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VOLUME 3 EDITION 18

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All smiles

Altona and Area Family Resource Centre coordinator Nina Edbom-Kehler and Tim Hortons franchisee Rupesh Patel share a smile as they launch Altona Tim Hortons' first Smile Cookie Week. For the full story, see Pg. 11.

PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

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Altona hosting Emergency Preparedness Expo next week

By Lori Penner

Emergency Preparedness Week takes place in Manitoba from May 5-11, and this year's theme is "Be prepared. Know your risks."

In line with that theme, the Altona and Rhineland Emergency Management team will be engaged in their own efforts to ensure the public is prepared for the unexpected.

The Town of Altona will be testing their outdoor emergency warning siren on Monday, May 6 at noon. The siren will sound for four minutes and an emergency alert message will be sent to all those registered with the Altona CONNECT system via phone call, email, and text.

Altona Municipal Emergency coordinator Perry Batchelor says most people in the community are already aware that the town has an outdoor warning siren that sounds every lunch hour for a short time to make sure it's working.

"That's why we do the annual test, as well," he notes.

The emergency management team will also be hosting an Emergency Preparedness Expo on Thursday, May

9, starting at 6 p.m. at the Millennium Exhibition Centre.

The family-friendly event will give residents the opportunity to learn more about staying safe during an emergency, as well as the opportunity to see some of the community's emergency equipment up close.

Represented at the expo will be demonstrations and information booths hosted by the RCMP, Red Cross, Public Works, Altona Police Service, Altona and Plum Coulee fire departments and EMO, as well as the Hutterite Emergency Aquatic Response Team (HEART).

"Some of the RCMP search and rescue members will be there as well, along with their armoured emergency response vehicle. Their tactical vehicle will be there, and their canines," Batchelor says. "It's a hands-on event, with kids trying on safety wear, and can be used as a fun family event, where you can talk to your family about safety."

He noted that last year's expo was well-received.

"We drew a good crowd, and we're hoping to do the same this year. It's a great opportunity to see the equip-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

A youth gets to try on some police gear at last year's Emergency Preparedness Expo in Altona. This year's event is on Thursday, May 9.

ment used by local emergency teams and to talk to them about what they do to keep the community safe."

Batchelor encourages all residents to consider whether they're prepared to be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours of an emergency or disaster.

"I just think people need to understand the first 72 hours in a disaster is something they have to be prepared to look after themselves," he said. "The biggest question going into Emergency Preparedness Week that you should answer is, are you prepared? You can well imagine if we had a significant event, all of our resources are going to be stretched to the max, and it's important people have things like 72-hour kits."

An example of what a 72-hour kit should look like will be on display at the expo.

Batchelor also wants to remind residents to sign up for Altona Connect.

"It's on the town website. It's free and a great way to get direct information from the town office."

He notes it's also important for the public to attend events like the Emergency Preparedness Expo.

"It's an opportunity to see the resources that we can draw on in an emergency, and an opportunity to educate yourselves on what to do in an emergency. Make sure you have everything from canned food, to water, to a battery-operated radio, and perhaps a generator for your house. You don't know how long the power can be out if that was the case."

He adds that we often take our services for granted.

"We get significant winds blowing through here that can take out power

lines. It's really all about preparedness and peace of mind. Hopefully you won't have to use those things, but it's good to know they're there if you do."

The Municipality of Rhineland is offering a DUST CONTROL PROGRAM for 2024

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RRTVA celebrates its partners in hands-on education

By Lorne Stelmach

A program that provides paid work experience for students at area businesses was celebrated last week as a successful initiative.

The Partners in Education luncheon last Wednesday at the Winkler Quality Inn served as a thank-you to those businesses who partner with local schools to provide on-the-job training through the High School Apprenticeship Program (HSAP).

Offered under the umbrella of the Red River Technical Vocational Area (RRTVA), the apprenticeship program has been well received in the region.

"We've got lots of kids getting hands-on learning, and it's helping employers in the region, and those businesses are helping us by taking these students on and offering a career path," said RRTVA director Lane Curry.

"I support it wholeheartedly ... I would like to see this in every shop, every business, not just in the automotive field ... in every aspect such as plumbing and carpentry," said John Giesbrecht of Stars Truck and Auto



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Red River Technical Vocational Area invited businesses who partner with local schools to provide students with on-the-job training through the High School Apprenticeship Program to a thank-you luncheon in Winkler last week.

Repair Service, which has been involved in the program for 10 years.

HSAP is available across a wide region in communities including Morden, Winkler, Sanford, Altona, Rosenort, Morris, St. Pierre-Jolys, Dominion City, Vita, and Sprague.

There are opportunities for students to work outside of the classroom at a wide variety of businesses for pay and get a start on their apprenticeships, said high school apprenticeship teacher Reg Toews.

"Their hours start counting towards that particular trade ... and those

hours also count towards high school credit," he explained. "So for every 110 hours they work, they can also

apply that to a high school credit to help them graduate."

Continued on page 5

"WE'VE GOT LOTS OF KIDS GETTING HANDS-ON LEARNING, AND IT'S HELPING EMPLOYERS IN THE REGION ..."

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Beauty in Bloom raises \$50K

By Lorne Stelmach

The Beauty in Bloom fashion show fundraiser in support of South Central Cancer Resource last Thursday in Morden was once again a sold-out success.

Organizers know that they will net at least over \$50,000 from the event, but just as vital as raising money is raising awareness of both the organization and the impact of cancer.

"It is a special evening," said president Dianne Mestdagh. "I'm just feeling so grateful ... and we've had so many nice posts thanking us and telling us what an inspirational evening it was, so I'm feeling quite good about it."

"Our sponsors will have covered all our expenses, so all of the money raised from ticket sales and raffle tickets will go into program funds," she explained. "We are so grateful for all of the support we receive from the community."

The annual fashion show has been a major source of support for South Central Cancer Resource for over a decade.

Beauty in Bloom 2024 featured clothing and accessories from five local businesses: Fashions by Co-op, Knockabouts, Copper & Sparrow,

Livienne Bridal, Stephen Street Wear, and Focal Point Comprehensive Vision Care.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

South Central Cancer Resource's annual Beauty in Bloom fashion show last week saw models—many of them with personal experience with the disease—hit the catwalk in support of the organization, raising over \$50,000 for its programming across the region.

"So many of our models have either experienced cancer themselves or are walking in memory of family members and friends who have gone through the cancer journey ... or for people who are unable to walk for themselves," Mestdagh said, noting the wide age range of



the models is evidence of how the disease can impact anyone. "I think our youngest model was 14, so it does touch everyone. Cancer doesn't pick ages. It feels to me like there's very few families who aren't in some way impacted by cancer."

Stepping out onto the catwalk is a chance for family members and cancer survivors to share their stories,

Continued on page 7

"WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVE FROM THE COMMUNITY."

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Morden-Winkler MLA cuts ribbon on constituency office

By Lorne Stelmach

Supporters and local dignitaries gathered Monday afternoon for the official opening of the constituency office for Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert.

The office located at 367 4th Street in downtown Winkler plays a vital role especially for a rookie MLA like Hiebert, who was elected last year.

"Connecting with the community is my number one goal," said Hiebert. "I want to get out there as much as possible ... we want to make sure we're available."

The office will be staffed with a familiar face, as Tara Braun was formerly the constituency assistant in Morden for previous Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen.

Hiebert called it a privilege and a honour to represent Morden-Winkler

and says she's been eager to get to work in the Manitoba Legislature.

"I've already had the opportunity to do a lot of advocating for our community in different areas ... just to make sure that they don't forget about us rural people," said Hiebert. "That's really an important part of my job here as your MLA."

She has been on a break from the Legislature this week, so she was making use of the time to have a number of meetings and tour facilities in the area such as the Buhler Active Living Centre.

She acknowledged it has been a steep learning curve, but she feels she is more than up for the challenge.

"I've had opportunity in question period to ask questions of the current government about different things and concerns of our community, so



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Stanley Reeve Ike Friesen, Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens, Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert, Morden Mayor Nancy Penner, and pastor Weldon Yeo cut the ribbon on Hiebert's new constituency office in Winkler Monday afternoon.

that's been important to me, to advocate for our community. That's my number one goal," said Hiebert.

"Our main goal is to make sure we hold the current government accountable for what they've promised

and what they want to do and what they've said they're going to do," she concluded. "My goal is to work collaboratively always ... we need to make sure we all work together for the greater good."

> RRTVA, FROM PG. 3

The students are paid minimum wage plus 10 per cent, he noted, and there are benefits to the employers including a provincial tax credit program.

Toews sees a number of advantages and benefits to the initiative.

"I've had students who have enrolled in this program who potentially were at risk for dropping out. They found this as a way to re-engage into school and eventually graduated and have become red seal in their trade," he said. "To me, that is worth it in itself."

"Some students do it for awhile and they realize it's not what they want to do, and that's okay too because we believe that it's okay to learn what you don't like as well when you're looking for a career."

"So there's multiple reasons that students enrol in this program," he continued. "This is an exploratory program, and we hope that students can treat it as such ... I equate it to going to university or college. Most of these trades are considered four-year programs."

And it can be a better option for some students than the vocational programs of the RRTVA.

"They are complementary. One does not depend on the other," said Toews.

He values the support and commitment of the businesses that participate in HSAP.

"It's a sacrifice many times for employers to hire youth because they don't know what they're getting necessarily ... and they're training and investing a lot in this, so it's something we really wanted to recognize," he said. "We really value it."

"They get some extra funds above minimum wage, and the employer gets a kickback as well with a tax credit, so there's some incentives there to help them learn on the job, and they don't even have to be affiliated with our vocational programs," said Curry.

"This opens many more doors because we don't offer all 55 trades in our vocational stream," he said, noting the RRTVA programs have about 400 spots that fill up, and HSAP can potentially take in 150 to 200 students.

Giesbrecht first got involved in HSAP with his own son. He now has four employees who went through the program and is currently working with two more who are at level one and level two.

He noted it can be a significant commitment, but you are generally working with students who are really invested in learning.

"The ones who enrol in the apprenticeship program, they're looking at it as a career choice ... it's beneficial to them and also to us as an employer," he said.

"It is more of a commitment for the employer, but I think it's an asset that we appreciate," Giesbrecht said, noting he hired someone who was an appren-

"THIS OPENS MANY MORE DOORS ..."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

High school apprenticeship teacher Reg Toews says the program helps youth get a head start on their future careers.

tice carpenter to work on his house. "It is beneficial to the employers ... and there's tax credits or tax advantages that you get by going through the program."

"I think it's of tremendous value. For us, it's an asset."

The **Voice**

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The **Voice**

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



The concept of anxiety

Is it tick season yet? It's already tick season, isn't it? Sigh. I need to find a way to enjoy things and reduce the instinct to be critical.

"Sure, it's spring and summer is coming, but will we have enough water? Is it going to be too hot? Are we headed for a drought? You know what comes after spring and summer? Fall and winter!"

I mean, take a deep breath and just relax, right?

It is a weird character attribute to ALWAYS be on the hunt for the negative. Personally, I'm not a huge fan of the drive because it exhausts people.

"Ugh. Those people with their 18 kids just set up a mere 21 meters from us."

"Can't you just enjoy the beach?" Part of the issue rests with the fact that almost everything that enters my head immediately exits through my mouth.

"I cannot believe that guy didn't signal his turn ... what a moron."

I have improved over the years. I was a nightmare in high school and university. Thankfully something of a filter or firewall has developed that at least gives me a modicum of a delay so that I can think before launching immediately into a rant.

The weird thing is I am an optimist.

One would think that the high volume of critical content that flows almost ceaselessly from my mouth

would be based on being a pessimist. At least that would be a reasonable excuse. But no—I am very much the rose-coloured glasses wearing optimist.

This leads me to believe that it rests in an inherited family trait: anxiety.

Anxiety stems from a fear of the unknown. More specifically it grows out of an over-focus on the infinite number of ways things can unfold in the future, aka worry.

I come from a long line of professional worriers. I believe my mum would have been an NHL-level all-star worrier if such a classification existed. Let me put it this way: if worry could be harnessed and converted to energy, my mum could have powered all of Canada for at least a century.

I'm not near the professional level of my mum but I definitely have potential for the 2nd or 3rd round of the draft should there be any scouts reading this column.

I have learned that the key to reduc-

ing (if not eliminating) anxiety and worry is mindfulness. Having the ability in the moment to stop and take a minute to consider what is going on in your brain and slowly back away from the conclusions you are trying to draw.

I ask myself: what is the worst that could happen? How likely is that? What can I do to ensure that doesn't happen? These things lend perspective.

When the moment tends to be more critical and less logical (like loud beach families) it is even easier to deal with because typically the worst that could happen is I have to listen to the sheer joy of a family enjoying themselves—oh, the horror.

Coming to such conclusions in my head instead of out loud is good for everyone and has the positive effect of not driving every friend and family member into the hills for a little peace.

**"I ASK MYSELF:
WHAT IS THE
WORST THAT
COULD HAPPEN?
HOW LIKELY IS
THAT?"**

Letter policy

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

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

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

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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• DON'T MIND THE MESS

My heart still lives in that little house

My friends and I had a weekly ritual when we were little girls. Every Wednesday night at exactly 7 p.m., the rest of the world ceased to exist, while we watched *Little House on the Prairie*.

If there was anything else on TV, the rest of the family would just have to suffer.

Our full focus was on the life and times of a spunky little girl named Laura Ingalls, who lived with her Ma and her Pa, and her two sisters, in a tiny farmhouse near a town called Walnut Grove.

We cheered her on from our living rooms, following all her antics and misadventures, despising any character who stood in her way (aka Nellie Olson). We cried with her and laughed with her. Laura was my hero.



By Lori Penner

Unlike real life, every one-hour episode presented a challenge that was neatly wrapped up in an hour. And if it was a two-part episode, we'd have to somehow survive the week before we could find some peace and resolution.

God forbid that was the week that the old TV antennae decided to act up.

After the show, we'd all be on the phone, offering our critique of how the plot played out. The black dial phone on the wall in my parent's kitchen worked overtime on those nights, with a busy party line that drove our neighbours crazy. But it didn't matter—*Little House* came first.

We grew up alongside her, and still watched the reruns long after the series concluded.

We were all country girls at a time when being a country girl wasn't very cool. With her girlish bonnet and her tomboy spirit, Laura made country life look fun and even desirable, even though she also had chores to do every day, and church to attend every Sunday morning.

The series recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, which dates all of us *Little House* fans. But the little girl

in us, wrinkles, gray hair, and grandkids aside, still longs for those innocent days.

Laura Ingalls Wilder was 65 years old when she published her first *Little House* book, which the TV series is based on. Her life had taken her across the country, through real-life perils and tragedies. She wrote about those by-gone days in such a way that we were all there with her, in that cabin in the woods, or that shanty on the open plains. Obviously, I own most of those books, including every biography and DVD of the show. They still hold up, and bring a smile to my face on days where the smiles are hard to find.

Technology is truly magical, as I now follow Melissa Gilbert, the actress who played Laura, on social media and I'm part of her monthly book club. During a recent Zoom call, I even had a short conversation with her. It's embarrassing how starstruck I felt, and acted, but I think there are millions of women who would have felt the same.

While I didn't have the time or the money to attend the big 50th celebration at the ranch where the series was filmed, I am currently devouring every video or commentary about it.

So, if this sounds like an obsession, I offer no apologies. *Little House* offered a touchstone for me when the rest of my life was confusing and scary. There are timeless, old-fashioned values in that show and in those books that deep down, we all still want to cling to.

The opening song still has me running to the TV, where I can spend an hour in Walnut Grove, solving the world's problems in just one hour.

> SCCR, FROM PG. 4

Mestdagh said.

"I believe only two were returning models," she said, noting how the models are recruited throughout the year. "Our staff at the office kind of keep an eye out throughout the year for people who they think would be good candidates.

"Although we write the script, they gave us their bios. We send them a number of questions, and each year it changes a little bit."

The show is vital in terms of raising awareness that the organization is not government funded and not associated with Cancer-Care Manitoba.

Founded in 2003, SCCR relies solely on the support of community donors, volunteers, and fundraisers to continue offering services and programs to patients and families grappling with a cancer diagnosis.

With its client numbers continuing to trend upwards, it is really counting on fundraising efforts to be a success in order to continue helping all of those in the south central region who need support throughout their battles with the disease.

"It's vital for the fundraising aspect," Mestdagh said. "It's also vital to get the stories out into the community ... it's another way of letting people know what we do."

The evening also included the announcement that the fashion show will be moving to Winkler next year.

"We turned so many people away who wanted to buy tickets, so we will be moving to the Meridian Exhibition Centre next year ... it has significantly more capacity," Mestdagh said. "That show will be May 15 of 2025."

Letters

'BIGTIME' BLESSINGS

In this very cynical world where negativity and anger are an everyday occurrence, we find there are those very special folks who bring great hope and joy by their very loving and giving natures. Morden is most fortunate to be home to many such people.

Recently we noticed that the memorial tribute bench to our brother, Wayne "BigTime" Bergman, had gone missing from its usual home facing the Corn & Apple Festival Main Stage.

At first blush, our hearts were broken to see that as we approach 19 years since Wayne went Home, it seemed as if his legacy was no longer relevant. After all, we told ourselves, there is a whole new community who might say, "Wayne who?"

It was necessary for us to solve the mystery and see if the memorial still existed and to perhaps be able to purchase it. After many inquiries we

were thrilled and astonished to learn the beautiful truth of the story.

You see, a very special friend of Wayne's had noticed that the bench had become damaged and faded by time and the elements. This amazing woman is Cheryl Link, who decided to make it her mission to have her friends' memorial be restored to its original beauty.

Cheryl and Wayne had the same love and zeal for everything Corn & Apple Festival, she having served an incredible 35 years. Cheryl contacted Dale Stambuski, the committee president, who took up the cause and brought the project before the festival board of directors.

Now, with their generous approval and the expertise of Merle Block of Block Stoneworks, Wayne's memorial bench has been masterfully restored to its original beauty!

As Wayne cannot express his gratitude for himself, I know he would want us to do it for him. He and his

family thank each and everyone involved for their loving loyalty and support for this selfless gift in his memory. He would be so very humbled by it and being the softie that he was would shed tears of joy for such kindness which he would say was undeserved as he got such a blessing from serving the festival.

Wayne also nudges us to thank his wonderful group of dear friends and much-loved Swayback teammates who for all of these 18 years have put their hands into their pockets to sponsor a scholarship in Wayne's memory. True blue friends indeed!

There are simply no words to express Wayne and his family's appreciation for such "BIGTIME" loving kindness that all of you dear folks have gifted his memory.

Blessings to each one.

Wendy & George Penner,
for Wayne

Smile Cookie Week supports BTHC Fdn.

By Ashleigh Viveiros

If you've got a hankering for a cookie that'll put a smile on your face, the local Tim Hortons have got you covered this week.

It's Smile Cookie Week in Morden-Winkler, and this year's proceeds are going to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

"One hundred per cent of the proceeds from these sales will directly benefit our foundation, allowing us to continue our mission of supporting healthcare initiatives in our community," says foundation executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett.

She notes this is the first time the foundation has partnered with the local Tim Hortons on this annual fundraising campaign, and they're thrilled to be doing it.

"It's a great opportunity," she says. "It's putting us and our foundation and our healthcare people out in the public. I think it's a crucial time to build those relationships with everybody and to spread positivity—and

what better way than with cookies with smiles on them?"

Smile Cookies, decorated by restaurant staff and community volunteers, went on sale on Monday and are available through Sunday.

Both the Morden and Winkler locations are slated to have special guests volunteering onsite throughout the week, including Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert and Southern Health-Santé Sud CEO Jane Curtis.

"We're really going at it and we're super excited," Samatte-Folkett says. "We've implemented a lot of different ways to amp up the fun."

There are also some cookie challenges going on that should help increase the amount raised.

On Wednesday, May 1, the Menzies Medical Centre in Morden and the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre in Winkler are both doing a Pay It Forward May challenge. Each clinic will match the first 750 cookies sold at their local Tims.

"So it doubles the donation amount," Samatte-Folkett says, noting there are



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Pauline Villeneuve (left) and Angela Friesen Giesbrecht, flanked by (from left) Dr. Don Klassen, Bernie Thiessen, Ernie Penner, and Kip Faux, were hard at work Monday decorating smile cookies at Winkler's Tim Hortons. Proceeds from the sale of the cookies are going to the BTHC Foundation this year.

a few other businesses matching donations on certain days of the week, including Diamond Doors and Pembina Valley Physiotherapy.

"We hope this inspires others to 'cookie challenge' others and, as we are saying, 'keep the cookie rolling' with Pay It Forward in mind."

Genesis House, Aura Studio spin-a-thon coming up next week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Genesis House is teaming up with Aura Studio for a 12-hour Spin-a-Thon in Winkler next week.

Hourly spin classes led by Aura instructors will be held on Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with a member from each of the nine registered teams on the bikes for every single session.

"Each team is responsible for having someone on their team bike at all times," explains Sophie Gerbrandt, resource development manager for Genesis House. "In total we have 54 participants signed up."

This is a new event for the shelter, which provides safe haven for women and children fleeing abusive domestic situations.

"We're excited to bring a new type of fundraiser to the area," Gerbrandt says. "We're hoping to engage different people and just spread the news about Genesis House to a new demographic."

"Aura has always been an amazing

support for us, so it just felt natural to partner with them on another project," she adds of the Winkler studio, which offers dance and fitness programs.

Spots at the event went quickly when registration opened a few weeks ago.

"Our registration was full within a week," Gerbrandt shares, noting next time they'd love to expand the event to include more teams. "We were actually hoping to get a couple more bikes, but it's not something we have a ton of in this area. So we'll see if we can do it in the future, if we can increase the number of teams."

If you didn't get a spot, you can still support the shelter by stopping by the Meridian Exhibition Centre playroom next week Saturday.

"People can come by at any point during the day and watch and cheer

"PEOPLE CAN COME BY AT ANY POINT DURING THE DAY AND WATCH AND CHEER ON TEAMS."

Fish fry raises \$12K for YFC



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Youth For Christ in Morden had a very successful fundraiser with its fish fry last Friday evening. With dine-in or takeout and gluten-free options, the event drew around 350 people who donated over \$12,000 in support of the organization's various youth programs.

Winkler's dog park is moving to Scotia Park

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's dog park has found a new home in Scotia Park.

The old park north of Hwy. 14 beside the water treatment plant was displaced this spring as work got underway on that facility's expansion.

Director of community services Jordan Driedger says they've known that project was coming for some time now, so they've spent the past couple of years hunting for a suitable new space for the off-leash dog run.

"We've explored numerous options. We've looked at public properties, we looked at private properties. We've talked to homeowners, property owners ... it took some time."

They also consulted with dog park users, Driedger says.

"What do they like, what do they not like, what would they like to see in a new park?"

Eventually the city settled on Scotia Park as the best option.

Scotia Park is located off Scotia Drive in the south end of Winkler. The dog park will be set up on green space in the east end of the park.

"We feel that it has a lot of the amenities that we would be looking for," Driedger says. "It has trees, which would allow for shelter and shade. It's has close access to water. And it's very walkable, with lots of trails leading to it, especially from Pembina, the new trail."

It also has good visibility from Hwy. 32, which will help with safety and security, Driedger notes.

"It's just a nice location, a good spot," he says.

City staff will be repurposing the gates and fencing from the old park to set up the new one. A doggie water bowl will also be installed.

"We're going to work with our team here to get everything ready," Driedger says. "We're hoping over the next couple months here that we'll have it



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler's dog park—which has been displaced due to the expansion of the water treatment plant—will be set up on green space in Scotia Park this summer.

ready so that we can enjoy it throughout the summer."

Driedger acknowledges the new dog park is in a much more residential area than the old.

"That was definitely one of the considerations we had when we looked at all the different spaces and the impact that it could have on residents," he says, noting it was actually an area resident who suggested Scotia Park as a good place for this project.

That said, "there were some people that had some concerns about it, and rightfully so—it's a change and that's their park, and I get that," he says. "We're doing our best to work with them on mitigating any of their concerns, whether that's cleanup or safety ... we're going to do our best to work with the neighborhood there to make it a good experience for everybody."

Morden marks Mental Health Week May 6-10

By Lorne Stelmach

Mordenites are being encouraged to get active and engaged in their community as part of Mental Health Week.

There are activities happening daily at the Access Event Centre May 6-10, and a few of are already fully booked, so the interest is encouraging to organizers.

"Registration has been going quick,"

said recreation programmer Brooke-lynn Wolfe, who noted the paint night, yoga, and pilates events were all full, though people can still sign-up for the wait list.

"Last year was my first year of helping out with the Mental Health Week. We had good attendance," she noted. "And we're also able to do all of the activities for free because we had a budget for it, so that probably helps with attendance."

The week of activities are aimed at promoting mental health awareness and personal well-being through relaxation, fitness, and creativity.

Here is the schedule:

- May 6 - kids zumba, 5-5:45 p.m.
- May 6 - slow flow yoga, 6:15-7:15 p.m.

- May 7 - pilates, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- May 8 - nature photo walk, 6-7:30 p.m.
- May 9 - public skating, 6:45-8:15 p.m.
- May 10 - paint night, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Continued on page 17



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Morden's Mental Health Week activities include a host of workouts for all ages as well as a nature photo walk and a paint night.

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FTC brings 'Father of the Bride' to the stage

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Flatlands Theatre Company presents *Father of the Bride*



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Flatlands Theatre Company's Tina Fehr Kehler, Darren Kehler, and Jacinda Young run through a scene in the company's production of *Father of the Bride*, on this week at the Winkler concert hall.

at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler this week.

While many people are familiar with the 1991 Steve Martin movie of the same name, FTC director Jeannette Hoepfner says they're going back to the source material for this production.

"That movie was based off Edward Streeter's [1949] book which was the basis for a stage play in 1951," she shares, noting Spencer Tracy starred in a film adaptation in 1950.

The stage play, written by Caroline Francke, is set in the '50s and so is a bit of a departure from the modern version, as the '90s comedy updated the story to fit the time period.

"We're not quite as racy as they are in the movie," Hoepfner observes, noting some characters have different names or don't exist at all in this version of the story. "When we had auditions, everyone was like, 'I want to audition for Franck' [the wedding planner flamboyantly played by Martin Short in the film] ... there's no Franck in this one."

But the show is still packed full of laughs and family story beats that resonate no matter the decade, says actor Darren Kehler, who brings the show's eponymous character to life.

"Stanley Banks is a middle-aged man ... very devoted to his family, particularly his daughter Kay, who's his only daughter and his little girl who he refuses to accept is growing up and is planning to get married," Kehler says. "It's really difficult for him to come to terms with that, and he gets overwhelmed by all the hoopla and wedding planning and all the expectations and the financial constraints."

"He's a little emotional, a little on edge ... I'm sure there'll be a lot of fathers out there that will relate, and some young couples planning to get married that would relate as well."

"When it comes to weddings and everybody's trying to do what they want to do—whether the bride wants this and the groom wants that—there's always going to be

challenges that are faced," Hoepfner says, noting the 16-member cast of characters face it all with sincerity and plenty of humour. "The emotions that goes into preparing for something like this, what they're experiencing in the show for 1951 is what we all still experience today."

"Hopefully we can make everyone laugh at what's happening on stage, even recognize a little bit of the ridiculousness that can happen."

There are 7:30 p.m. showings this Thursday (May 2), Friday (May 3), and Saturday (May 4) and a 3 p.m. matinee show on Sunday, May 5.

Ticket information is available at www.winklerconcerthall.ca.

> SPIN-A-THON, FROM PG. 8

on teams," Gerbrandt says. "We are also having a bike raffle donated by Country Cycle, so people can come and support us in that way or take part in our 50/50 as well."

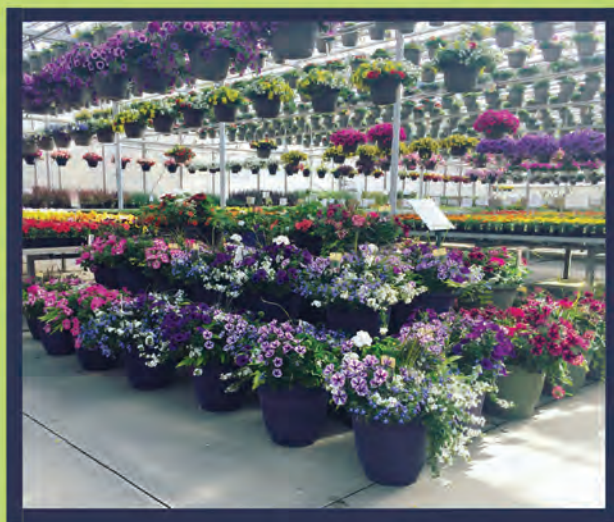
"It's going to be a party. If anyone's been to Aura Studio before, we're trying as best as we can to bring the vibe and environment that they've created within their studio, bring it over to the MEC."

"The music will be bumping, we'll have lights and decorations. We'll try to keep people energized for the 12 hours."

Funds raised will go towards ongoing programming at Genesis House, which not only provides shelter but also counselling and other supports to the victims of domestic violence.

"We're hoping that this is the first of many spin-a-thons in the years to come," Gerbrandt says.

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Altona Tim Hortons officially opens with a smile

By Lori Penner

Owners, supporters, developers, and local dignitaries cut the ribbon to officially mark the opening of the Altona Tim Hortons on Saturday.

"This is a very exciting event to be celebrating today," said Altona economic development officer Stephanie Harris. "Tim Hortons and Canada have a very symbolic relationship. The relationship chain has become the largest most recognized coffee franchise in the country.

"Last week I was in Brandon for the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce AGM and I can't tell you how many times I was tapped on the shoulder and congratulated for our community receiving a Tim Hortons. On behalf of SEED and the chamber, I'd like to thank Steel Creek Developers, the group of local investors, and franchise owner Rupesh [Patel] for investing in our community. Wish you much success."

Patel said business has been brisk since their soft opening earlier this spring.

"The first few weeks were just great. Even better than we expected. It feels so good to see this day finally arrive and the ribbon cut. Me and my whole



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Cutting to ribbon for the official opening of Altona's Tim Hortons are, from left, Altona EDO Stephanie Harris, Friesens Corp. CEO Chad Friesen, Tim Hortons General Manager Sunny Patel, Monica Patel, Franchisee Rupesh Patel, Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder, Borderland MLA Josh Guenter, Municipality of Rhineland councillor Brad Braun, Elmer's Manufacturing CEO Mike Friesen, and Andrew Rempel of Steel Creek Developers.

family are very excited."

Patel also operates Tim Hortons franchises in Swan River, Thompson, and Morris and says that has given him some good experience and knowledge in running the Altona location.

"It's a similar demographic, which has its own advantages and some challenges."

He said it's great to walk into the

store and see all the tables full, the till lined up with customers, and know that the staff is busy.

"It's a feeling I can't describe. That's what we work for everyday, and we've been waiting to see that for a year and a half."

So far, about two dozen people have been hired to work in the restaurant, and Patel hopes to hire another eight to ten, aiming to fill some of those

roles once the school year is over.

Meanwhile, Monday's grand opening also served as a kick-off to the Altona Tim Hortons first Smile Cookie Week.

The Smile Cookie beneficiary this year will be the Altona and Area Family Resource Centre (AAFRC). Cookies are on sale through Sunday.

Gov. general art award a crowning achievement for artist with Plum Coulee roots

By Lori Penner

As a little girl, Grace Nickel spent many happy hours exploring the trees surrounding her parents' farm near Plum Coulee.

"It was really just a wind shelter, so all the trees had been planted," the award-winning ceramic artist recalls.

"But to me, it was a magical forest, where I had all sorts of imaginative play. In a busy home with six children, this was my happy place. It shows the power of the child's mind. When I tap into all those early influences now, I can see how so much of the things I create started there."

She learned the value of hard work on that farm, where sustainability wasn't a new concept—it was a way of life.

"We had a huge garden. Everything was produced on those 10 acres. It just was what it was."

Her father also owned an excavating company, but still found time for creativity.

"He had sketchbooks lying around and did a lot of drawing. He was also a musician. As a child, it seemed quite natural."

Nickel's parents encouraged her interest in drawing.

"They bought me books, and I graduated to pastels. There weren't any formal art classes in school at the time."

Her earliest fascination with clay began at the site of her fa-

ther's excavations.

"I watched him dig and became aware of the beauty of Manitoba clay," she recalls. "The texture and the movement. Those things stay with you. Those were the early beginnings."

After high school, Nickel travelled across Europe, and decided to become an art teacher.

Continued on page 14



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY MICHAEL ZAJAC

Ceramic artist Grace Nickel is coming home to Plum Coulee this summer for an exhibition of her work at the Prairieview Elevator Museum.

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IN MORRIS MB



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

A day of wheels at the Altona library

By Lori Penner

The Altona branch of the South Central Regional Library held a fun-

filled day on April 27, focusing on "Everything Cars."

The day began with a mini car racing demonstration hosted by the South Manitoba Mini 4WD Club. The tracks were set up in the Altona Mall, just outside of the library.

Crowds gathered close for a front row seat to all the action and also had a chance to purchase one of their own mini cars.

The library also hosted a book sale, which attracted many bookworms,

and author and photographer Steve Van Vlaenderen (above, left photo) made a presentation alongside his partner, Darlene Hildebrand, discussing his book *Vanishing Wheels*. The book features photos of abandoned vehicles found throughout Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

Proceeds from the book go to Parkinson's Canada to fund research for the disease, with which the author and photographer himself lives.

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Turnbull Cup on tour

Winkler Flyers defenseman Connor Jensen visited Plum Coulee School on Monday with the Turnbull Cup. The Flyers won the Manitoba Junior Hockey League championship Friday night with a 5-4 OT win against the Steinbach Pistons, sweeping the series with four straight wins. Plum Coulee students got the chance to hear about the team's championship season and Jensen's background growing up in Spokane, Washington and working his way up to playing junior hockey with the Flyers. Above, right: Gr. 8 teacher Candice Wiens checks the weight of the trophy.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Smile Cookie week is on at Morris Tim Hortons

By Siobhan Maas

For another year, Tim Horton's smile cookies are supporting a community project in Morris.

Each spring, the Smile Cookie campaign awards 100 per cent of its proceeds over the course of the week to a deserving local charity or organization.

Phase Two of Willow Park has been chosen as this year's recipient, with cookie sales from April 29 to May 5 going toward the project.

Willow Park is the passion project of Janice Graydon and Melissa Lamotte. In late 2021, the pair put forward a proposal to revitalize a small play area existing beside the Morris ball diamonds on the south end of town. They envisioned a fun, inclusive, and accessible space where people of all ages could gather and engage.

With the help of many local businesses and individual cash donations, the Willow Park playground, one of the largest playgrounds in Manitoba, opened to community families last summer.

Lamotte and Graydon's dream didn't end with a playground. Phase Two of Willow Park includes a picnic shelter for 120 people with a BBQ rental area, canteen, water station, and two family-sized washrooms. Several picnic tables and benches will also be on site. The goal is to have this

phase of the project installed in the summer of 2025.

With heavy reliance on local businesses and a single \$50,000 government grant for phase one of the project, the duo "hopes to focus more on the grant process to fundraise for Phase Two," said Graydon. "Having proceeds from smile cookies this spring will help when applying for [those] grants."

"Smile cookies give the community opportunity to make a double donation," explained Graydon of the current promotional options the project is showcasing via their Facebook page, purchasing a dozen cookies and gifting them to a local school or community organization gives to the community while building Willow Park's picnic shelter. "The double donation allows grandparents to send cookies to their grandchildren, or families to gift cookies to their parent's care home."

At Saturday's Spring Fling market, all cookies pre-ordered by 3 p.m. were doubled by an anonymous donor and will be gifted to the Morris Food Bank.

"The Food Bank is always very appreciative of food donations," said Graydon.

Starting Monday, Rempel Insurance Brokers were saying thank you to the transportation and agricultural industries by providing two free cookies to



PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

Janice Graydon (left) and Melissa Lamotte from the Willow Park project gets an encouraging high five Bigway Foods' Pat Schmitke as he and Community Futures Triple R Corporation Shelley Johnston make their Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign pre-orders. Proceeds from this week's sales go to the project.

all truckers stopping at the Morris Tim Hortons and two dozen cookies that will be hand delivered by Rempel's partners to local farmers. There are also limited quantities at Rempel Insurance for pick-up.

Over 7,000 cookies had been pre-ordered at the start of the week. Each cookie is decorated with the trademark blue eyes and pink smile by volunteers organized by the receiving group.

"We have 40 volunteers helping decorate the cook-

ies at the Multiplex kitchen from Sunday to Saturday evening," explained Lamotte. "The Morris School student council and flag football team, as well as several individuals are helping."

Many smiles are guaranteed through this campaign, with orders accepted all week using forms found on the Willow Park Project or Rempel Insurance Facebook pages.

Cutting-edge zamboni



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In a groundbreaking move towards eco-friendly practices, the Town of Altona recently unveiled its latest addition to the Sunflower Gardens Arena: a cutting-edge \$145,000 electric ice resurfacer. "This electric zamboni not only helps us reduce our carbon footprint but also ensures better air quality within the arena," said recreation services manager Eric Hildebrand. "With zero emissions and lower operational costs, it's a win-win for both the environment and our budget." The vehicle is expected to serve the Sunflower Gardens Arena for about two decades, though the lithium batteries may require replacement around the 10 to-12 year mark.

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get informed

> GRACE NICKEL, FROM PG. 11

"I didn't have the confidence to think I could be a professional artist. I loved school, so I started with a bachelor of education program in fine arts, but I soon realized that was not for me. Sculpture was not on campus at that time, so I chose ceramics and became enamored of it. There was quite a dedicated bunch of us, who practically lived at the studio."

After college, her love of clay continued, but it was a long road. Nickel eventually found herself working at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, in their studio program.

"When I left the gallery, I always had teaching jobs in the arts, including a mentoring program for emerging women artists. But I always made sure I found the time and energy for the studio."

When the University of Manitoba implemented a master's in fine arts degree, Nickel spent two years in Nova Scotia for her graduate studies. It was here that her love of trees and her craft united.

"I was inspired by Point Pleasant Park. It had been hit by Hurricane Juan three years earlier, and 70,000 trees had been damaged. The people there were still devastated. I walked in the park and knew immediately that was going to be the focus of my thesis."

"IT FEELS LIKE COMING FULL CIRCLE."

The result was a tribute to the park called, *Devastatus Rememorari*. The porcelain forms are pieced together in sections, symbolizing nature's attempt to mend and rebuild the ravaged trees. The installation went on to become a permanent collection at the Black Gallery in Nova Scotia.

Nickel's 40-year art career is focused on sculptural ceramics and installation. She has gone on to claim numerous awards in competition and her work can be found in permanent collections in Japan, China, and Taiwan. She's also had numerous solo exhibitions in Canada including at the Winnipeg Art Gallery and at Altona's Gallery in the Park.

Last year, the ceramic artist was awarded Canada's most prestigious distinction in fine crafts: the Saidye Bronfman Award, one of eight prizes in the Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts.

Nickel received a \$25,000 prize and a bronze medallion and her contribution to contemporary visual arts was



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Grace Nickel's work as exhibited at the National Gallery of Canada in conjunction with her Governor General's Award in 2023. In the foreground is the piece "Pyres with Lifelines" while in the background are her latest works titled "Commemorative Cameos," which are inspired by historical Anabaptist pottery. Each ceramic cameo hangs on a printed fabric backdrop.

honoured by the Canadian Museum of History.

"For a woman of my generation to become a professional artist and a full professor at a university is a big accomplishment," Nickel reflected. "And now, receiving a GGArts is a crowning achievement. I'm also pretty sure that I'm the only Saidye Bronfman Award recipient who grew up in Plum Coulee, Manitoba, the same rural community as Saidye Bronfman herself. This is something I'm extremely proud of."

Today, Nickel continues to teach at the University of Manitoba, and works at a studio in Winnipeg's Exchange District.

She recently developed a

fascination for Anabaptist pottery. In 2023, she took part in a six-week residency at the International Ceramics Studio in Hungary, learning about Haban ceramics, which originated in central Europe during the 16th century by Anabaptist artists.

Nickel's next exhibition will take place this summer at the Prairieview Elevator Museum in Plum Coulee.

"It feels like coming full circle," she said, noting that she plans to display some of her work in Anabaptist traditions.

Looking back, she says she's been incredibly fortunate to have a career path that allowed her to follow her passions.

"It's really a lot of hard work; there's no magic to it. It's putting the time in, with the courage and conviction to keep that level high. That's the realistic image of the artist's journey. I do a lot of mentoring for emerging artists. It's important to encourage and guide and you need the affirmation, especially in those early stages. It's part of a process, and I'll just keep doing it. I've been fortunate to be recognized," she said, adding, "A walk in the forest is still one of my favourite things. Growing up, I had a pretend forest, and I'll always be grateful for that."



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The multicultural and educational centre "Leader" program educates its students about ecological problems, caring for our environment, and nature and protecting animals. As part of that, it held a kids dance fashion show called 'Endangered Species from the Red Book' last Saturday at the 500 Stephen community centre in Morden.

sports & recreation

Flyers sweep championship series

By Ashleigh Viveiros

For the first time in 26 years, the Winkler Flyers are the Manitoba Junior Hockey League champions, having swept their best-of-seven final series against the Steinbach Pistons with a thrilling 5-4 OT win in game four Friday night.

Dalton Andrew had the crowd in the packed Winkler Centennial Arena on its feet just 13 seconds in. Additional goals from Brody Beauchemin and Jayce Legaarden kept the Flyers in the lead 3-2 heading into the first intermission. Avery Anderson then made it 4-2 with the lone goal of the second period.

A Steinbach goal midway through the third began chipping away at Winkler's lead. The Pistons then benched their goalie for the extra man and managed to tie the game at 4-4 with just 39 seconds left on the clock.

A pair of slashing and high stick penalties four minutes into overtime gave Winkler an edge, allowing Zach Nicolas to get the game-winner a second shy of the five-minute mark to win Winkler its first championship since 1998.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Winkler's Dalton Andrew opens the scoring only 13 seconds into game four against the Pistons, bringing the capacity crowd to a deafening roar. Below: Fans cheered the team on as they worked to bring home the Turnbull Cup for the first time since 1998.

Goalie Malachi Klassen made 31 saves in net off 35 shots that game. His success between the posts through the series earned him the Playoff MVP award.

Flyers coach and general manager Justin Falk says the team is thrilled to have been able to bring the Turnbull Cup to Winkler for the first time in a generation.

"It's exciting for the community and

for the guys in the room," he says, stressing the team goes far beyond the players out on the ice. "There's the support staff—your security guards, your billet coordinators, your community relations coordinators, to all the board members that have given their time over the years. That's what it's really all about. Seeing the smile on their faces and having that feeling and experience is what it's all about."

The Flyers have been steadily working towards this moment for years, Falk says. He came on board as coach and GM in 2021.

"It's been a three-year process for

our staff and a lot of the players in the room, wanting to build accordingly to make sure that we were playing our best hockey at this time of year," Falk says. "We were able to do enough good things throughout the course of the season, especially down the stretch here. We've had our moments of adversity throughout the course of the season as well, so we were able to build some resiliency and some hardness in our character as a group as a whole and we were able to find a way through it all and come out on top."

Continued on page 17



Morden Minor Ball kicks off season with its new brand

By Lorne Stelmach

The rebranding for Morden Minor Ball is complete with an array of Morden Mudhens jerseys unveiled last Friday.

The event served as a kickoff for the season as well as an opportunity for people to buy Mudhens apparel and for the organization to say thanks to the sponsors who helped make the new look possible.

"They stepped up for us big time," said president Steve Mullin. "It's been a long process ... the jerseys are now out, so it's become real."

"This has been something that's been in the works for probably over a year at this point," he noted. "We started during last ball season while getting the wheels turning on getting a name, getting a brand, getting some colours together, getting some ideas, and that has really come to fruition here this evening."

The sponsors at the tee-toss level included Morden Agencies, Co-op, Little Morden Service, PKF Lawyers, Precision Land Solutions, The Brick and Morden Physiotherapy.

As well, Red River Mutual Insurance supported the jerseys for U9 and softball, while Access Credit Union sponsored the maroon jerseys, BP and Sons the yellow jerseys, and Elias Woodworking the grey jerseys.

Earlier Friday, the first jersey was presented to Joe Wiwchar in recognition of his years of service to baseball

in Morden.

"When it comes to having a solid association, having a good foundation to build on ... it starts by having a good baseball program, a good softball program ... we thought Joe was a big part of that," said Mullin. "There could not be anyone more deserving."

Mullin said there generally has been a positive response to the rebranding, which aligns with the name of the senior ball team.

"We didn't know what to expect ... there was certainly excitement. Any time you venture into something new, there's going to be some excitement, some apprehension."

"It has been embraced," he continued. "It was a necessity. We were at a point where we were running out of jerseys because we had that many people registering, and the jerseys that we had were old enough ... so circumstances came together where everyone said it's time to take the plunge."

And Mullin added there is excitement now around the new season for what he noted is the largest minor ball association outside of Winnipeg and Brandon.

"We're hoping that we just keep that growth going," he said. "To see the number of teams we have here, there's a little bit of bragging rights there. We're really happy with it. To have the numbers that we have that puts us right at the top of the list, we're pretty proud of that, and we're



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Minor Ball players got to show off their new Mudhens gear at a special launch event last Friday, where the public also had the opportunity to purchase clothing with the new brand (below).



going to work hard to keep it that way.

"The more players you have, the more volunteers you need," he noted.

"The support from the community has to be there, and they've stepped up for us big time."

Morris JV boys earn zone title

By Voice staff

It's been some time since a Morris school team put a banner up on the gym wall, but the Morris Mavericks junior varsity boys basketball team accomplished it.

After getting through the regular season undefeated in league play, the Mavericks beat the Westpark Royals in the zone four finals to take the banner.

This qualified them for the AA provincials at Immanuel Christian High School March 7-9, and they entered the tournament ranked seventh in the province at the AA level and were seeded 5th in the tournament.

Their first game was against fourth seed Warren, and the Mavericks secured the win led by AJ Guzman, who scored 37 points and won the

player of the game award for Morris.

The next match had them facing the number 1 ranked Souris Sabres. Morris played a tough and gritty game, but Souris came out on top and would go on to win the provincial title. Wesley Duke earned the Morris player of the game award for his hard work in the paint.

This meant Morris was battling for third place against second seed Carberry. The Mavericks fought hard and found ways to score against the potent defense of Carberry but came up short by 15 points. Ethan Funk earned the Morris player of the game award.

Morris ended their provincial tournament with a fourth place finish.

The Morris junior varsity boys Mavericks are: Nolan Bergstresser, Kaiden Darling (assistant captain), Tristan Dotremont, Wesley Duke, Gabe Dyck,



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Morris Mavericks JV team beat the Westpark Royals in the Zone 4 finals to take the banner

Ethan Funk, AJ Guzman (captain), Zach Hamblin, Sam Johnston, Brennan Sabourin and Jax Sanders. The

head coach is Kevin Stevenson, and the assistant coaches are Laurie Edel, Megan Thiessen and Rocky Musa.

> FLYERS, FROM PG. 15

The Flyers finished the regular season in second place behind the first-place Pistons, trailing them by eight points.

In the first rounds of the playoffs, Winkler knocked out the Portage Terriers in five and the Virden Oil Capitals in six, the latter series going to overtime multiple times for a decision.

"That was a tough series," Falk says of their head-to-head with Virden. "That was double overtimes, the quadruple overtime, the one-goal games, the nail-biters, the grind ... but we were able to rally from that and stay even keeled and be ready to approach the finals in a responsible way."

The road to Friday's championship win started with earlier victories against the Pistons of 2-1, 3-1, and 4-3.

Heading into game four up 3-0 had the players flying high but also feeling the pressure.

"There was a bundle of nerves and the pressure was all on us in this final game," Falk says. "The fourth one is always the hardest to get.

"Trying to keep them focused and playing within our structure and staying in the moment was a task, but these guys found a way to get it done.

"It's a testament to their hard work to go out and sweep a finals. I'm not sure the last time that's happened, and I'm proud of the effort they had."

Team captain Trent Penner said on Monday the fact that they are Manitoba's junior champs still feels a little unreal.

"It's crazy. It's been a surreal couple of days," he says. "I don't know if it's even really set in for all the guys. We have a truly incredible group here in Winkler, so I'm pretty proud of this group for being the team to be able to bring it back to Winkler."

The energy in the arena that night was electric, Penner says.

"It was incredible. The fans were good to us all season, and then when playoff came around it was truly insane," he says. "I think the doors opened at six [Friday] and it was probably 4:30 and there was a lineup outside the rink already."

The team really fed on that excitement, Penner says.

"I mean, we scored 13 seconds into the game, and I think that's the loudest I've ever heard that arena in all my time," he says. "I'd just like to thank the community of Winkler for coming and supporting us all season long ... we couldn't do it without them, and we really appreciate it."

The Flyers will now head to Oakville, Ontario to represent Manitoba at the 2024 Centennial Cup National Junior A Hockey Championship May 9-19.



PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Above: The 2024 MJHL championship team. Right: Goalie Malachi Klassen was presented the Playoff Most Valuable Player award by league commissioner Kevin Saurette. Below: The Flyers take a lap around the rink to thank the legions of fans who cheered them on not just through the playoff run but the entire season.

It's the team's first time vying for the Centennial Cup in decades, and Falk intends to have them ready.

"We've got some bodies that need to be rested up and some injuries that need to be healed up here in time," he says, adding that making sure "we find a way to keep our conditioning at a good level and our game sharpness and hardness at a level will be the job for us at hand through the course of this week.

"There's a lot of buzz, a lot of excitement, and a great national stage experience coming for these guys."

"I think we've really got a shot at doing something special there as well," adds Penner.

They'll start off by playing four preliminary games against four other CJHL member leagues. In their pool are the champions of the Superior International Junior Hockey League (Sioux Lookout Bombers), Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (Melfort



Mustangs/Flin Flon Bombers), Maritime Hockey League (Miramichi Timberwolves/Summerside Capitals), and the host, Oakville Blades (OJHL).



> MENTAL HEALTH WEEK, FROM PG. 9

Registration is required for all events except public skating. Head to mymorden.ca/mental-health-week to register for a program or be added to the wait list.

"Being active is a awesome way to boost your mental health. Even just getting together in the community is awesome too," Wolfe said. "There's hopefully something for everyone ... we tried to put a variety out there

for people.

"Having a speaker can be awesome, but it doesn't necessarily make some people inclined to join in," she suggested. "So doing everyday kind of activities, I think, can bring more people in and get them engaged.

"Mental health is important to everybody, and it affects every aspect of everyone's life, so putting in

that time and the energy to doing things that you enjoy is important," Wolfe added. "Taking care of yourself looks different for everyone of course. I hope that everybody can find something for them ... to take a moment and enjoy themselves, whether that's with friends or alone and meeting new people. Hopefully, people can enjoy connecting and enjoying our community that way."

getinformed

BTHC fundraising plant sale, barbecue coming up May 23

By Lorne Stelmach

Plans are in place again for the annual effort to beautify the grounds of Boundary Trails Health Centre.

The volunteer-driven initiative will be set to go with the fundraising plant sale and barbecue coming up on Thursday, May 23 at the hospital.

It raises the money that is needed to support the planting and maintenance of the flower garden on the front grounds of the facility. The event has some years brought in upwards of \$2,000.

Organizer Judy Stambuski says she always hears feedback about how much people appreciate the flowers that greet people as they come and go at the hospital.

"People are coming here from all over the province," she notes, adding that it is especially nice to hear from people connected to the palliative care patients, who have a view of the flower garden.

"Often there will be somebody come down from one of the rooms ... maybe they see me down there and they chit chat with me about how good the flowers look, and how their loved one has been able to enjoy it."

As always, Stambuski's effort is sup-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Proceeds from the May 23 plant sale and barbecue at the Boundary Trails Health Centre will go towards the floral displays on the hospital's grounds, which are tended to by volunteers.

ported by a number of local Hutterite colonies which provide volunteers both to plant and then maintain the flower garden, which is filled with flowers that are grown by the Miami colony.

"They always make it all look so fresh and nice, and that is the contribution from the colonies," Stambuski says, "and they really enjoy doing it."

She notes that many people may not realize this is all done on a volunteer basis.

"And it's all done through fundraising, not by the hospital. The hospital is not paying the tab for these flowers. I have to raise that money," says Stambuski. "People who know me know what I'm doing, and as soon as they hear about the plant sale, they

know that I'm looking for some money from here and there. Once they know that we're on the path of raising money, they seem to come out of the woodwork and support it.

"In the past, I've always had enough money to pay for the flowers," she says. "We also buy a lot of mulch because we do mulch by the emergency door ... and we replace those chips or dress it up every season."

Stambuski also purchases fertilizer, so that all means the costs can add up pretty quickly.

"I get more flowering, and they will flower longer and hardier for the whole year."

The effort could also occasionally include replacing a perennial and doing a few flower pots, but part of her consideration as well is to limit the time and work required for the hospital maintenance staff.

"As a rule, I spend pretty much every penny that I raise ... it's all spent on flowers, fertilizer, mulch and such," says Stambuski.

The May 23 sale happens on the grounds of Boundary Trails Health Centre from 9 a.m. to about 5 p.m. with a barbecue from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

There was table tennis action going on all day Saturday at the Access Event Centre as the City of Morden hosted a regional tournament. "It was a pretty good day for those who came out," said recreation programmer Brookelynn Wolfe, who noted they had about 20 competitors. The A division winners were Ninaad Bhatt with gold, Vic Klassen with silver, and Polina Sirotina with bronze, while the medalists in the B division were Rene Martens, Leon Hendrickx and Anne Bergen.

Table tennis action



arts & culture

Tooth N Nail returns to the stage for Notre Dame fundraiser

By Ty Dilello

Rising from the ashes of its previous life, local rock band Tooth N Nail is returning to the stage on June 8 for an outdoor concert at the Notre Dame des Lourdes Park.

The band was first formed in 1989 with members from St. Claude, Treherne and Swan Lake. Stephen Dunn, Alain Dedieu, Vern Van De Kerckove, Dean Desrochers and Michel Dedieu started their music gig playing at socials, parties and small-town bars.

In 1990, the band earned recognition at the International Pub Time Dart tournament in Las Vegas. This brought them into the Winnipeg music scene, where they competed in a battle of the bands contest and placed second to renowned Canadian group "The Watchmen." With a devoted following from their hometown of small town Manitoba, they caught the attention of industry professionals and landed full-time gigs playing six nights a week for several years.

Between 1990 and 1994, Tooth N Nail took the stage at numerous renowned nightclubs and festivals across Winnipeg and Manitoba. The band also ventured to cities like Calgary, Edmonton, Thunder Bay, Toronto, and Fargo for performances. Notably, they played for a crowd of 30,000 at Gimli's Sunfest.

In 1991, Burton Cummings was invited to see the band's performance in Winnipeg. To the band's aston-



Tooth N Nail band earned International recognition in 1990.

ishment, he showed up to watch the band and join them on stage for a memorable night of Guess Who favourites.

"We became friends, and Burton fell in love with the band," said Michael Dedieu. "He performed with us at some of Winnipeg's top night clubs, the opening of the Burton Cumming Community Centre, Gimli's Sunfest, a couple of Toronto's Variety Club Telethon viewed by millions, a concert as his backup band and offering us the opportunity to go to Los Angeles and record our debut album."

According to Michael Dedieu, the band experienced burnout and had too much of a good thing early on.

"It was so much fun, but maybe too much fun," said Michael Dedieu. "All



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL DEDIEU

After a long hiatus, local rock band Tooth N Nail is set to make their comeback with their biggest concert yet. Fans can catch them live at Notre Dame Park on June 8 in an outdoor show.

that did not put the band in a good state of mind to make sound decisions, which eventually led to our demise. Dreams, friendships and hearts were broken and shattered beyond repair."

In the early 2000s, the band reunited to perform at various shows and had the opportunity to open for popular Canadian recording artists such as Trooper, Prism, and the Queen City Kids.

However, the band then drifted apart for 15 years. Alcohol abuse was a contributing factor and they did not reunite until all members were in recovery.

In 2023, Tooth N Nail reunited and

resumed playing their classic tunes at multiple gatherings in southern Manitoba.

"Fate brought us back together, destiny you can call it. Musically things were a bit rough at first, voices were raspy, musical chops needed work but beneath that lied the magic. It was still there after all these years, an underlying comfort of knowing that this is what we are supposed to be doing and knowing there is something bigger than us that keeps bringing us back together," said Michael Dedieu.

On June 8 at 8 p.m., Tooth N Nail will take the stage for their largest concert since their comeback. The outdoor performance will take place at Notre Dame Park and is being held in partnership with the Notre Dame Ball Diamond Rejuvenation Project.

Tickets are \$40 and are available at participating retailers in Notre Dame, Swan Lake, Somerset, Treherne and St. Claude.

"All cylinders are firing, and the band is sounding as good as ever," said Michael Dedieu. "We love performing and hope to see you out for a night of music, love and joy. Let's make it a ripper and have a good time."

"ALL CYLINDERS ARE FIRING, AND THE BAND IS SOUNDING AS GOOD AS EVER."

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UPCOMING EVENTS
Siemens-Suderman Reunion Sunday, June 2, 2024 from 1-5 p.m. Program at 2. Plum Coulee Senior's Centre on Main 265 Main Street, Plum Coulee. Bring faspas/snacks and beverage for yourself. Contacts: Verna Pfrimmer at 204-626-3230 or vernapfrimmer@gmail.com Peter Suderman at 204-774-3312 or psuderman@shaw.ca

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2024-003 and By-law No. 2316-24, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2316-24, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

116, 126, 148, 154, 164, 172, 178, 184, 200 14th Street, 1414 Salem Crescent, 1475 Pembina Ave, legally described as Parcel A, Plan 72596 MLTO.

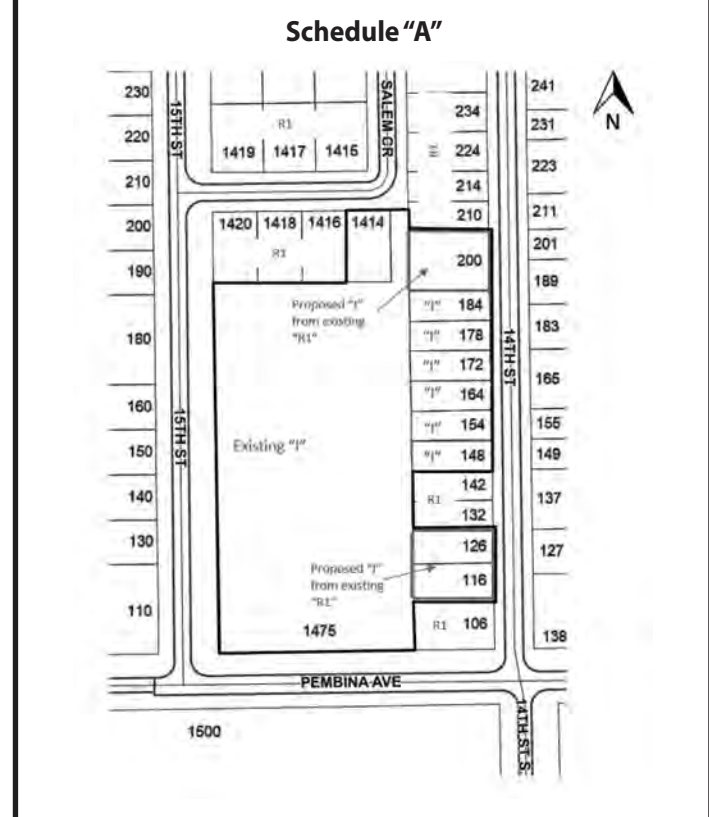
as shown outlined in a heavy solid line on the map attached hereto as Schedule "A", and forming part of this by-law, be rezoned

FROM: "R1" RESIDENTIAL LOWER DENSITY ZONE & "I" INSTITUTIONAL ZONE
TO: "I" INSTITUTIONAL ZONE

A copy of the above By-Law No. 2316-24 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

Date of Hearing: May 14, 2024
Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 8th day of April 2024.
Designated Officer, City of Winkler



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MORTGAGE SALE TITLE 2260154/4

MORTGAGE SALE

The land and building known as 8 Moline Drive E, Schanzenfeld, Manitoba, as described in Certificate of Title No. 2458950/4 will be sold at auction on Wednesday the 12th day of June, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. The auction sale will be held by way of video or teleconference. There will be no in-person attendees at the auction. In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Dan Ransom at either 204-988-0443 or dransom@tmlawyers.com. On the date of the auction, an email will be sent to all attendees at the email addresses provided. The attendees will need to follow the instructions in the email, which will include a video link or teleconference call-in information. The successful bidder shall have a period of 24 hours to provide the deposit in certified funds payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP and sign the auction sale conditions.

TO THE BEST of the Vendor's knowledge, the house is a Residential Detached, two-storey, 3 bedroom bungalow, 3 bathroom house built in 2010. The house has a living room, dining room, bathroom and kitchen on the main floor, with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on the second floor. There is a full unfinished basement, with poured concrete foundation. The house has forced air electric heat, electric HWT and full A/C, with 200 amp service. The house has a covered front porch, a sunroom and a deck. There is a double attached garage and front drive access for parking. The approximate lot size is 0.75 acres.

PRIOR ENCUMBRANCES: **Caveat No. 1085197/4**

REALTY TAXES (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to **December 31, 2023.**

TERMS OF SALE: a deposit of \$30,000.00 by way of cash, certified cheque or bank draft payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP, and the balance according to conditions which will be available for public view at the Auctioneer's address above prior to the auction. The property will be sold subject to a Reserve Bid of \$213,000.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 24th day of April, 2024 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale. The maximum amount of cash that may be provided as part of the deposit is \$7,500.00. The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca.

FURTHER information may be obtained from:

TAYLOR McCAFFREY LLP
2200 - 201 Portage Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 3L3
ATTENTION: Daniel Ransom
Phone No.: 204-988-0443
File No.: 114473-204

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the ESTATE of **SUSANNA SCHMIDT**, late of the Town of Altona, Manitoba, Deceased.

All claims against the above estate, supported by Statutory Declaration, must be sent, on or before June 14, 2024, to the following:

CAROL ERICKSON and DALE EUGENE ERICKSON
Personal Representatives of the Estate of SUSANNA SCHMIDT
c/o Franz Hoepfner Wiens Law Office
Box 99, Winkler, MB, R6W 4A4
DATED the 24th day of April, 2024. FRANZ HOEPPNER WIENS LAW OFFICE

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OBITUARY



Barbara Joan Allison (Ure)

It is with a heavy heart that the family of JOAN ALLISON announce her sudden passing on Sunday, April 21, 2024 at the age of 83.

Joan will be remembered by her husband of 61 years, John; children Leslie (Greg), Kent (Barb), Craig (Lindsay); grandchildren, Wade, Ryan (Amber), Courtney (Anthony), Colin, Tyson; siblings Ken (Tina), Shirley (Rob); and numerous other family and friends.

Barbara Joan Ure was born March 14, 1941 to C. Raymond and Greta Ure in Winnipeg. She spent her formative years and schooling in Morden, Manitoba followed by graduating from the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing. Married John Allison to begin a family and moved to Myrtle, Manitoba. Joan quietly went about with her special talents to help others as a 4-H Leader Myrtle Merry Makers, and tax specialist for many in the Carman and Winkler area.

Joan loved reading, the continual pursuit of knowledge, and completing crosswords and puzzles. She was ever the silent cheerleader of her family and grandchildren's endeavors. Nary one to be in the spotlight but from which everything flourished from her touch... a private, gentle, and kind soul.

-Love you forever Wife, Mom, Nana, Friend.

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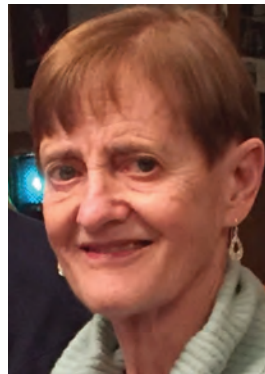
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OBITUARY



Tina (nee Banman) Schaak
August 1, 1942 – April 19, 2024

Tina Schaak, age 81 of Winkler, MB passed away Friday, April 19th, 2024.

Tina is survived by one daughter, Gwen Peters (Peter); three grandchildren, Kristin (Matt), Marcie, Ryan; and three great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, and her parents.

Funeral service was held Saturday, April 27th, 2024 at the Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church with interment followed at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

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



X CROSSWORD

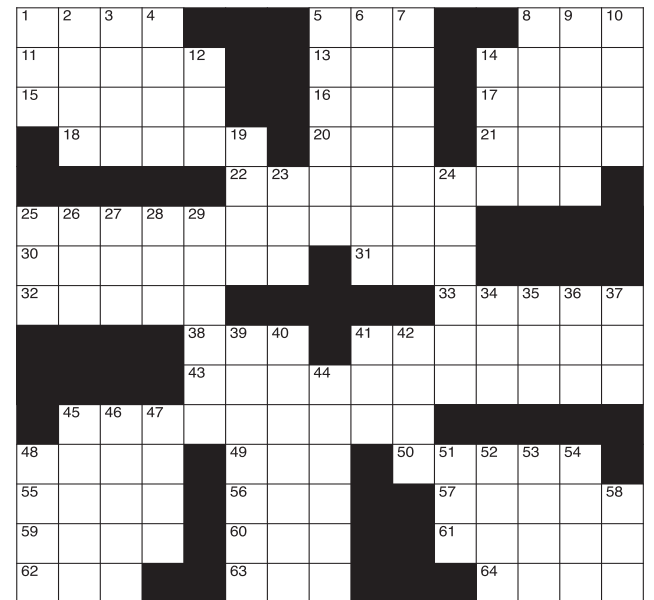
CLUES ACROSS

1. Lions do it
5. In favor of
8. Rest here please (abbr.)
11. Pulpits
13. Leisure activity
14. Fertility god
15. Financial obligations
16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
17. Spanish river
18. Sporting events
20. Type of tree
21. Ceased to be
22. Persons
25. Synthetic resin
30. Relates to photochemical reactions
31. Father
32. Former Cowboys coach
33. City in Finland
38. Run batted in
41. Got through
43. They darken skin
45. In a harmful way
48. Form of weaving
49. City of Angels hoopster
50. Caucasian language
55. Syngman __, Korean president
56. Sun up in New York
57. Paddled
59. Fishes
60. Affirmative
61. Nimble
62. Doctor of Education
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. A small island

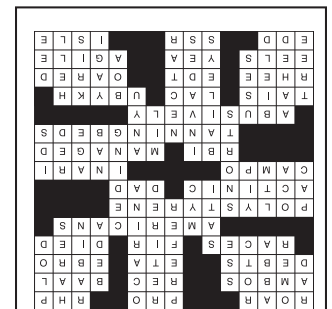
CLUES DOWN

1. Cool!
2. Hebrew unit of measure
3. Swedish rock group
4. College army
5. Favor over another
6. Called it a career
7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
8. Israeli statesman
9. Hurries
10. Slog
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Benedictine monk
19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
23. Family of regulator genes
24. Surrendering
25. Political action committee
26. S. American plant
27. Long-term memory
28. Bark
29. Breathes in
34. Take hold of
35. Everyone has one
36. Valentine's Day color
37. Drivers' licenses and passports
39. Outer walls of castles
40. Enters with force
41. One thousandth of an inch
42. Deceased Chinese politician
44. Sugary secretion of plants
45. Expressed pleasure

take a break
> GAME



46. Shelter
47. Utilizes
48. Forest resident
51. Fashion accessory
52. A sharply directional antenna
53. __ Kristofferson, actor
54. A bad place to end up
58. MLBer Gordon



Crossword Answer

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> MEAL IDEAS



Recipe courtesy of Albertsons

Total time: 30 minutes

Servings: 4

2 green bell peppers

2 yellow bell peppers

1 lime

1 medium red onion

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1 1/2 pounds raw, peeled shrimp, fresh or frozen

5 teaspoons Cajun seasoning, divided

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup ranch dressing

12 small flour tortillas

Preheat oven to 450 F.

Wash and dry green bell peppers, yellow bell peppers and lime.

Trim, seed and slice bell peppers lengthwise into thin strips; transfer to large baking sheet.

Peel, halve and slice onion lengthwise into thin pieces; add to baking sheet with bell peppers.

Sheet Pan Cajun Shrimp Fajitas with Bell Pepper, Onion and Spicy Ranch

Drizzle veggies with oil, toss to combine and spread in even layer. Bake until veggies have softened slightly, about 5 minutes.

If using frozen shrimp, place them in colander and run under cold water to thaw slightly. Place shrimp on clean towel or paper towels and pat dry.

Remove baking sheet from oven. Arrange shrimp over veggies then sprinkle with 4 teaspoons Cajun seasoning and salt; toss to combine and spread in even layer.

Bake until veggies are tender and shrimp are cooked through, 5-7 minutes. Remove from oven.

Cut lime into wedges.

In small bowl, stir ranch dressing and remaining Cajun seasoning.

Warm tortillas in skillet, oven or microwave, if desired.

Divide tortillas between plates and fill with shrimp and veggies; drizzle with spicy ranch and serve with squeeze of lime.



Recipe courtesy of Albertsons

Total time: 20 minutes

Servings: 4

2 bags (10 ounces each) cauliflower florets

18 ounces cheese tortellini, fresh or frozen

1/2 tablespoon salt

1 jar (24 ounces) marinara sauce

8 fluid ounces heavy whipping cream

1/2 teaspoon basil, dried

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

2 packages (5 ounces each) baby spinach

Fill large pot halfway with hot water, cover and bring to boil. Uncover then add cauliflower, tortellini and salt; stir for a few seconds. Cook, stirring occasionally, until just tender, about 5

Cheese Tortellini and Cauliflower with Creamy Spinach Marinara

minutes, or cook according to package instructions.

In separate large pot over medium heat, stir marinara sauce, cream, basil and black pepper to combine and bring sauce to simmer. Once simmering, reduce heat to medium-low and cook until slightly thickened, 3-4 minutes.

Wash and dry spinach.

When sauce has thickened, add spinach to pot in handfuls, waiting for spinach to wilt slightly before adding next handful. Remove from heat and cover to keep warm.

When cauliflower and tortellini are done, drain and add to pot with creamy marinara sauce; stir to combine.

To serve, divide pasta between plates or bowls.

Ask the money lady

Dear Money Lady Readers,

Most Canadians would define independence as being debt free, but how is that possible in a rising interest rate market?

If the cost of living and buying the basics becomes more expensive but your income stays the same, you will find it hard to keep up with the cost of living. This is a struggle many Canadians are facing now. According to a 2024 RBC Independence Poll, 81% of Canadians are worried about their cash flow and have "money concerns about today vs. tomorrow." So, what can we do about it? Perhaps we could help each other with this question. To all my readers, let's ban together to help one another. Please email me your ways of saving and coping now that the cost of living have increased. I will share your ideas with all Canadians next month. To get you started, here are my suggestions.

1. Planning for me would be my number one inflation buster. When we plan our future tasks, even our daily events, we take control and are better at ensuring the overall outcome. Try tracking your spending in a paper journal or on your phone for the next 30 days. I know this is a chore, but you will be guaranteed to find some things you can change to trim down your spending. You should also never go to the grocery store without a list. Can you meal-prep and plan your meals for the week so you know exactly what to buy without adding in the extras that stretch your wallet and your waistline? Budgeting your spending won't make the cost of essentials go down, but it can make the higher prices easier to manage.

2. Do you have a mortgage that is up for renewal this year? Normally I would not want you to increase your amortization on a mortgage renewal, but if it increases your monthly cashflow and makes it easier to cope monetarily for a few years, it could be worth it. Please remember to adjust your amortization back to the year you plan to retire once you are more financially stable. For those that are not renewing this year and have their mortgage in good standing, most financial institutions will allow you to skip one monthly payment per year without penalty.

3. Everyone should be taking advantage of the many cashback credit cards and rewards point cards now available. I use these cards continuously and love it when I can



Christine Ibbotson

pay for groceries with my rewards and cashback offers.

4. If you need dental care this year, why not take advantage of the CDCP - Canadian Dental Care Plan that is now available to all Canadians that do not have access to dental insurance and have a net household income of less than \$90,000. This program has a graduated application schedule which started in December 2023. If you are over 70 years of age you can apply in March, and those aged 65-69 will need to wait till May 2024. All remaining Canadian residents aged 18-65 will need to wait till Spring 2025. For children under 12, they are eligible now until June 2024, at which time it will open up to all children under the age of 18.

5. The Canada Carbon Rebate, formerly known as the climate action incentive payment, is another good benefit available to residents of Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick Newfoundland and Labrador Nova Scotia, Ontario, PEI, and Saskatchewan. Benefit payout dates for 2024 include: January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.

6. Lastly, remember the fastest way to improve your situation is in your potential to earn an income. Why not consider getting a part time job or even a new job all together? Did you know that the Canadian government will help with tuition fees for those Canadians wanting to retrain for a new career. To be eligible you must be between the ages of 26-66 and can claim the tuition fees to an eligible educational institution for courses taken to change your occupation, trade or to obtain professional licensing and certifications.

Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer, National Radio Host, and now on CTV Morning Live, and CTV News @6 syndicated across Canada. Send your questions through her website at askthemoneylady.ca

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