to witness their union in marriage on April 28, 1957. Congratulations Mom and Dad! Thank you so very much for everything you have done for us over the years, in taking us to church to provide the basis of our faith, nurturing and providing for our needs when things were tight, and for loving us unconditionally.
We love you and are grateful for you both.

-Bev and Willie, Gary and Lisa,
Cameron and Susan and families

AUCTION

Auction for Alice Epp
1239 Brady Road
NE Of La Salle, MB. Strawberry
Farm Auction, Ford 3000 tractor
w/loader, 8 N , irrigation piping
etc. Closes on-line bidding
Fri., May 6, payment and pickup
Sat. May 7, 9 am to 2 pm
www.billklassen.com

Bill Klassen Auctions Ltd. Ph: (204) 325-4433
Cell: (204) 325-6230
Fax: (204) 325-4484

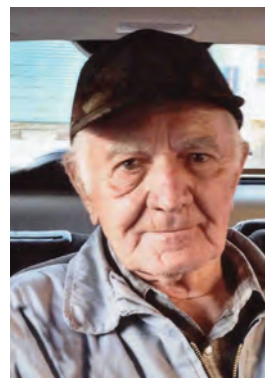
AUCTION

Household Timed Auction,
for Mr and Mrs Jacob Penner in
Schanzenfeld Village, Schantz
Street, shop and yard and
household items, bidding closes
Friday, April 29 payment and
pickup is Sat, April 30,
9 am to 12 noon
www.billklassen.com

Bill Klassen Auctions Ltd. Ph: (204) 325-4433
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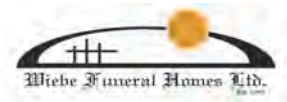
OBITUARY

Diedrich Unrau 1929 – 2022



On Saturday, April 16, 2022 at his residence in Thornhill, MB, Diedrich Unrau, 92 passed away.
He leaves to mourn his passing two daughters, Ann and Mary, two sons, Diedrich and Pete and their families.
He was predeceased by his wife, Mary (nee Friesen) in 2016.
Funeral service was held on Friday, April 22, 2022 with interment at Hillside Cemetery.
Donations may be made in Diedrich's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to Palliative Care.
Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com

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



CAREERS

CAREER OPPORTUNITY AT



COMMERCIAL SITE SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of and experience in the construction industry including the ability to read construction drawings and specifications.
- The ability to understand all aspects of the project scope.
- The ability to coordinate multiple scopes of work with sub-trades on a construction site to ensure productivity.
- Successfully supervised a construction workforce.
- Journeyman Certificate or Experience is preferred.
- Ability to demonstrate conflict resolution skills, problem solving abilities, and professional judgment.
- Communicates with the project manager/project coordinator in all aspects of the project to ensure final project completion that is on time and on budget.
- Effectively communicates with all sub-trades on site to ensure that performance, productivity, quality, and safety requirements are being met.
- Basic computer skills

This position is a full time opportunity with competitive wages and benefits package.

Resumes should be forwarded to info@lclconstruction.net
Applications can be found on www.lclconstruction.net

CAREERS

CAREER OPPORTUNITY AT



COMMERCIAL PROJECT MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of and experience in the construction industry including the ability to read plans and specifications.
- Ensuring that a project is constructed in accordance with the design, budget and schedule.
- Ability to provide direction to the site supervisor to ensure project completion.
- Detailed understanding of all aspects of construction, equipment, building materials, bid management, safety and quality.
- Ability to lead and run effective site meetings with clients, consultants, and sub-trades.
- Ability to demonstrate conflict resolution skills, problem solving abilities, and professional judgment.
- Basic computer skills

This position is a full-time opportunity with competitive wages and benefits package.

Resumes should be forwarded to info@lclconstruction.net
Applications can be found on www.lclconstruction.net

COMING EVENTS

GRACE VALLEY MENNONITE ACADEMY
Fundraiser
GVMA is a Non Government Funded Christian Private School

*****Drive Thru*****
Enchilada Supper
With Rice, Beans, Chips and Dessert

May 13 2022
5:00-7:00
Tax receipts available for donations of \$20 or more

Meal
3 Enchiladas,
Rice, Beans & Chips
Dessert included

WINKLER SOMMERFELDER CHURCH
189 2ND ST, WINKLER

OBITUARY



**Magdalene Wieler (nee Siemens)
1945 - 2022**

Magdalene Wieler, 76, of Winkler, MB, passed away after a long battle with dementia on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

Maggie was born in Altona to Henry and Margaret Siemens on October 14, 1945, the youngest of four siblings. She graduated from Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Gretna in 1963 and married Abe Wieler, the love of her life, on October 30, 1965 at Altona Bergthaler Mennonite Church. They purchased their farm outside of Haskett, MB in 1965 and farmed successfully for many years. Maggie spent many fall evenings bringing supper out to the field for Abe and later their kids during harvest season. She also played piano for a number of Abe's quartets, chiming in with her beautiful alto voice when she could. These hymns stayed with her through

the rest of her life, and once her disease robbed her of her memories, a chorus of How Great Thou Art or It Is Well (which she knew every word of) could always be counted on to calm and reassure her. Maggie's kind and caring nature made her a wonderful mother and grandmother. Family was important to her and Abe - they hosted many family meals, weekends, and trips to Grand Forks, Alberta and South Dakota. They also made many trips into Winnipeg and out to BC for many, many grandkid concerts and sports games. Maggie was also very creative, she made sure all her kids and grandkids were kept warm and cozy by her knitting and sewing. Some of the fondest memories her grandchildren have of her include many hours of colouring together, being taught (unsuccessfully) how to knit, and playing many games of Sorry.

Maggie was preceded in death by her parents, Henry and Margaret, her brother-in-law, John Klassen as well as her beloved husband, Abe. She is survived by her children: Preston (Myra) Wieler, and their children, Benjamy (Annaliese), Halle (Lyam), and Sam (Laura); Conway (Shanon) Wieler and their children, Cailey (Daniel), Landon, and Jay; Tara (David) Fehr and their children, Riley, Brayden, and Adam; Janelle (Jonathan) Sawatzky and their children, Ty and Dane. She is also survived by her siblings, Sara Sawatzky, Shirley Klassen and Ed Siemens as well as their families.

A celebration of life was held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2022 at the Fort Garry MB Church in Winnipeg with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens in Winkler.

The family of Maggie wishes to extend their sincere thanks to the incredible staff of Riverview Health Centre unit AB1. The support and kindness shown to us in Mom's last week as well as the exceptional care they provided for her during her seven months at Riverview meant the world to us.

We will miss Maggie (and her hugs) so much, but we take comfort in the fact that she is finally reunited with her husband, Abe, and her beloved Saviour. There was a joyful reunion in heaven on April 14!

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it someday for a crown

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



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Announcements**
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OBITUARY



**Katherine (Kathy) Pearl Muggridge
(nee Starkes)
1946 - 2022**

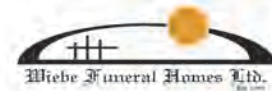
After suffering with dementia, Kathy peacefully passed away at age 75 in Manitou, Manitoba. Surrounded by her family on Friday April 15, 2022, our sweet matriarch joined the angels.

She was the daughter of the late Stanley Samuel and Janet Laura (nee Welcher) Starkes and grew up in Musgravetown, Newfoundland. Kathy treasured 56 years of marriage with her beloved husband, Geoffrey Muggridge. A devoted wife and mother, Kathy raised her family in Bloomfield. She originally retired from teaching in 1993 then taught an additional five years in Northern Manitoba after that. She enjoyed cooking, baking, writing, entertaining, boating, fishing, swimming, dancing, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Cherished mother to Mike (Peggy) Muggridge, Dan (Trudy) Muggridge, Angie (Jared) Muggridge; proud grandmother to Chloe (Corey), Becca (Chris), Robyn (Spencer), Tara (Brodyn), Keane (Camella), Griff, and Andrew (Mikaylie); proud great-grandmother to Ben and William. Dear sister of Dulcie (Merl) Feltham living in Newfoundland and brother Wayne (Rosallynn) Starkes of Calgary. She was predeceased by her sisters, Katherine Starkes (infancy death), Lizzie Starkes, Effie Dafoe, Betty Wiseman (survived by Bill), Phyllis Philpott (Harvey), Anne Hancock (Les), brother Sterling Starkes (survived by Sharon). Sister-in-law Dianne (Roy) Bonnell and brother-in-law Don (Maxine) Muggridge are left to mourn. Kathy will be missed by her many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden. Ash interment and second memorial service to follow in Newfoundland at a later date. Video of the service is available on the funeral home website where condolences may be left for the family and memorial donations may be made in Kathy's memory to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba.

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



OBITUARY



**David Wolf
1939 - 2022**

On Monday, April 18, 2022 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, David Wolf, 82 of Winkler, MB passed away.

He was the third oldest child of parents, David and Anna Wolf of Chortitz, MB.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret (nee Dyck); son Kelvin, daughters Trish and Jolene and their families as well as six sisters, two brothers and their families.

He was predeceased by his parents, two sisters, one brother and two brothers-in-law.

Funeral service was held on Friday, April 22, 2022 at the Winkler, EMM Church with interment at the Glencross Church Cemetery. Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler

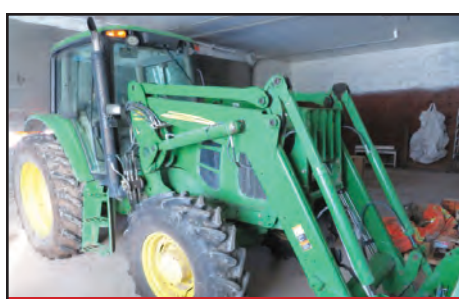
In care of arrangements
wiebefuneralhomes.com

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



Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

AUCTION



Estate auction for the late Jake Fehr. Timed online auction closing May 13, pickup and payment will be Sat., May 14 at his farm north end of Osterwick Village off the PR 201, West. 2009 JD 7130 tractor w/loader, 05 Duramax pickup, 2017 Artic cat ZR 7000 snowmobile, Hopper grain bin, crowding tub and all cattle equipment, and household furniture and appliances.



Bidding at www.billklassen.co./nextlot
Bill Klassen Auctions Ltd.
Ph: (204) 325-4433
Cell: (204) 325-6230
Fax: (204) 325-4484

COMING EVENTS

**V.M.A. Fajitas
Drive-Thru Fundraiser**

for Valley Mennonite Academy in Chortitz on Saturday, April 30th 4:30 - 7 p.m. at the Winkler Sommerfeld Mennonite Church 189 2nd St., Winkler, MB. By donation. Proceeds go to the general operation fund of the school. VMA is non-government funded. All donations greatly appreciated. Delivery is available in the Winkler, Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld area. For delivery please call (204) 331-1513 between 8 a.m. and 12 noon on April 30th to place your order.

Receipts can be issued
for any amount over
\$20.00 per meal



MENU
Fajitas
Beans • Rice



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**ALTONA & DISTRICT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Chamber Member
SPOTLIGHT

BUILDING SUCCESS LOCALLY

**Working to keep their customers
happy: Sentry Concrete Solutions**

Myron Penner has always had the desire to help people and is never satisfied unless his customers are happy.

He first started out at Borderview Landscaping, where he held numerous positions, including equipment operator, production manager, and coordinator.

Penner has since transitioned into his current role as general manager and co-owner of Sentry Concrete Solutions, where he's able to put all his leadership and organizational skills to good use.

"My father-in-law started the company about 15 years ago as a landscaping business, and then we became incorporated in 2013," he said. "I joined the company in 2011, and then we started this concrete lifting here in the spring of 2020."

Aside from a few projects last summer before selling off their landscaping equipment, the company has shifted its focus completely to slabjacking/concrete lifting.

All of the work that Sentry does is within southern Manitoba. Most of the work is primarily in Winnipeg because there are more people there, but



they also do jobs in Altona too and its surrounding communities.

Sentry was one of the few businesses that actually benefited in a way from the pandemic.

"If anything, we had a better year with more customers," Penner shares. "I guess with people sitting at home and having time to think about their yards and landscaping projects that they always wanted to do; they ended up coming to us. So business was good, and we didn't notice any downturns."

"I'm no financial forecaster, but I guess I'm a little cautious about the next year because I think the pandemic has affected the overall economy, and so I wouldn't be surprised to see a little downturn. But of course, we're still planning on having a good year of business."

One thing that Sentry wants to get across is that they are extremely customer-oriented.

"I know everyone probably says that, but we do really care about our customers," stresses Penner. "Our whole process, from the time you call our office or submit a form on our website, until we leave your yard, everybody in our company is extremely committed to making sure that your experience with us is remarkable and different than what most contractors give."

You can get in touch with Sentry Concrete Services at (431) 733-3996 or learn more online at sentryconcrete.com

We appreciate the Altona & District Chamber of Commerce for supporting and promoting our business.

The Herdsman House in Neuberghthal
Artist Residence and Guest House

Herdsman House

204-324-1612
margruitekrahn@gmail.com
4134 Rd 1W Neuberghthal, MB

Red River Mutual

Your Story is Ours to Protect

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204-324-6434

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Altona, MB
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