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# get informed

## Skyrocketing costs hobble Gretna arena reno plans

By Lori Penner

There's been a change of plans for the massive renovation slated for the Gretna Arena.

In April 2023, the Municipality of Rhineland got word it was approved for \$798,000 in project funding through the federal government's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program.

"We thought it was a really great project," said Reeve Don Wiebe. "It needed lots of work in a lot of areas, but it needed to be done. We had an engineer look at it, and he came back with a quote of about \$1 million. With \$800,000 from the federal government and \$200,000 from Rhineland, we thought we could do this project."

It was exciting news for council and the community, and the municipality quickly got to work with an engineering firm to put together the design and issue a request for proposals/tender.

Those high hopes were quickly dashed, Wiebe says, as things unfolded and the actual cost of the project came to light.

"When we had the final drawings from the engineer, and the one tender, it was a lot higher than we had expected."

The tender came back at \$1.6 million dollars, far higher than the original estimate of \$1 million back in 2021. This left the municipality with an \$800,000 dollar bill to offset the federal contri-



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

High costs mean renovation plans for the Gretna Arena have changed.

bution, again, more than the \$200,000 it was originally supposed to chip in.

"It went from an 80/20 split between the government and Rhineland, which we liked, to be more like 50/50."

While council had stowed away \$500,000 because of how long the grant process was taking, Wiebe says in the end, they felt another \$300,000 was just too much. As a result, council decided not to move ahead with the federal program or the tender that was submitted.

"It is disheartening because, initially, we thought for \$200,000, we would get a million-dollar upgrade there. This is a good deal. But it's just come to the point where it's just too much money to put in that place and we can't quite justify it," said Wiebe. "We went from \$200,000 to \$500,000 and we thought, this still works. But this sort of crossed the line."

However, improvements to the arena aren't totally off the table.

"At that time, when we did the budget, we knew that \$200,000 wouldn't be enough, so we added more money to the budget. We started talking to our staff. Council decided to get some local estimates to see what improvements can be done with the \$500,000 the municipality set aside, and start fixing up what we can," Wiebe said.

"We recommended council start looking at doors, and an aeration system and a dehumidifier. Start looking at those smaller pieces separately, and maybe not do the whole scale accessibility work right now but look at how we can improve things as we go. Maybe get a local quote on how we can fix the bathrooms so they're better, instead of doing a whole redesign."

One of the next steps forward, he added, could be fundraising enough money to put in a concrete floor.

"That would allow year-round usage, which would be pretty good. But right now we'll fix some things and keep plugging away at it. We absolutely have to make some upgrades. That arena is an important part of that community, and surrounding communities also make use of that space."

Rhineland is also applying for a provincial grant to try and leverage a few more dollars.

"It's a 50/50 grant that may help move things along a little faster. The big grant took too long. It's a long cumbersome process, and in the end, it didn't work for us. Working as a team and brainstorming is a part of what community is about. I like to think we're quite resilient, and we'll find a way."



**The Voice** What's *Your* story? Call 204-325-6888



# Leslie opens Winkler constituency office

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Portage-Lisgar Member of Parliament Branden Leslie cut the ribbon on his new constituency office at 2-915 Navigator Road in north Winkler last Friday.

The riding's local office has long been in Morden, Leslie acknowledged, but with new boundaries for Portage-Lisgar coming into effect in the next election, the time was right to relocate.

"Whenever the next election rolls around, we lose a lot of space on the west side of the riding over to Brandon-Souris," Leslie said. "So moving things over a little bit to a little more central location I think is going to hopefully serve all of our constituents well."

"So much of the work that we do is now remote, but it's still very important that we have a physical office space," he added. "A lot of what

an MP's office does is seen to be me in Ottawa and you go to talk policy, big-picture policy things. I talk to local municipal leadership to get a sense of what our priorities are.

"But perhaps more importantly, a lot of what happens is actually in the office behind me—the work that my staff do to actually help people. It's part of the more rewarding part of the job that is largely unseen, helping somebody deal with the behemoth of federal government, hopefully in a positive way."

That includes assisting people with paperwork for their permanent residency and citizenship, passports, and other government programs.

Leslie says his staff will hold down the fort at the Winkler office—he prefers to get out into the communities he serves to speak with constituents.

"I don't spend very much time in an office because that's not the best place to go and actually hear from people.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Cutting the ribbon on the new Portage-Lisgar constituency office in Winkler last week were Deborah Giblin, Martin Harder, Morden-Winkler MLA Carrie Hiebert, Cailey Leslie (holding daughter Maeve), MP Branden Leslie, Stanley Reeve Ike Friesen, Morden Mayor Nancy Penner, Winkler Mayor Henry Siemens, and Jenaya Hunt

I find it much better to travel around the riding ... and get a chance to talk to people.

"The most important thing that I can do is hear what people are concerned about, hear their thoughts, hear their ideas, hear their solutions, their prob-

lems, and my job is to take that back to Ottawa.

"Over the course of the summer, people can expect to see me in every town, big and small, right across this riding."

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# Winkler clinic welcomes new executive director

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre in Winkler welcomed its new executive director at the beginning of the month.

On May 1, Karen-Denise Cyr stepped into the role vacated by Terry Penner last December. Retired executive director Jim Neufeld had been filling in on an interim basis since then.

Chatting with the *Voice* after her first week on the job, Cyr shared a bit about her background in the health care industry and her excitement to be taking up this new challenge.

She comes to the role with over 25 years of healthcare administration experience.

"My background was working primarily in the field of emergency management," Cyr said of her provincial director position with Shared Health Manitoba. "So, preparing for emergencies and disasters that impact health services and responding to them."

It was a high-stress position that

well prepared her for the task of running such an active, busy place as the Winkler clinic.

"Working on an emergency response basis on a provincial scale certainly had its highlights," Cyr shared. "I was so privileged to have that kind of a career and to work with people that do such amazing, important work."

After retiring from Shared Health earlier this year, Cyr decided she wasn't ready to leave the workforce just yet.

"I transitioned to the clinic because I think I still bring a lot of knowledge about health services, the kinds of needs that our population has, the issues that we have to address, how to work with really complex healthcare teams in a complex environment to deliver at the end what is what people need most and to be there for them not just in their most difficult times, but also to be a partner in their health and wellness.

"This clinic works with physicians and surgeons and other clinical staff to deliver leading-edge medical practice," Cyr said. "They use technology in ways that are very innovative for any kind of clinic in Manitoba. That's really what attracted me to it."

Attractive as well was the clinic's partnerships with other health care professionals—dietitians, mental health workers, chronic disease management specialists, and more—to go beyond urgent care and focus on



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Karen-Denise Cyr is the C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre's new executive director.

overall wellness.

"Those teams are comprised of all sorts of allied health professionals that do things that really complement the work of physicians, surgeons, and general practice," Cyr said.

"I'm here because I think that this is a way for me as a leader to be able to help support the efforts of a clinic that are trying to meet the healthcare needs of its population," she said. "It's an exciting opportunity to work with people that I know are very passionate about [health care]."

The C.W. Wiebe Medical Centre currently has over 60 health care workers in a myriad of disciplines, including 41 physicians, but the need for more is ever-present.

"We have a lot of service providers, which we're very blessed to have, but we also have an increasing population, economic growth ... the need for services is increasing," Cyr said. "Unfortunately, this is all against the backdrop of, frankly, an international shortage of emergency and primary and surgical support staff."

It makes for an incredibly competitive recruiting environment. Cyr says finding ways to attract more health care workers is number one on the clinic's to-do list in the months and years ahead.

"It's an urgent and immediate con-

cern for us to recruit more physicians to the clinic. If we could, today we could take 10 more, so that speaks to the volume of patients that we have and the needs that are there, and they continue to grow.

"The limiting factors are, as I said, a shortage of trained individuals, but that doesn't mean that we don't need to be positioning ourselves as really an employer of choice or a region of choice for people that are considering careers right at the very beginning."

To that end, programs that bring medical students out to rural areas remain a valuable way to connect with future physicians and show them what our region has to offer them as they begin their careers, Cyr said.

Vital as well are continued community partnerships.

"The other ways that we can continue to position our clinic as being the place where people want to come and call home is really by partnering with our local community, businesses, chamber of commerce, our administration, our Winkler District Health Care Board, that are all trying to do things that are promoting what it's like to live in Winkler," Cyr said. "Because if a person sees that they have not just a place to work, but also a home to bring their family to, and if we can also offer the amenities that they need as a family—a sense of safety, a home that's affordable, schooling, childcare ... a person may accept a three-year placement to do physician services, but if their partner or their extended family that live with them aren't able to feel that this is their home, then they're going to start looking for something else. We don't want to be a launch pad for elsewhere."



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# Morden Teddy Bear Picnic is Sat., June 1

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Stuffedies of all shapes and sizes will take over Morden Park for the Morden Family Resource Centre's annual Teddy Bear Picnic next week.

The fun takes place on the west side of the park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 1. If it should rain, the picnic will be moved inside to the Huron Arena at the Access Event Centre.

"It's a free event for the whole community," says executive director Jen Froese. "We're doing the usual teddy bear clinic, so we're going to have booths for the kids to take their stuffie to get checked out by doctors, dentists, optometrists, physiotherapists."

It's a great way for kids to interact with local health care professionals in a fun, low-stress environment.

"And then when they go visit them in their actual clinic, they know who they are and not to be scared of them," Froese says.

The teddy bear check-up is just one part of the larger festivities.

"There will also be face painting, character appearances, an obstacle course, a craft tent, a storytime circle, and there's going to be the Morden Police and the Morden Fire Department there with their fire truck for the kids to check out," Froese says. "And, new this year, we're going to have kid buskers performing. So there's



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Morden Family Resource Centre hosts its Teddy Bear Picnic in Morden Park on Saturday, June 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

going to be different kids from the community showcasing their musical talents."

The centre is also organizing a fundraising lunch at the event where you can get a hot dog, drink, and chips for

\$5. Proceeds go towards MFRC's free early childhood education programs.

"Bring your family, bring your friends, bring your neighbours," Froese urges. "We've love to see the community come out to support us."

# Winkler sets its sights on building an indoor pickleball/basketball facility

## City council commits \$1.5M in land, funding to project

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's pickleball and basketball communities will soon have a new home to call their own.

City council last week announced its commitment of up to \$1.5 million in city-owned land and financial support for the construction of a combination eight-court pickleball/two full-court basketball facility.

"This is something that we've been lobbied on for some time," noted Mayor Henry Siemens at the May 14 council meeting. "The need has grown exponentially quickly in our community ... we're pleased as council to be able to support this."

Both sports currently make use of the various outdoor courts in the summer and the school gymnasiums through the rest of the year.

While Garden Valley School Division has been a generous partner in providing space for these and other community recreational programs, the growth of these programs has long outpaced availability, noted John Klassen, president of the Winkler Pickleball Association.

"School gyms are our most economical avenue, but we're pretty close to 250 players this last year," he said. "I can tell already from discussions with the school division that it looks like we're probably maxed out on our gym requests—we're looking at two gyms, four nights a week for next year.

"So what happens then is that other groups don't get to use that gym space ... it doesn't just affect pickleball—it affects everybody else, like volleyball, basketball, all the other court sports."

It can also be a challenge to access school gyms on the weekends, making large-scale tournaments difficult, Klassen noted.

A dedicated, city-run facility will alleviate all of those challenges.

"It gives us eight pickleball courts ... and it can be utilized during the daytime to maximize the facility when the schools just aren't available," Klassen said. "It's not just senior-driven, but there are a lot of seniors playing pickleball."

While seniors may be the ones most likely to use the facility during the daytime, the popularity of pickleball has exploded in recent years amongst players of all ages.

"This is such a great sport where a grandparent can play with their grandchild and actually have a pretty good competitive game," Klassen said. "It's a unique sport."

The Winkler Basketball Club's Walter Giesbrecht says the facility will not only allow them to significantly increase their programming—Winkler Minor Basketball currently has hundreds of youth registered for leagues—and offer a dedicated space for individual training, but it will also serve as a venue in which to build connections.

"On behalf of the basketball community, we are beyond thrilled," he told council. "When we build these buildings and we get these rec facilities, it's not an exaggeration to say it's life changing."

Giesbrecht recalled when the outdoor basketball courts were built in Winkler's Parkland in the early '90s, giving him and his peers a place to hone their skills, grow their love of the game, and build community.

"Many of you have grandchildren or nieces and nephews that are involved in [Winkler Minor] basketball, and I'll tell you where that was born: that was born at those courts," Giesbrecht said. "It's not an exaggeration to say the ripple effect of something that we're shooting for here is going to be felt for generation after genera-

tion."

There is still a long road ahead to get the facility built. The Winkler Pickleball Association and Winkler Basketball Club need to raise the difference between the \$1.5 million provided by the City and whatever the final costs of the project end up being.

They're still waiting for cost estimates to come up with a firm fundraising goal, but it's a safe bet that number will be in excess of \$1 million.

Continued on page 7

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• DON'T MIND THE MESS

# Remembering a mentor and dear friend

I've been blessed by many mentors in my life. Don Radford was one of them.

Throughout my 27 years in journalism, I have never met anyone as committed to the truth as he was. The quintessential news editor, he believed that every side of a story needed to be told, even if it ruffled a few feathers. And when it came to accuracy, he was pretty good at marking up the paper in red pen later, just to point out our mistakes.

I remember the day I applied for my first full-time job at the *Red River Valley Echo*. My youngest son had just started Kindergarten, and I needed something to fill my time. I was eager and raring to go.

The job interview included Greg Vandermeulen, who was the editor at the time, and Don, who was the chief editor, overseeing a chain of community papers. I had written freelance stories for years at that point, but alongside these two seasoned veterans, I suddenly felt like an imposter.

After a chat about my experience and expectations, they happily informed me that I got the job.

"I'm so excited," I exclaimed, to which Don wryly replied: "Don't worry. We'll beat that out of you soon."

The three of us chuckled, although my laughter was a little less hearty. Later, after advancing to editor myself, chasing stories, training journalism students, and seeing many papers

come and go, I knew what he meant. At the end of the day, it's still a tough job.

There's a certain "coolness" about telling people you're a journalist. But the parts you don't mention are the sleepless nights, the anxiety of getting a story right, and the family events you miss when you're off covering community events.

And of course, the deadlines, which can rule your life if you allow them to.

Don was the reason this column came to be. After writing a social news column for years, and seeing my personal comments eventually eat up most of the space, he simply said, "Let's just give you your own column already."

As colleagues, Don and I formed a professional friendship that extended beyond print. Semi-retired, the final days of his career were spent writing part-time at the Altona office. When midnight rolled around, and another press day loomed, he would finally pack up his notepad and head home, calling out, "Go home young lady, it's not worth it."

He was right. Stress and sleepless nights take a toll, no matter how passionate you are about your work.

Long after he retired, Don still took an avid interest in community events, but now, he could finally focus on life at home, with his loving, patient wife, his grown kids, and those beautiful grandkids.

We still met for coffee occasionally, and while our chats still focused on local events, and how the paper was doing, I could see his heart was still for my well-being.

Don't work so hard, young lady. It's not worth it.

Don passed away last week.

I was crushed by the news, and I'm still trying to convince myself that it's true. He mentored so many of us and set a standard of excellence we will always aspire to.

He was a decent, kind human being, who adored his family and found life and humans very amusing.

I will miss him, but I'll never forget what he taught me about priorities, living a balanced life, and how to keep marvelling and chuckling at the wonder of it all.



**By Lori Penner**

## 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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# Letters

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## THE CHALLENGE OF RETURNING TO OLD POLITICS

In the realm of politics, change is often likened to squeezing toothpaste out of a tube. Once the paste has left its confines, attempting to reverse the process and return it to its original state seems an exercise in futility. Similarly, the notion of reverting to old political paradigms, while daunting, is a challenge we must confront with both pragmatism and resolve.

In recent times, the landscape of politics has undergone a profound transformation. Ideological divisions have deepened, civility has eroded, and the pursuit of common ground has seemingly taken a back seat to partisan strife. The tube of political discourse has been squeezed relentlessly, expelling the very essence of cooperation and compromise.

But as we survey the aftermath of this tumultuous period, a growing realization dawns upon us: perhaps it is time to contemplate the impossible task of putting the toothpaste back in the tube. The allure of returning to a time when political discourse was characterized by civility, respect, and bipartisanship is undeniable. Yet, the path to reclaiming this lost ground is fraught with challenges and obstacles.

Like an indelible stain on the fabric of society, the

divisions that have emerged seem insurmountable. Reversing this trend requires not only a concerted effort from political leaders but also a fundamental shift in the mindset of the electorate. It demands a willingness to prioritize the common good and embrace compromise.

Just as technological advancements irreversibly alter the course of human history, so too do societal shifts shape the trajectory of political discourse. The Canada we inhabit today is vastly different from that of decades past, and any attempt to turn back the clock must contend with this reality.

Yet, despite these challenges, the imperative of returning to old politics remains as pressing as ever. For in the absence of civility and cooperation, our democratic institutions falter, and the fabric of society frays. The toothpaste may have been squeezed out, but the tube remains, beckoning us to embark on the arduous journey of restoration. If we are to reclaim a more perfect union, then we have to revert to the principles that underpin our democracy.

Josh Okello,  
Winkler

## CLOSING THE SUNCATCH

Morden council has decided to close 8th St. from

Stephen to North Railway streets again this year. Not to belabor the point, but just to let people know businesses (those most affected by the barricades) were not consulted about the impending action. They were told this is going to happen.

The meaning of consultation is: the act of exchanging information and opinions about something in order to reach a better understanding of it or to make a decision, or a meeting for this purpose.

Anyone who spends any time in the downtown realizes parking is an issue. Thirteen parking spots may not be much in a Costco parking lot but it is for downtown Morden, even if an alternate public parking lot is provided. The location may be of little use for those who use handicap aides to shop.

No doubt there is maintenance that needs to be done in the downtown area, but the proposal to spend \$50,000 on street closure is not one of them.

There are important things the city needs to be dealing with instead of wasting time and effort closing a busy block during the work week, particularly during the tourist season.

Closing the street is not a problem for regular (Farmers' Markets) and specially planned events.

Marilyn Skubovius,  
Morden

# Youth group puts call out for food cupboard donations

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler MB Church youth group is putting out a call to the community for help in filling the Winkler and District Food Cupboard's shelves next week.

The youth are setting up shop at the food bank, located in the Central Station Community Centre at 555 Main St., on Wednesday, May 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for a special Pay It Forward May food drive.

"Every year in the fall, all these youth groups from Winkler do food drives right before Thanksgiving where we canvas the town and we collect food in support of the food cupboard," says Jesse Yoder, NextGen pastor at the church.

Last year's campaign collected a record amount of donations, which helped the food cupboard meet the needs of hundreds of families through the holiday season.

It was a huge success, "but there's also more families than ever that need to use the food cupboard. It's an area of incredible need in our community," observes Yoder. "The need for food assistance never really stops. It's year-round.

"So we've had some conversations with the food cupboard about what

would it look like if we ran another food drive some other time of the year that's completely separate from any holidays, just to try to stock things up for them."

Pay It Forward May, a campaign that promotes acts of kindness, seemed the perfect time for such an undertaking.

The youth group doesn't have the manpower to canvass the entire community, so, instead, they're asking people to drop off donations at Central Station that night, and they'll be there to help accept and sort the items.

"Service opportunities and hands-on ministry experiences are invaluable for our students," Yoder says, noting it gives the teens a new perspective on the needs in our community while also providing them with the opportunity to do something about it while showcasing God's love.

If that evening doesn't work for you, donation bins are also set up to receive items in advance at both Central Station and the Winkler MB Church (120 Pineview Dr.) during business hours.

"The highest priority items right now would be rice, pasta, and pasta sauce," Yoder says. "Also canned fruit, canned vegetables, and oatmeal."

He says they're trying to get the word out any way they can about this food drive, and are optimistic the community will respond, as they always do, to the ongoing needs.

"If we could hit something like 5,000 pounds of food, that would be incredible," he says. "It would certainly make a difference."

## > C.W. WIEBE MEDICAL CENTRE, FROM PG. 4

"I think I have a unique perspective on this because up until very recently I would not have necessarily thought that I would be working in Winkler, because I have been based

in Winnipeg for so many years," Cyr shared. "As I met the team here, the executive, the physicians that interviewed me, they told the story about what it's like to live and work here.

## > COURT, FROM PG. 5

"It's a lot of money and it's going to be a lot of work," Klassen said. "It's going to really require some community input to generate the funds to make this happen."

They hope to pull the money together as soon as possible, Klassen stressed.

"If we fundraise for two years then the building will cost us another \$500,000," he said, pointing to constantly rising construction costs. "I hope it's sooner than later."

The location of the facility is also still to be determined. Council has provided the two organizations with

They were the ambassadors, if you will, and they made me see that this could be a place for all of us."

She and her family are moving to Morden-Winkler this summer.

a handful of potential city-owned sites, and they are currently weighing the pros and cons of each.

Details of the total fundraising goal, the location, and how people can support this project will be announced soon.



# Lace up your shoes in support of the Alzheimer's Society

By Lori Penner

Karen Braun's quilt tells a story. The neatly stitched patches reflect her 30-year journey fighting for those who struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

The quilt was crafted and designed by her good friend Dr. Karen Pain. It includes photos of herself with her fellow fundraising warriors—Team Altona—along with the front of commemorative T-shirts she's worn to various Memory Walks over the past 30 years. At the center of the quilt is a patch that will break your heart.

It's a photo of Braun, with her mom and dad. Her dad had just been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia.

"It was on my 50th birthday," she recalls. "He hadn't said my name in months, but on that day, he said it."

Three years later, he would be gone. Braun's journey with the Alzheimer's Society began after her grandmother, Susanna Friesen, succumbed to the disease in 1989. She participated in Winkler's inaugural Memory Walk with her mother and her son and has been a steadfast participant ever since.

"That got the ball rolling, and I started helping to organize a Walk in Altona in 1996, never realizing that in 2005, I'd be facing the same journey with my father."

For the last 12 years, the Altona Walk has been recognized as the top community walk in the province.

Braun's dedication to the cause goes beyond her participation in the walk. For years, she has been recog-

nized with the Alzheimer Society's Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award. It's hard to say how much she's raised for the society to date. Braun estimates it could be \$50,000 or more.

Despite the recognition, she remains humble, emphasizing that every contribution, no matter how big or small, supports this important cause.

With the help of South Central regional coordinator Rebecca Atkinson, she has restarted the monthly Alzheimer's support meetings in Altona, along with Team Altona, comprised of her good friends, Debbie Hildebrand, Leona Nickel, and Phyllis Friesen.

"I advocate for the Alzheimer's Society. I want to end the stigma around Alzheimer's and Dementia," she says. "I want to advocate for all our families who are dealing with this struggle. It's prevalent and it's everywhere. You don't know a family that hasn't been affected in some way."

Which is why Team Altona has organized their own Walk for Alzheimer's for 2024. They invite everyone in the community to join them at The Gardens on Tenth on Wednesday, June 5. Registration begins at 10 a.m. followed by a program at 10:30. The walk begins at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Braun says even if you don't donate, come and join the walk.

"It's still important to be aware of the Alzheimer's Society and the important work that they do. Events like the walk are not just about raising funds—they're also about raising awareness."

Turning back to the quilt, which will



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

From left: Karen Braun, Debbie Hildebrand, Leona Nickel, and Phyllis Friesen with the commemorative quilt on display in Altona in support of the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba.

be on display at The Gardens until June 5, Braun points out the printed Forget-Me-Nots which form the border.

"They're the emblem of the Alzheimer's Society. Pretty appropriate, don't you think?"

The money raised during the walk allows the Alzheimer Society to provide families with the programs, resources, and information they need to live their best lives possible, including one-to-one counselling, support groups, dementia-friendly programs, education sessions and more.

Atkinson says the fundraising done by Team Altona is incredible.

"I think their devotion reflects the large impact dementia has on people—so much that they want to help others via the fundraising and the support

that naturally happens when walking in solidarity.

"There are also walks happening in Morden's Tabor Home and Darlingford, open to the public and listed on our regional walk site," Atkinson notes. "Salem Home in Winkler is hosting a private walk internally."

"Hopefully others like workplaces are participating in a 'Walk Your Way' style. Volunteers are operating these walks just like Altona, and ASM is very thankful for their time and talents."

"We hope these walks help people realize they are not alone and utilize support from ASM and the community in the journey of dementia."

You can sign-up for a walk near you or support the cause with a donation online at [alzheimer.mb.ca/wfa2024](http://alzheimer.mb.ca/wfa2024).

# Access CU, Bombers promoting financial literacy

By Voice staff

Access Credit Union is teaming up with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to promote financial literacy.

The financial institution is giving schools across Manitoba the chance to win a special financial literacy workshop featuring a player from the Bombers.

The "Tackle your finances like a pro" workshop will be delivered by the

Access financial literacy team, along with a Winnipeg Blue Bomber, to teach students practical money management skills and tips. Giveaways and prizes will also be up for grabs.

"Access is excited to be teaming up with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to help teach students how to manage money, budget, and make good financial choices," said Larry Davey, president and CEO of Access Credit Union. "Our goal with financial liter-

acy is always to help empower people with financial knowledge and we believe that starts at a young age."

Access CU's Financial Literacy Program began in 2017, offering workshops to give people the knowledge and skills they need to achieve financial success.

"The Financial Literacy Program is a great initiative from Access Credit Union to empower and educate youth in our local communities," not-

ed Wade Miller, president and CEO of the Winnipeg Football Club. "The Winnipeg Blue Bombers are excited to partner with Access Credit Union and support this program in the years ahead to see the students benefit from these workshops."

The deadline to apply is June 30. Schools can do so online at [accesscu.ca/bombers](http://accesscu.ca/bombers).

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



# Crown Jewels from across the province gather in Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

It's a community organization with a difference, and its Manitoba members gathered in Morden this past week.

The Crown Jewels of Canada Society came here for a "get-together" rather than an annual meeting, so that tells you it is less about the formalities and more about the fellowship.

"It's the friendship and fellowship of being together. We don't have meetings, we don't have minutes, don't have [an] executive ... we get together once or twice a month," said Cheryl McKitrick, who is queen of the Crystal City Crazy Cats and also the Manitoba and Northwest Ontario rep.

"I think it's about getting together and having no commitment," she said. "I think it's just the fellowship and being together. You support each other if something happens ... you're just there as friends."

The organization has its roots in the Red Hat Society, a fellow social organization for women. The Crown Jewels came about in 2009 out of a desire to start a similar organization that was purely Canadian.

Founder Lynda Millard in 2019 received the Canadian Governor General sovereign's medal for outstanding volunteers

"She started it because her life was fulfilled taking care of her family, and she thought why not give herself to everyone," said McKitrick.

The group's objective is simply to

unite women across Canada in a social environment, offering friendship and support while taking time for themselves and walking away from the responsibilities of everyday life.

You can join independently or as a chapter. There are over 9,000 members across Canada right now, with 170 chapters nationally and 20 in Manitoba.

The local chapter is called Purple Madness Morden, its name coming from the requirement that members wear something on their head and dress in the colours red, white and purple.

Members have their own private website called The Jewel Box where they can interact each other, join on-line groups, find information on planning events, post photos, and more.

Members are invited to attend events across the country, including the national convention held annually in September and hosted by different provinces, but last week's gathering in Morden was the first provincial get-together.

There were 78 members on hand for the occasion, with the furthest coming from Roblin and Deloraine. There were 13 chapters represented ranging from Winnipeg and Brandon to Killarney, Crystal City, and Morden.

"We thought there's a lot of people in our region who do not go to the main convention, so we decided to do our own time together," said McKitrick.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Glenda Wall, vice queen of Purple Madness Morden, Joanne Thompson, queen of Purple Madness Morden, and Cheryl McKitrick, queen of the Crystal City Crazy Cats, at last week's get-together in Morden, which drew Crown Jewels of Canada Society members from across the province.

"Every woman is a jewel," said Glenda Wall, vice queen of Purple Madness Morden. "I joined when I retired to make new friends and have something to do, go for an outing."

"I just think it's the friendship," said Joanne Thompson, queen of the Morden group. "All of these ladies are just wonderful with the friendship and just caring about each other."

One member who was in Morden from Winnipeg is 93, but McKitrick

noted the organization is open to all ages.

"It's any age. A young group could be doing this, but a majority of us are retirees, widows," she acknowledged.

For more information about the Crown Jewels, check out their website: [crownjewelsofcanada.com](http://crownjewelsofcanada.com). You can also reach the Purple Madness Morden group via email at [thompsonjoanne123@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonjoanne123@gmail.com).

# Back 40 Mountain Bike Race coming up June 2

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The 12th annual Back 40 Mountain Bike Race takes over the trails around Lake Minnewasta in Morden on Sunday, June 2.


Country Cycle's Peter Loewen says the event draws riders of all ages and skill levels from across Manitoba each summer.

"The majority of people are from Winnipeg, but we do get a really good local contingent of riders coming out too," he says. "For a lot of locals, it's the only race they participate in during the year."


There are multiple races happening concurrently that day: an 80 kilometre marathon (five laps) and a 32 km route XC route (two laps), both aimed at experienced mountain bike racers, as well as a 16 km (one lap) route for newer or non-competitive racers and free kid's races.

"Our goal with the Back 40 is to get people to try racing," Loewen says. "A lot of people are very intimidated by racing, so by giving them that one-lap option—that's how I got into it. It's a chance to get your feet wet."

Continued on page 10



## Well Water Testing Program



Tuesday June 4th and Tuesday June 18th, 2024

Water Analysis Options:		
B1 Bacteria	\$25.00	Total Coliform & E. coli
N	\$45.00	Nitrogen-Nitrates & Nitrogen-Nitrites
Mi2	\$195.00	Basic drinking water - Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, Potassium, Manganese, Zinc, Iron, Nitrogen-Nitrites, Chloride, Sulfate, pH, Hardness and Conductivity
Mi2HL	\$200.00	Advanced drinking water quality - includes all parameters in the Mi2 tests plus Arsenic, Boron, Barium, Fluoride, and Uranium
Mi2HL+	\$230.00	All parameters in the Mi2HL plus Lead and Copper

**Sample Bottle Pick-up & Drop-off Locations:**

Drop off by 9am:  
PVWD office in Killarney

Drop off by 9:30 am:  
Municipality of Cartwright-Roblin office

Drop off by 10:00 am:  
Municipality of Louise office  
Municipality of Lorne office  
PVWD office in Manitou  
PVWD office in Altona Mall  
Municipality of Norfolk Treherne office  
R.M. of Thompson office  
R.M. of St. Francois Xavier office  
R.M. of Woodlands office  
R.M. of Grey office  
R.M. of Roland office  
R.M. of Rockwood office  
Redboine Watershed District office

Drop off by 11:00 am:  
R.M. of Stanley office

**Samples must be taken the morning of testing**  
**Watershed Districts will look after shipping samples to the lab**  
**Cheques made payable to: Horizon Lab Ltd.**



> BACK 40 MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE, FROM PG. 9

The Minnewasta trails offer a top-notch racing experience, Loewen says.

"I would say they rank amongst the top trails. The comment I get from a lot of people, people from the Manitoba cycling scene, is this is their favou-

rite event," he says. "People love the trails because you've got the lake and they are pretty high calibre trails

"Bang for your buck, they are my favourite trails in the area, and I would say that's probably the same for a lot of other people."

Loewen encourages experienced riders and newcomers to the sport alike to take part and see what the racing scene is all about.

"It's always a really fun day, to be part of that, to be a part of the cycling community," he says. "There's a lot of

energy and encouragement there."

Registration for the various races is open until Friday, May 31. The free U7-U13 kids races have same-day, on-site registration only.

Details are available online at [www.countrycycle.ca/races/back-40/](http://www.countrycycle.ca/races/back-40/).

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

# Paramedic Services Week

May 19 to 25

## A day in the life of a paramedic



Being a paramedic is more than just a job — it's a calling that demands resilience, compassion and unwavering dedication. Here's what a typical day entails for these frontline healthcare heroes.

### PREPARATION AND READINESS

The day begins with meticulous preparation. Paramedics must check their equipment, ensuring everything is in working order and fully stocked so they can respond to any emergency.

### ON THE FRONTLINES

Once on duty, paramedics are on standby.

They may receive a call to respond to a car accident, medical emergency or traumatic injury. Time is crucial as they rush to the scene, navigating traffic and obstacles to reach the patient as quickly as possible.

### CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS

At the scene, paramedics assess the situation and administer life-saving interventions. They stabilize patients, control bleeding, provide CPR and administer medications. Their quick thinking and expert medical care can mean the difference between life and death.

### TRANSPORT AND CARE

Once patients are stabilized, paramedics transport them to the hospital while continuing to provide critical care. They communicate with hospital staff to ensure a smooth handover and provide essential information about the patient's condition and treatment.

### ROUTINE TASKS AND TRAINING

Between emergency calls, paramedics engage in routine tasks, such as restoc-

king supplies, completing paperwork and joining training sessions to stay up to date with the latest medical advancements and protocols.

Paramedic Services Week is May 19 to 25. Take this time to celebrate these healthcare heroes who work tirelessly to save lives and provide critical care to those in need.



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# get informed

## Veteran memorials find their way home

By Lori Penner

A mysterious discovery has brought the memory of two fallen veterans back home.

During his work as groundskeeper at a St. Vital churchyard in Winnipeg, retired Lt. Colonel Alfred Fillion recently found two memorial markers. Inscribed on them were the names of Private Reginald Donovan Tennant, 21, killed in action in 1915, and Lance Cpl. William Schimnowski, 29, killed in action in 1916.

After some research, Fillion and his wife Madeleine discovered the soldiers were from Gretna and Altona.

Originally from St. Joseph and seeing the local connection, Fillion reached out to Perry Batchelor. Batchelor served with the Canadian Armed Forces for 17 years and now chairs the Altona Memorial Wall Archives Committee which collects, preserves, and displays local military artifacts.

"It's a complete mystery," says Batchelor. "We have no idea how

they ended up in Winnipeg. This couple did their research and found out that these two soldiers are listed on our town cenotaph and they're also on our Memorial Wall."

Fillion and his wife delivered the monuments to Altona, and the two cement memorial markers were given to the Town of Altona for display.

"They're in great shape, which shows they were stored indoors," Batchelor says. "You go out to any graveyard and find a headstone from this vintage, they're impossible to read."

Schimnowski is buried in France, and Tennant in Belgium, so why were the markers discovered in Winnipeg?

"Very often, families used to make these in memory of their lost soldiers and displayed them somewhere," Batchelorsays. "These must have

been mounted. In the backs, you can see they were broken away from a wall."

The Archives Committee recently met with town council to discuss two options for displaying the markers: either on the walkway leading to the outdoor cenotaph or extend out the bottom of the indoor Memorial Wall at the MEC.

Although the walkway would be fitting, the committee is concerned that these artifacts, which were likely produced shortly after the First World War, may be susceptible to vandalism and weather.

"The wording on them is quite clear now and would diminish with the weather," Batchelor says. "The recreation manager also feels that the area may have the feel of a cemetery if they were displayed there."

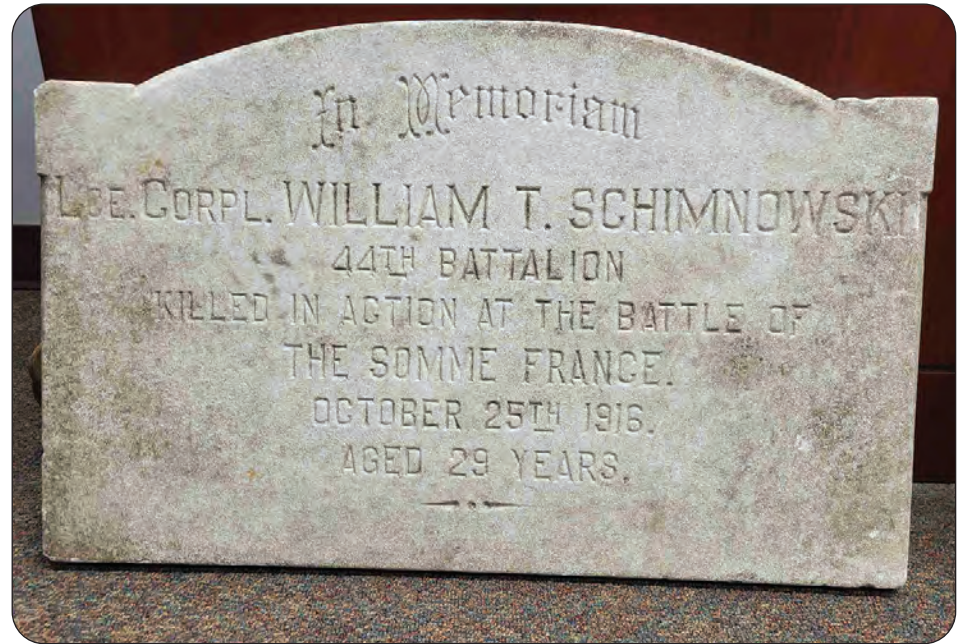
Building a display box at the base of the Memorial Wall is the preferred option for the markers.

"These have been preserved for over 100 years. To put them outside, they'll diminish over time. They'll be safer and last longer inside."

The idea is to build a box which would meet the current standards of the Memorial Wall with a plexi-glass top. The committee is looking at an approximate budget of \$500 to \$1,000 by seeking inexpensive or volunteer labour.

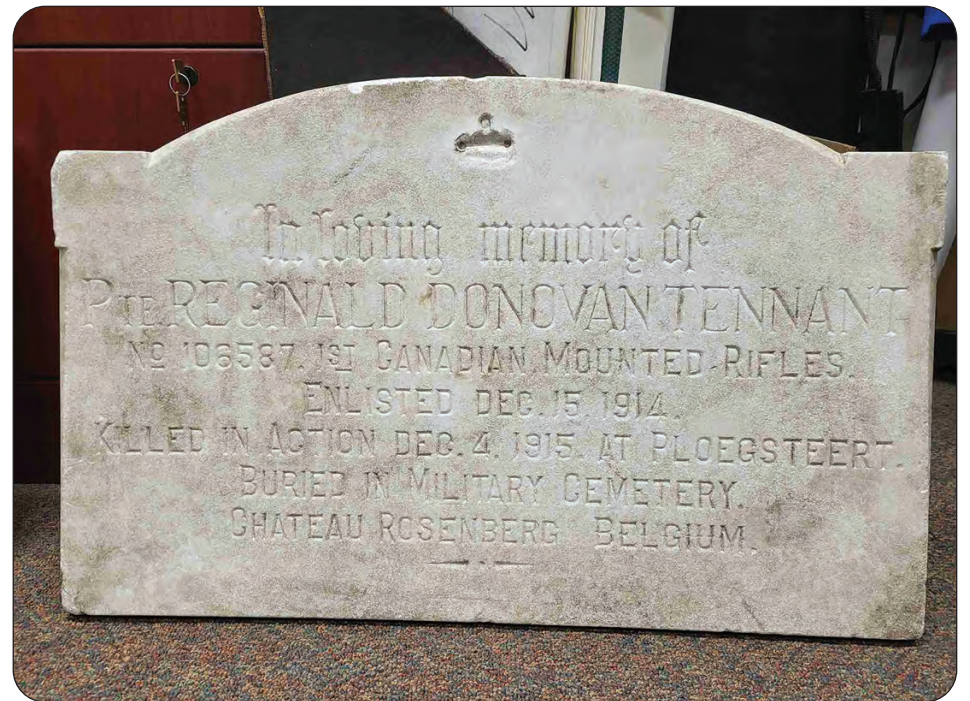
"The Memorial Wall was originally the idea of Harv Kroeker and Art Braun. Steve Penner had a lot to do with it. Conrad Voth built it. Since Harv and Art have been gone, it hasn't had an official curator," Batchelor says. "I asked that we build a committee who manages what goes in or around the wall and makes recommendations to council through the chair. Council has the final decision with what happens to the archives."

The committee, composed of Batchelor and four other local veterans,



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

These two memorials, created for a pair of Altona and Gretna soldiers who died in the First World War, have been at a Winnipeg churchyard for decades, but will now be put in a place of honour in Altona.



"THESE HAVE BEEN PRESERVED FOR OVER 100 YEARS."

meets once a month.

"We want to give this latest discovery the attention it deserves," he stresses.

They also want anyone connected to these monuments to reach out.

Continued on page 12

Pickup *Your* Community Weekly News at



IN MORRIS

MB





# Biking basics

PHOTOS BY  
SIOBHAN  
MAAS/  
VOICE



Maas Driver Training and the Morris Area Recreation Commission welcomed Manitoba Public Insurance bike safety course trainers to town last week to educate local youth on proper cycling etiquette. The free workshop drew dozens of kids to the Morris Multiplex Thursday evening to learn about proper helmet use, the use of hand signals, how to interact with vehicles and pedestrians, and other safe biking habits. The training culminated with an obstacle course that put what the students learned to the test.

## ENBRIDGE<sup>®</sup> Life Takes Energy<sup>®</sup>

Public Notice is hereby given that Enbridge Pipelines Inc. (Enbridge) intends to conduct the following Pesticide Program from June 1, 2024 – November 15, 2024, to control noxious weeds on Enbridge ROW's, temporary workspaces, stations, and various facilities along the Enbridge Mainline and Bakken corridors.

**The herbicide active ingredients to be used include:**

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- Bromoxynil
- Clopyralid
- Glyphosate
- Dicamba
- 2, 4-D
- 2, 4-DB
- Aminopyralid
- Propyzamide
- Indaziflam
- Chlorsulfuron
- Fluroxypyr
- Aminocyclopyrachlor
- Aminopyralid
- Difluzenopyr
- Metsulfuron-methyl
- Picloram
- Mecoprop-P
- Adjuvant
  - o Surfactant blend
  - o Solvent (petroleum hydrocarbons)

Any person may, within 15 days after the notice is published, send a written submission to the department below, regarding the control program or register with the department their written objection to the use of pesticide next to their property.

**Environment and Climate Change  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
14 Fultz Boulevard (Box 35)  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3Y 0L6**

## “They’ve come home”

From Pg. 11

“If someone has any information on where these came from, or knows any history about them, please email me at perry.batchelor@altona.ca. And if they’re concerned, please know they’ll be respected and valued in this community. They’ll go to a place of respect and will be preserved for many more years to come.”

Batchelor notes his own sentimental connection to one of the fallen soldiers.

“Lance Cpl. William Shimnowsky was in the same battalion as my grandfather, Lance Cpl. Archie Batchelor, of the 44th Battalion, WW1. They could have served together and may have known each other.”

So, maybe some things aren’t discovered by accident, he surmises.

“When you start having things like this happen, it’s like a hockey card collector getting the Gretzky rookie card. It’s just incredible. It’s a real honour to be able to work with articles like this. These soldiers have come full circle. They’ve come home.”

### What’s *Your* story?

#### We want to hear from you.

The Voice connects people through stories to build stronger communities. Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday? A young entrepreneur starting out?

Please share your story ideas at [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca) Phone 204-325-6888

*The* **Voice**



# Altona Burger Week returns May 27-31

By Lori Penner

Altona's Burger Week is back. Sponsored by the Altona & District Chamber of Commerce, the May 27-31 event will once again offer a wide variety of unique burgers to please your palette.

"It's an event people always look forward to and enjoy in the community," says Altona economic development officer Stephanie Harris. "The community always gets really involved in this. Summer weather is finally returning, and we're starting to think about barbecuing burgers. This encourages those burger lovers to head to one of our participating businesses to enjoy a special dish."

There are eight restaurants participating in Burger Week this year: the Altona Hotel, Potpourri of Flavours, Pizza Haven, To the Z, The Ice Cream Hut, Ang's Pizza and Bakery, Four Winds, and Oma's Kitchen.

"Each of them will have their own unique burger for you to try, with their own combinations and ingredients you may have never tried before," Harris says. "We're really encouraging people to participate. Go

out and order these burgers. Try them out and see what you think."

The sky was the limit for the ingredients, but the price point had to be \$18.99, including sides.

"Everything else is up to them," says Harris.

Not only do you get to sample some amazing burgers, but you also have a chance to win prizes.

"Buy a burger from one of the participating restaurants then take a selfie with it, post that photo on social media—either Facebook or Instagram or both—and tag the Altona & District Chamber of Commerce in that post," explains Harris. "We'll be doing three draws the following Monday. They'll receive gift cards from a variety of local businesses."

There's no limit to how many burgers you can buy or how many times you can enter the draw.

"We've seen families or groups of friends buy a bunch of different burgers at the same time so they can all try them together," says Harris. "They're quite substantial and large, and full of lots of different types of food. We've got everything from eggs to seafood, to mozza sticks. There are some very



FACEBOOK.COM/SHOPALTONA

unique items.

At the end of the day, the goal is to draw customers to these businesses and raise awareness of what they have to offer.

"Burger Week is good for business, which is why we like to host this event annually," says Harris. "Last year, 1,529 burgers were sold, for a combined profit of over \$25,000. It's a great economic boost to our restaurants. It creates repeat business, as well. We encourage everybody to go out and try them all."



## Fancy footwork

PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

Four weeks into their season, Pembina Valley Youth U10s met in Altona on Victoria Day for their weekly game day. Teams matched included Rosenort's Green and Blue teams playing against Altona's Silver and Yellow teams.

## Funding available to deter livestock predation

Eligible applicants will be reimbursed up to 75% of approved expenses up to \$10,000 for predator resistant fence construction and \$5,000 for pre-approved livestock predation equipment and guardian dogs.

To be eligible, applicants must have a paid livestock predation claim under the Manitoba Wildlife Damage Compensation Program in 2021 or later.

**Deadline for fence construction applications is June 14, 2024.**

[www.manitoba.ca/scap/resiliency/livestock.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/scap/resiliency/livestock.html)

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# getinformed

## Historic Pine to Palm Highway passes through Morris

By Siobhan Maas

Most Manitobans have driven Provincial Trunk Highway 75 not thinking of its importance as a main international transport and trade corridor between Canada and the USA.

They further may not realize the history of the roadway, which has several names, including Pembina Trail, Lord Selkirk Highway, and Pine to Palm (Jefferson) Highway.

Lou Erickson, resident of Morris, would like people to appreciate the significance of the route.

For the past several months, Erickson, a history enthusiast and member of the Morris & District Centennial Museum, has been researching the history of the portion of the Manitoba highway that runs from Winnipeg through Emerson and south to New Orleans, Louisiana, a distance of 2,732 kilometres.

What was general interest turned into a trip to Alexandria, Louisiana in late April, where Erickson and husband Lionel Mason took in a four-day conference exclusively about this main throughfare.

By request from the conference organizer Roger Bell, Erickson brought

Red River water of the North to join with that of the Red River water of the South.

“The symbolic gesture of joining [the waters] was a re-creation of a Pine to Palm Highway ceremony performed in Louisiana in early 1900s,” says Erickson.

In the early days of the automobile, before major highways were built, informal driving routes were marked with signs or distinct markers on fence posts or utility poles, similar to those seen along a hiking trail.

In 1909, the Manitoba chapter of the Good Roads movement was established to promote the development of a reliable road network throughout the province. The association ensured that travelers traveled along a route that was well-maintained and safe and both travelers and local businesses benefited from the tourism brought to restaurants, hotels, and local attractions.

Two cavalcades have traveled the complete route from Winnipeg to New Orleans, once in 1926 led by Winnipeg Mayor Lt. Col. Ralph Webb, and again in 1957 with Mayor Stephen Juba. A plaque commemorating the highway was erected in 1974 at the corner of Pembina Highway and Stafford Street in Winnipeg.

Erickson envisions the Pine to Palm Highway route revived to its former glory of tourist destination, similar to the iconic Route 66 that runs from Los Angeles, California to Chicago, Illinois.

“Everyone knows that route. [Having a revital-



THE FIRST J.H.GARAGE CO. LTD. BUILDING.  
Built in 1919 and incorporated in 1920 under the name of "Jefferson Highway Garage Ltd." The original share holders were, Ole Hans Gilman, Gordon Gilman, Henry Landry, Carl Carlson and Maurice Duprey. Note the one gallon gasoline pump, also that at this time the main road was dirt and not even graded. The original Charter is back of this picture.

PHOTO BY SIOBHAN MAAS/VOICE

The J.H. Garage Co. Ltd. in the early 1900s. Framed photo donated to the Morris & District Centennial Museum by K. Davies. Below: The Jefferson Highway Association road marker logo.



ization of the route] could encourage tourism to the region.”

Distinct highway signs, with a combined J and H, already exist south of the border, starting in Noyes, Minnesota.

Morris still retains a piece of history shaped by the Jefferson Highway.

“We have the J.H. Garage Ltd,” says Erickson. “Although it has changed names throughout the years as people bought it, [the building still stands on main street].”

The J.H. Garage was built in 1919-20 to service vehicles along the highway. A framed photo donated to the Morris Museum by K. Davies, whose father used to own the garage, pictures the building in the early ‘20s. A deed folded and tucked into the back of the frame indicates joint ownership of the garage between five people.

“[The garage and highway route] is part of our history,” says Erickson. “I’m on a quest to bring signage [back

along the highway between Morris and Emerson [because] it would be good for Morris to tap into tourism related to the Pine to Palm Highway.”

Erickson hopes to encourage Morris’s chamber of commerce and the communities of St. Jean Baptiste, Letellier, Emerson, and others north to Winnipeg to see the benefits of a joint network, experienced by small towns south of the Canada-US border.

“Travellers are curious people who visit places for personal interest and like to spend their money there.”

A classic military vehicle convoy is expected to travel the Pine to Palm Highway all the way to Winnipeg this October, organized by a member of the Jefferson Highway Association. Erickson believes Highway 75 communities could tap into this event.

Peoples interested in more information about the Pine to Palm Highway can contact Erickson at the museum.

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# Dead Horse Creek

## SPEEDWAY



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# Off to the races!

By Lorne Stelmach

The roar of the engines will soon be heard at Dead Horse Creek Speedway, and the Valley Motorsports Association is excited to get racing underway again at the track west of Morden.

“We’re still pretty new at this ... but we’ve got one season under our belt, and we learned a lot. We’re going to keep at it and continue finding ways to improve it,” said president Chris Unrau. “There was pent up demand here for a long time. There’s a lot of gearheads in this area, and motorsports is hugely popular ... people need a place for it.”

The association formed as a not-for-profit corporation in 2023 and took over operation of the former ALH Motor Speedway. It’s made up of a group of grassroots enthusiasts whose mission is to advance motorsports for the enjoyment of the region.

A lot of their efforts last summer focused on revitalizing the track, starting with re-shaping and resurfacing it, and there are more improvements being made this year.

“We’ve put quite a bit of time and energy and effort into further improvements to the facility,” said Unrau.

*Continued on next page*



Voice File Photo  
Dead Horse Creek Speedway kicks off its season this weekend.



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Continued from previous page

"We've got some permanent lighting that's getting installed. Little Morden Service has come forward to sponsor a lap leaderboard so we can see how many laps remaining in each race and what position are the top four at any time, so that's really exciting."

"We're going to have a large LED video screen this year," he added. "We're also hoping to move towards some kind of a streaming operation where we would get the races streamed live online ... I'm not quite sure when we will get there, but that is a goal."

Three weekend special events are on tap for 2024.

The McNaught Cadillac Cup will be May 25-26 and will include the attendance of the Northern Late Model Racing Association with a top level of late model competitors.

"That's the best of the best in the region ... the top late model drivers from North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Manitoba," said Unrau. "It will bring the top competitors and the top high-powered cars. I can't stress with enough excitement how big of a deal it is to have the NLRA come here to our track."

The GVE Deere Run will go July 5-6 featuring the Watermelon Cup modified special as well as the Brad Wall Memorial.

Closing out the season then in conjunction with the Corn and Apple Festival is the Proven Seed King of the Corn Aug. 23-24.

"It's very exciting. We had such a great response from the community last year that we decided to expand a little bit to three race weekends," said Unrau, noting they are grateful to have all three races fully sponsored.

"The response from the community has been fabulous, and what we hear is that there's a lot of people planning to come out to these events this year."

Tickets are on sale at the Gardenland Co-op convenience store locations as well as online. Unrau encouraged people to get their tickets early.

"The sense I get in the community is that there are a lot of people who want to come out."

More information is available online at [deadhorsecreekspeedway.ca](http://deadhorsecreekspeedway.ca).



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# sports & recreation

## Flyers' season comes to an end

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers' season came to an end Friday night at the Centennial Cup quarterfinal.

The MJHL champs were knocked out of the running for the national junior hockey championship by the Calgary Canucks 4-2.

Winkler were down 2-0 when Mike Svenson got them on the board midway through the second period. Zach Nicolas got the tying goal a few minutes later.

The wheel fell off the cart in the third period when the Canucks managed to pull ahead 4-2, while each of Winkler's seven shots on net missed the mark.

Overall, Calgary outshot Winkler 36-23—21-5 in the first period alone. Malachi Klassen took the loss in net with 32 saves.

The Flyers headed into the playoffs with a third-place round robin finish in their group, having won two games and lost two in overtime.

They had started off the tournament strong, doubling up against the Sioux Lookout Bombers 4-2 May 9. The Melfort Mustangs handed Winkler their first OT loss two nights later, 6-5.

The Flyers shook it off and went on to blank the Oakville Blades 4-0 May 13, but then closed out the preliminary round with a 3-2 loss to the Miramichi Timberwolves May 14.

That game required not just overtime but a shootout for a decision. Connor Jensen did all the scoring for Winkler, drawing first blood at the

## U17 Central Energy sweep Terminators



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The U17 Central Energy had a solid day at Diamond 2 in Morden Saturday as they won both games of the doubleheader against Smitty's Terminators. Game one saw Central score three in the first and four in the third inning on the way to an 11-3 victory. They then came out equally strong with a five-run first inning followed by four in the second, and it led to a 14-2 win in a game that was called after four innings.

end of the first period and then getting the tying goal in the third.

Four of Winkler's shooters missed the mark in the five-round shootout (only Dalton Andrew, in the first round, got it past the Miramichi goaltender), giving the win to the Timber-

wolves.

The Centennial Cup was ultimately won by the Melfort Mustangs, who beat the Collingwood Blues 1-0 in the championship match Sunday afternoon.

And so ends the Flyers' most suc-

cessful season in decades. Last month, the club won their first junior championship since 1998 by sweeping the best-of-seven series against the Steinbach Pistons. It was also the team's first time competing at the Centennial Cup in 32 years.

## Winkler Storm teams competing in Div. 1, 2 this summer

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm teams have both kicked off their seasons in recent weeks with wins, and the coaching staff have high hopes for the summer ahead.

The Storm 1 team, playing in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's Division 1 this year, downed Galacticos FC 2-1 May 7 to start the season. Their scheduled home opener against the Hanover Kickers May 12 was then

called due to smoky air conditions.

Coach Chadwick Bergen explains that while the Storm didn't finish in the bottom two spots in the Premier Division standings last summer, they still opted to move down a level. The team was 5-13, finishing in eighth place.

"The decision to drop down from Premier to Division 1 was made so that we could be competitive in more games throughout the season," he

says. "The past few seasons, Storm 1 have been in the bottom third of the Premier standings which means we are only really competing in a few games each year and fighting for our survival in most."

The Storm have seen a fair bit of player turnover in recent years, Bergen says, noting they have several returning veterans as well as a number of young players joining them from the Storm 2 team this summer.

"Division 1 should give some of our newer and younger players a chance to develop in an environment where they aren't under constant pressure to perform beyond their abilities," he says.

"The competition level of Division 1 is still very challenging," Bergen adds. "I am hoping that Storm 1 will be in the upper half of the standings; I feel

Continued on page 19



# Mateychuk leads Moose Jaw to first ever WHL Championship

By Kieran Reimer

Dominion City's Denton Mateychuk was the first to lift the Ed Chynoweth Cup on Wednesday night as he captained his Moose Jaw Warriors to their first ever Western Hockey League Championship.

The Warriors won the game 4-2 over the Portland Winterhawks after both teams scored back and forth in the opening two frames before the Warriors provided two unanswered goals in the third to win the game.

The victory came on home-ice in Moose Jaw in front of 4,732 fans at Moose Jaw Events Centre as the Warriors completed the four-game sweep over Portland.

Mateychuk, Moose Jaw's captain, was awarded Playoffs Most Valuable Player after finishing second in playoff points with 11 goals and 19 assists for 30 points and a +18 rating in 20 postseason games.

The defenceman played a huge role in locking down the Winterhawks in game four with multiple blocked shots and a +2 rating.

Mateychuk was also awarded the

Bill Hunter Memorial Trophy as the WHL's top defenceman after putting up 17 goals and 58 assists for 75 points and a +35 rating during the regular season.

With the victory the Warriors have clinched a spot in the 104th Memorial Cup that will begin May 24 in Saginaw, MI.

The Warriors join the London Knights (Ontario Hockey League) and Drummondville Voltigeurs (Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League) in the tournament as champions from their respective leagues as well as tournament hosts, Saginaw Spirit (Ontario Hockey League).

The Warriors will open up their tournament against the Spirit at 6:30 p.m. central time on May 24 from DOW Centre in Saginaw.

For Mateychuk, the Memorial Cup could be the last time he plays in a Warriors uniform as the 12th overall pick to Columbus in the 2022 NHL Draft will likely make the transition to pro in the fall.

You can watch all games of the Memorial Cup on TSN.



PHOTO BY MARC SMITH

Dominion City's Denton Mateychuk, right, was the first to lift the Ed Chynoweth Cup on Wednesday night. The Moose Jaw Warriors captain helped the team to their first WHL Championship in franchise history.

## > STORM, FROM PG. 18

like the competition level of Division 1 is the right level for Storm 1."

Their opening game earlier this month showed the team's promise.

"As a team we played well defensively, with good leadership in the back from Phil Unruh and Peter Neufeld," Bergen says. "Carter Klassen did an excellent job of managing the shots that came his way.

"We struggled to get off quality shots in the attacking zone. We had the majority of possession during the game but just could not convert it to quality opportunities. With five minutes left in the game, an error in our end led to a goal against which was no fault of the goalkeeper. After being in control for the majority of the game, our players fought back and managed to score two goals in the final three minutes of the game. One on a beautiful corner that was crossed in from Zein Hamam and finished by Matheus Ruffini and another that was scored by Zach Wood on a goal line scramble. It was an exciting finish for us.

"Hopefully we won't leave our goals till the last three minutes too often, but it is nice to know that we

can and will be a threat till the dying minutes of the game."

Bergen says they'll be focusing on honing the team's communication and aggressiveness as the season continues.

"Most people watching the game may see a massive goal to shoot at, but delivering a good shot on goal while running top speed and being pressured by a defender is harder than it looks and requires a ton of practice and repetition to develop proper muscle memory, especially after a player has been running for 90 minutes."

### STORM 2 MOVES UP

Meanwhile, Storm 2, which serves as a development team for Storm 1, had a season-opening 3-1 win against FCNW NexGen 3-1 on May 5. As with Storm 2, their home game against FC IPAC-Ukraine May 12 was cancelled due to the poor air conditions.

Kris Roberts is coaching the team this year alongside Reinaldo Oliveira and Wes Harder.

It's a return to the club for Roberts,

who played for the team back when it was known as the SC Riot.

"Six or seven years ago, my kid actually said, 'Hey, it would be fun to play together one day,'" Roberts recalled. Injuries kept Roberts off the field for a few years, but when he was asked to return this summer he jumped at the chance. His son, Amery, is also on the team. "So that dream is being fulfilled now, to play with my kid."

Storm 2 finished last season in first place in Division 3, earning them a seat at Division 2.

It's too soon to say how much more of a challenge the new league will be, especially given the fact the team consists of a lot of new players.

"There's some returning players, but four or five of last year's team moved up [to Storm 1]," Roberts says. "There's a whole lot of new faces, but so far so good."

Storm 2 is a mix of younger players, late teens to early 20s, who are looking to grow their skills in the hopes of moving up to Storm 1 one day, alongside a number of older players playing mainly for the fun of it while mentoring the younger guys.

The team has been practising

alongside Storm 1 players through the winter on the indoor turf at the Meridian Exhibition Centre.

"When the two teams practice together, the games are competitive, which is exciting for us coaches because we want to see the new and younger players fighting for positions on the first team," Bergen notes.

Roberts says they've been focusing on their fitness level and fine-tuning their plays.

"Brain-wise, they're learning the play and their position and not just the dump and chasing off," he says.

"A little more strategizing and good habits. That's come a long way even in two weeks, it's quite impressive."

He urges soccer fans to come cheer on both teams.

"The guys are excited to play. They're improving immensely and, you know, it's just a lot of fun."

This week sees Storm 1 head into Winnipeg to play Lucania United FC2 on Tuesday, while Storm 2 plays at the Richmond Kings Thursday.

The next Storm home game is Storm 2's match against Scorpions FC Sunday, May 26 at 7 p.m. at the 15th St. soccer pitch.



# Winkler educator brings historical play to the stage

By Lorne Stelmach

A Winkler educator is seeing a dream project become reality with her musical play on the life of Louis Riel set to hit the stage in a few weeks.

Parkland School vice-principal Janna Larsen is also a playwright, and the production of her show *RIEL* will be performed for the first time June 7-9 at the Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre in Winnipeg.

Larsen is no stranger to the theatre, as she has staged two pieces off-Broadway, including a version of *Little Matchbox Girl*, and done a Fringe show about kids auditioning for *Little Princess* where the audience voted and the winners got to finish the show.

Her production of *RIEL*, though, is special because of the connection to her father Norm, who encouraged her to tell Louis Riel's story.

"At first, I was, 'Dad, why is this my story? Why am I the person who should be telling this story?'" Larsen recalled. "He had researched all of this different stuff for me about the main players and Riel's life."

"So when I started, there was just so much there. It was hard to know how do you set up a story like this for success in a way it's offered to an audience in a way that this is him as a human being," said Larsen. "How do we take that and how do we learn from it and how do we move forward. Look at our history, and can we do better now?"

A composition major when she did her bachelor of music degree at University of Manitoba, Larsen started entering composition contests at age 12 and on, so this all seemed pre-destined.

"I won a couple of them right off, and it kind of was exciting to hear people perform my stuff, and it right away was a nice connection to my love for musical theatre and to music in general."

The genesis of the idea for *RIEL* goes back to 2015 when her father was diagnosed with cancer, so there was then over two years of what he called

"senior-sitting."

Her father had previously been a lawyer for Legal Aid as well as a history teacher earlier on, Larsen noted.

"He was always NDP-minded and very much for the people and just wanted to make sure people all had rights and were allowed good legal counsel if they needed it," she said, adding that her father published a couple books, including one about notable trials in Manitoba that went into how the trial of Riel was unfair and how he faced many injustices.

"I knew very little about Riel when I started ... to be honest, I feel like a lot of people don't know," Larsen suggested.

"It's a complicated story. I didn't know that he had almost become a priest," she noted. "Had his father not passed away, he probably would have been a priest, and history would have been entirely different."

She worked on the project over about an eight-year period off and on, and although COVID offered her a lot of time, she didn't have the creative spark.

She has done extensive research, including going to the site of Batoche and taking in a re-enactment of the Riel trial and speaking to a number of historians.

"It's been a labour of love, sometimes very exciting and fun and sometimes just really hashing through how do we tell this story in a way that it's really about all of us as Manitobans, and it's about communicating, and it's about respecting each other," she said. "And it's about having conversations more so than it is about race and religion. It's about just being open to respecting others and finding ways to find commonality."

It's exciting for her to now see it staged for the first time, although this is, in the world of Broadway, what would be called the workshop production that still needs to be further developed and



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Janna Larsen with her father Norm, who inspired her to write the show *RIEL* debuting in Winnipeg next month.

refined.

"I would like to orchestrate it much further, and there's a lot of pieces I would still grow from this production, but this was a really great opportunity to see where there are gaps in the story," said Larsen.

One example she noted was the character of Archbishop Tache, who tries to advocate for Riel but whose hands are tied, so she felt he needed a song.

"I'm also trying to give voice to women in this story too," she added.

"It's very exciting to finally see it and honestly hearing it sung," said Larsen, who recalled recently addressing a class about it at school here, and it became a revealing moment for her.

"As I was walking through it with them, I realized that without the music, it is quite depressing, and when you add the music, it's much more hopeful. There's hope in the lyrics," she said. "I feel like it's a hopeful piece, and I think that is why it needs to be a musical piece ... the music really does give it that hopeful aspect."

"I feel like when you look at his poetry and writings, which a lot of my lyrics are based on ... he was very hopeful for Manitoba, and he was already advocating for women's rights and all of Manitoban's rights," said Larsen. "I think he saw Manitoba in a light that we are still looking for today, but I think he would think we are on the right track, and I feel like that is hopeful."

Larsen now looks forward to seeing where all this production of *RIEL* might go, but for now she is enjoying every moment with the people who are involved, including some with whom she has strong connections.

"I have a wonderful cast. Most of the people are ex-students of mine from over the years, and it's just a really great group of people."



Some of the cast of *RIEL* got together, fittingly, on Louis Riel Day weekend for their first read-through. The show features several local performers and musicians.

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



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### Western School Division Declaration of Candidate Elected by Acclamation

I, Carl Pedersen, Senior Election Official for the Western School Division, hereby declare the following candidate elected by acclamation.

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Carl Pedersen  
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**LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION PUBLIC NOTICE**

**KRISH EATERY WINKLER LTD.,**  
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**14 DAYS FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT**

You can email, mail or fax your objection. Please include your contact information.  
Email: objection@LGCamb.ca  
Mail: LGCA Objections  
1055 Milt Stegall Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3G 0Z6  
Fax: (204) 927-5385

- We respond to all formal objections and will work to resolve objections before issuing a licence.
- A copy of the objection, including the name of the person who submits the objection, will be provided to the licence applicant.
- Each person who submits an objection will be advised in writing of the outcome to the licence application.

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

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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Taco Tuesday Board

- Guacamole
  - Salsa
  - Queso
  - Hard and soft taco shells
  - Ground turkey, seasoned and browned
  - Lettuce
  - Diced tomatoes
  - Shredded cheese
  - Chopped onions
  - Chopped peppers
  - Sour cream
  - Cilantro
  - Lime wedges
- On grazing board or platter, arrange guacamole, salsa, queso, taco shells, ground turkey, lettuce, tomatoes, shredded cheese, onions, peppers, sour cream, cilantro and lime wedges.

Recipe courtesy of Healthy Family Project's "Come Graze With Us" e-cookbook



## Weekend Breakfast Grazing Board

- Recipe courtesy of Healthy Family Project's "Come Graze With Us" e-cookbook
- Hard-boiled eggs
  - Cooked sausage links
  - Mini frozen waffles, toasted
  - Mini frozen pancakes, toasted
  - Mini muffins
  - Yogurt
  - Fresh fruit
  - Syrup
  - Jelly
- On grazing board or platter, arrange eggs, sausage links, toasted waffles, toasted pancakes, muffins, yogurt, fruit, syrup and jelly.



## Southwest Ranch Taco Salad

- 1 can (15 1/2 ounces) black beans
  - 1 1/2 cups canned corn
  - 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
  - 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro, plus additional for serving (optional), divided
  - 1 cup Newman's Own Southwest Ranch Dressing
  - 6 ounces tortilla chips
- Coarsely chop lettuce, halve cherry tomatoes and pit, peel and slice avocados. Set aside.
- In large frying pan over medium-high heat, heat olive oil. Brown ground beef, stirring occasionally, 4-5 minutes. Add taco seasoning and

- Total time: 25 minutes
- 1/2 head romaine lettuce
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes
- 2 small avocados
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound ground beef (80/20 ground chuck)
- 2 teaspoons Newman's Own Mild Taco Seasoning
- 1/4 cup water

## Expert patient here to help!



Susie Schwartz

By Susie Schwartz

Okay. So, the rebellious part of you (come on, we all have it) probably doesn't want to hear this — me either — but here we are.

Tip for today? Follow directions.

As patients, we often know our bodies better than the medical professionals do, but our doctor's knowledge trumps us on certain things.

Like infection, for example. I recently had back surgery and have been told I need to wait for the incision to completely seal over with no crusties before I can go in my hot tub. This is taking way too long for my liking. I mean, I just had back surgery. It is aching, and I can't have a therapeutic soak. (Also, if I do soak, those crusties will dissolve right off of there, so in my mind, it's kind of a chicken/egg scenario, right? No! Bad Susie.)

Seriously, I know from the diabetes side of things that if I don't wipe my skin with an alcohol swab before

inserting my insulin pump cannula, the site can get infected. (Been there.) It's really not worth the trouble or risk. (Although don't ask me how often I changed the lancet in my finger pricker when I used to have to test my blood sugar that way, multiple times a day. Never mind. Thankfully, I got away with it, but still... that's me being a bad example.)

My point is this: is the risk of infection near or in the spine worth instant gratification? (In case you're still not clear, no it isn't.)

This also applies to things like not stopping a medication immediately when it could be dangerous to do so. We should always ask a doctor or pharmacist how quickly we can come off medication before taking matters into our own hands. If we rush the process, strokes, seizures, and cancellations for that long-saved trip to the Bermuda Triangle might ensue.

Yes, we know the patterns of our bodies and what often triggers our symptoms, etc. But when it comes to risky business like minuscule beetles crawling into our flesh and having a party in there eating us for dinner (gross!), we should probably listen to the doctor.

I've heard delaying satisfaction is a virtue, and in cases such as Bermuda and beetles, I think they're probably right.

Less health stress, yes?

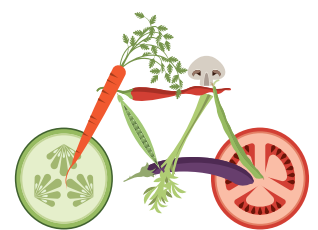
A published author and musician, Susie currently lives in the UK. Find her on Instagram @medicalmiss\_stress, and at [www.lesshealthstress.com](http://www.lesshealthstress.com) If you like her writing, find more on her Substack page: *The Quest For Less Health Stress*

water; cook according to package directions, 5-8 minutes, or until meat is thoroughly cooked.

Drain and rinse black beans. Set aside.

Divide lettuce among serving bowls or plates. Top with ground beef, tomatoes, avocados, black beans, corn, cheese and 2 tablespoons cilantro. Tuck in tortilla chips.

Drizzle with southwest ranch dressing and sprinkle with additional cilantro, if desired.



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