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# Making progress

SUPPLIED PHOTO

Jack Heppner (left) from the Altona Community Action Network Task Force with designer and builder James Friesen in front of the new pavilion going up at the Altona Community Garden. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

**news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know**

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# get informed

## New pavilion a "thing of beauty" at Altona Community Gardens

By Ty Dilello

After more than two years of planning, fundraising, and a lot of hard work, the timber frame structure of the new pavilion at the Altona Community Garden is in place.

Right when the garden opened five years ago, the Altona Community Action Network (ACAN) Task Force operating the garden on behalf of the Town of Altona included a commons area at the heart of the space. It was designed as a place where its 82 current garden families could access gardening tools, compost, and water as well as interact with one another.

"It was a space where people could get to know each other and build community," said ACAN's Jack Heppner.

As the task force saw positive dynamics unfolding in the commons area, it began to dream about provid-

ing a more permanent structure, including washrooms and a picnic shelter, to enhance the experience.

Gradually, the picnic shelter morphed into a vision of a timber frame pavilion large enough to host gardening events and a variety of family and community activities.

"We soon realized that we need washrooms, and then we thought if we're going to do that, we should build a picnic shelter or something with a roof," said Heppner. "And it kind of grew from there to the point where this is a place that anyone in Altona can use for small events."

The task force worked closely with James Friesen from Tinker Creek, south of Morden, who designed the structure.

Last summer, Friesen and his business partner, Earl Dyck, pre-cut all of the pieces for the pavilion. They've



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Work on the Altona Community Gardens' new pavilion is expected to wrap up this summer.

been in Altona the past few weeks assembling it with help from general contractor Wilf Hiebert and various community volunteers.

Heppner says the task force is very pleased with how it's coming together, noting the timber frame structure on its own is already a "thing of beauty" even before the roof is on and the two wheelchair-accessible washrooms are finished.

ACAN sends its thanks out to the community for its support of this project. They've raised about \$175,000 so far.

"The original cost estimates came in somewhat below that amount, but we have noticed steep increases in costs since then ... it is hard to know

at this point what the final cost will be," noted Heppner. With that in mind, ACAN is putting a call out to community members and businesses to consider making a donation to the Community Garden Building Fund this summer to help them complete the project.

Donations should be made out to The Town of Altona and earmarked for the Garden Project. Donors will be sent a tax-deductible receipt.

ACAN's proposal for a community orchard north of the garden was also recently accepted by town council. Any funds raised for the Garden Project not needed will be forwarded to that undertaking.

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# SCRL putting up book boxes in Darlingford, La Riviere

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Starting this summer, families in La Riviere and Darlingford won't have to make the trek to their nearest library branch to stock up on books.

The South Central Regional Library (SCRL) is installing mini library boxes in both communities later this month.

They got the Darlingford box and the initial books to go in it through the Free Little Library Impact program, which was created to put libraries in neighborhoods with limited book access.

"Darlingford is a distance from the public library branches [in nearby Manitou or Morden] and so the kids don't have the same kind of access during the summer to a library," says SCRL staffer Debra Petersen, who has taken the lead on this project.

Petersen is also putting up a SCRL book box on her front yard in La Riviere. This one she built herself, repurposing a cabinet she found at a thrift store.

Both boxes will be filled not just with books for kids of all ages but also a variety of novels for adults to enjoy.

They'll also be registered with the Little Free Library world map so travellers to the area can easily find them and pick up a tome or two for the road.

"I'm anticipating the La Riviere one might see a few truckers stop by," Pe-

tersen says.

Using these tiny libraries is simple: just stop by and pick up a book for free (no SCRL library membership required), perhaps leaving a different book in its place to help keep the stock fresh.

Trouble finding something to fill the shelves isn't something Petersen ever anticipates having.

"Part of the agreement is that we can keep the libraries stocked, and with all the donations we get for our book sales we're not going to run out of books anytime soon," she says.

SCRL staff have also been brainstorming other ways to use the boxes to reach out to families.

"Some of our librarians that are very into the children's end of it have pointed out for summer we can also be supplying activities for the kids in promotion for the summer reading program," Petersen says. "That way if the kids can't make it into the public libraries they can still take part."

"Now with gas prices going up and whatnot, people can't always be running to the branches. So we'll come to them."

Petersen plans to have both boxes up and running before the end of the month.

You can learn more about Little Free Library and find a box near you by heading online to [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org).



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The South Central Regional Library's Debra Petersen with one of the book boxes going up in Darlingford and La Riviere this month.

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SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Headlining the Morden Corn and Apple Festival this year is Snake Oil (left) and Big Wreck (above). The festival runs Aug. 26-28.

# Snake Oil, Big Wreck to headline Corn & Apple

By Lorne Stelmach

The Corn and Apple Festival will return this summer with two rockin' headline acts.

Friday night will feature the second festival appearance by rock tribute band Snake Oil while Saturday eve-

ning's stage lineup will be anchored by long running Toronto-based hard rock act Big Wreck.

Executive director Tim Hodge is happy to be able to be talking about the festival again post-pandemic.

"It's exciting ... first year back after a couple years off," he said. "It's

really nice to be talking about our main stage entertainment again. We haven't been able to do that for a few years."

Big Wreck is a Canadian-American rock band formed by Ian Thornley and Brian Doherty in Boston in 1994. They disbanded in 2003, and Thornley pursued a solo career with his own band.

In 2010, Thornley and Doherty reunited for a cross-Canada tour. In 2012, under the name Big Wreck, the band released their third studio album, *Albatross*. They have since released the albums *Ghosts* in 2014, *Grace Street* in 2017, and *But For the Sun* in 2019.

Doherty passed away in 2019 after a battle with cancer, just before the band issued *But for the Sun*. The new lineup has since released a trio of EPs that will be put together to make their seventh full-length album, *Big Wreck 7*.

"They'll have a bunch of new stuff out there leading up to the festival," said Hodge. "They've been synonymous with Canadian rock now for three decades ... they've got a huge breadth of songs to play. We're really excited. We think they put on a solid rock show."

Snake Oil, meanwhile, is an act whose 2017 festival performance people are still talking about.

"They bring a fantastic show," Hodge said. "They are the group that I have heard about the most from fans of the festival."

Snake Oil will bring their *Ikons Of Rock* arena rock show to town, which can portray the music, the look, movements, and mannerisms of such classic acts as AC/DC, Aerosmith, Alice Cooper, Def Leppard, Evanescence, Heart, Kiss,

Continued on page 6

"IT'S REALLY NICE TO BE TALKING ABOUT OUR MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT AGAIN ..."

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SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The Discovery Nature Sanctuary in Winkler hosted hundreds of schoolchildren June 10 for the second annual Water Festival.

# Students have a blast at DNS water festival

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The sounds of children enjoying themselves joined the natural soundscape at the Discovery Nature Sanctuary earlier this month.

The Winkler nature preserve hosted its second Discovery Water Festival on Friday, June 10, welcoming over 200 Morden-Winkler students for the day.

Continued on page 7



## Pork – the thrill of the grill

You know it's summer when the tempting scent of the grill starts wafting through the neighbourhood. After a long winter, and rainy spring, Manitobans are firing up their barbecues and smokers, while welcoming friends and family back to their outdoor living spaces.

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**MARKETING & PROMOTIONS**  
Brett Mitchell



**EDITOR**  
Ashleigh Viveiros



**REPORTER**  
Lorne Stelmach



**REPORTER**  
Ty Dilello



**REPORTER**  
Becca Myskiw



**SALES**  
Gwen Dyck



**PRODUCTION**  
Nicole Kapusta



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**OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS**



# One summer day

In a field next to the rail yards close to where I lived as a 12-year-old there was a large storm drain that poured its contents out, covered by a largely neglected iron grate. The concrete pipe was large enough that a boy my size could almost stand up in it.

In the heat and humidity of a southern Ontario summer, my friends and I were wandering past the opening (having tried to alleviate our boredom by climbing in and out of nearby parked rail cars) when we noticed the grate was broken and could be pushed open slightly.

In no time we went to our various homes to fetch supplies, which consisted of rubber boots and flashlights.

So there we were, three 12-year-old boys in shorts, T-shirts, and rubber rain boots on a hot sunny day standing in front of the storm drain preparing for our inaugural spelunk into Guelph's underworld.

Did our various parents wonder why we needed flashlights and rubber boots at high noon on a sunny day? Perhaps, but not enough to ask any questions. They were probably just happy we were outside.

I went in first and the world became dark. Ahead of me was a long

narrowing tube that ended in blackness. Behind, a receding window into the outside world. Where would this lead? We had no idea. We were just thrilled to explore the labyrinth with no map, slowly getting lost in the twists and turns.

At one point we entered into a small pipe off the main. Small enough that we had to belly crawl for several minutes until it opened up into another larger pipe.

"I think I just heard a toilet flush somewhere," one of us remarked.

We stood still, wondering what we would do if a tidal wave of human waste came at us. Absolute silence. We had no idea that these pipe were meant for rainwater runoff only. This tells you how little we cared for safety and hygiene since we entered these passages thinking there might be actual sewage.

Thankfully the feared "crap storm" never materialized and we continued on our way, periodically testing the echo by shouting randomly into the distance ahead.

We wondered if we would encounter rats. The prospect was terrifying and thrilling at the same time. Unfortunately none of us had thought to bring a weapon like a stick or a baseball bat. Next time.

No rats.

After what felt like hours, having traversed kilometers of pipes we came to a large square room with a ladder going up to a round metal cover with two small square holes that let in the light. We climbed the ladder one after the other until we were at the cover.

Just as I was about to push the cover up the thunderous sound of a car's tires running over our heads rang through the room and we practically

leapt off the ladder in fear.

We wondered out loud what would have happened if we had managed to get the cover up before the car had run over it and were silently grateful that this never happened.

We continued on our way with a heightened interest in ending our adventure, hoping to avoid more near death experiences (for now).

Eventually we made our way to another, smaller space with a much older set of iron rungs leading up to another cover with small square eyes of sunlight. Cautiously we approached this next cover. We waited beneath it for what seemed like hours. Nothing. Silence.

Eventually we worked up the courage to push the cover off. It took two of us using all of our strength to shoulder it open, whereupon we found ourselves in the very back of an overgrown yard at the base of a hill behind someone's house.

We climbed out and as we made our way home after our subterranean creeping we all agreed that the next adventure would require weapons.

## > HEADLINERS, FROM PG. 5

Joan Jett, Ozzy Osbourne, Pat Benatar, Rob Zombie, Van Halen, Whitesnake, Journey, Queen, Motley Crüe, and more.

"They've got elaborate costumes and wardrobes, and they are a super high energy show," Hodge said.

The rest of the festival entertainment lineup is expected to be announced in July.

The 2022 Morden Corn and Apple Festival runs Aug. 26-28.

*All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Voice.*

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**NEWS DESK:**

Ashleigh Viveiros Editor  
204-332-3456 news@winklermordenvoice.ca

Lorne Stelmach Reporter  
204-823-2655 lstelmach@winklermordenvoice.ca

Ty Dilello Reporter  
204-250-6322 tydilello20@gmail.com

**MAILING ADDRESS:**

**Winkler Morden Voice**  
Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

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# Filipino community celebrates independence

By Voice staff

Close to 400 Filipinos from the Morden-Winkler area came together recently to commemorate the anniversary of their home country's independence from Spain.

The event featured Filipino food, dance, and songs at the Access Event Centre June 12 on the 124th anniversary of independence.

"With the help of several volunteers, I was motivated to push with what has been an idea of mine for a few years: to have our first independence day party in our community," said Jewel White, who was one of the organizers of the celebration. "I felt that our country's independence story must be shared to the community."

The Philippines was a Spanish colony for over 300 years, starting when explorer Ferdinand Magellan arrived in 1521 and claimed the islands for Spain, naming them in honour of



SUPPLIED PHOTO BY ALDRICK LAGMAY

A few hundred members of the local Filipino community gathered in Morden last week to mark the 124th anniversary of the Philippines independence from Spanish rule.

King Philip II.

Many customs and traditions—religion, food, and even language—in the present day Philippines can be traced back to the centuries of Spanish influence that followed.

Filipino nationalists revolted against Spanish rule in the late 1890s, eventu-

ally earning their independence with the victory at the Battle of Manila Bay.

Revolutionary leader Emilio Aguinaldo declared the Philippines as independent on June 12, 1898, and this day is still celebrated by Filipinos around the world.

"Knowing our history will give the

community a better understanding of our culture," said White. "It is also imperative for the younger generation to remember our history and that, regardless of where we are, we must give honor to the heroes who fought bravely so we can have the freedom we enjoy today."

## > WATER FESTIVAL, FROM PG. 5

DNS held its first water festival back in 2019 but then had to push pause on the annual event through the pandemic.

Co-organizer Renee Waldner feels it returned in fine form.

"I think it went really well. I heard so many good things about it," she said, noting they hosted students and teachers from four different elementary schools (Parkland, Winkler Elementary, Emerado Centennial, and Minnewasta).

A team made up of retired teachers, University of Manitoba students, City of Winkler staff, and representatives from the province, the Pembina Valley Watershed District, and Kroeker Farms helped guide the kids through a variety of hands-on activity stations designed to teach them about the importance of water.

"Each station we tried to do a little bit of an education component and an activity to get them running around and doing different things as a field

day for them," Waldner said.

"Our main focus was on water issues—anything pertaining to water, to wetlands. We did stuff on watersheds and critter dipping where they got to dip in the pond and identify the different critters that they saw. We had a beaver station that talked about the different adaptations they have to suit their environment."

There were also stations focused on soil, trees, and the migration of Monarch butterflies.

"We did a water cycle station as well," Waldner added, "where the kids acted as the water molecule and they moved around to the plants and the animals and the clouds and the oceans. That one I heard was a big hit."

DNS plans to make the water festival an annual tradition moving forward.

"We live in a time where we have such a changing planet," Waldner observed. "Watersheds play a really

important role—they hold our water, they reduce flooding and drought, and they purify our water for us. We want kids to understand that importance and how that ties into the water coming out of their tap, the water that supplies every plant and animal and

person on the planet."

It's a weighty subject, but one that can still be made fun to teach and learn.

"The kids were all smiles," Waldner said. "They had a blast."



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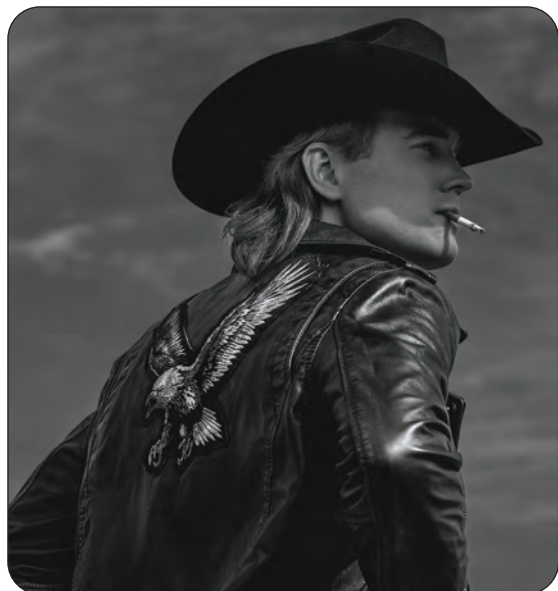
**Manitoba**

# Winkler Harvest Festival announces stage lineup

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Harvest Festival is going a little bit more country than usual this year.

Festival organizers announced the



Friday and Saturday night headliners this week for the Aug. 12-14 celebration.

Anchoring the Friday evening show is Winnipeg band Petric featuring brothers Jason and Tom Petric and Jordan Day.

The group took the country music scene by storm back in 2015 with the release of their debut single Here Goes Everything, which cracked the top 20 on Canadian country radio. In the years since they've had numerous charting singles and top 20 hits and have accumulated over 15 million worldwide online streams.

"It's nice to highlight some Manitoba talent," said festival director Kathy Bueckert. "They are a little bit more on the country side than we usually see on a Friday night at



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Petric (above) takes to the Winkler Harvest Festival's Friday night stage while Jade Eagleson (left) and Tenille Arts (right) co-headline the Saturday night entertainment.

the festival, but I do think that they'll appeal to a broad audience with their sound."

Opening for Petric are local band Link and the Moustaches and the Royal Canadian Air Force Band, which will both bring the classic rock sounds usually heard festival Friday.

"They do a bunch of fun covers," Bueckert said of the RCAF Band. "A lot of older rock style music."

For Saturday night on the main stage this year, the festival is welcoming not one but two headline acts.

"We wanted to go big for our Saturday night, so we decided to go with co-headliners," Bueckert said. "Thanks to the generous sponsorship from Triple E we were able to make that happen."

Taking the stage that evening will be Jade Eagleson and Tenille Arts, both rising country music stars.

Eagleson has been making a real name for himself on the international country music scene since the release of his debut self-titled album two years ago.

"We're thrilled to have him on his way up," Bueckert said. "We love to bring people in as they're building their careers and then a couple years down the road we can say, 'That guy played in Winkler.' It's a cool thing to be able to do."

Arts, meanwhile, has become a familiar face in Canadian country music since her self-titled debut album in 2016. Her latest album, *Girl to Girl*, was released last fall and her single "Back Then, Right Now" is in radio rotation. Last year, Arts was inducted into the CMT Next Women of Country Class of 2021.

"I've been familiar with her music and so I was so excited that she was



an option for us," Bueckert said. "I think they'll both put on a great show."

Opening for Eagleson and Arts will be homegrown country crooner Joe Wilson performing a blend of heartfelt originals and classic covers followed by country rockers the Johnson's Creek Band.

That just leaves Sunday, which traditionally features Christian music acts. Bueckert is still working on the details of who that headliner will be.

"Planning the first festival after the pandemic certainly comes with its challenges," she said. "Some of our music bookings have been a challenge in that way and so we're not ready to announcing our Sunday headliners just yet. But as soon as we can, we'll put that out there."

The festival has announced that opening Sunday night's stage entertainment will be comedian Matt Falk.

"With all of the division that has happened in the community the last couple of years, I just thought it was such a great opportunity to bring everybody together to laugh. It's so healing," Bueckert said.

Following Falk will be Christian music singer-songwriter Jordan St. Cyr.

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# Darlingford memorial service marks 100 years July 3

By Lorne Stelmach

It's better late than never as far as Darlingford gathering to celebrate a century of its annual memorial service.

The milestone was technically reached last year, but the pandemic prevented the community from meeting in person at the Darlingford Memorial Park, so organizers look forward to being able to get together this year on Sunday, July 3 at 11 a.m.

"This year's service is pretty special for everybody. There's a lot of people who were disappointed we couldn't have a live service last year," said spokesperson Glenn Rasmussen.

"This year, the committee set out to try to contact relatives of everybody named on the two plaques in the building, and they were invited to attend this year's service. We had a pretty good response to that, so we're really excited about having a bunch of new people and the regulars come to the service this year."

This service is dedicated to and honours the locals who gave their lives in service to their country.

This year's guest speaker is Harvey Kinsman, a former resident of Dar-

lingford who will speak on his family's journey of remembrance. Their story includes a fallen soldier as well as several members of the Kinsman family who served in the world wars. Kinsman will also speak on his visits to Normandy, France in 2013 and 2017.

Dedicated on July 5, 1921, the memorial building at the Darlingford Memorial Park features two black marble plaques that list the names of the men who served and died in the First and Second World Wars.

The building itself is rather unique, noted Rasmussen.

"It's actually the only freestanding building in the province dedicated to the men who served in the two wars and those who lost their lives," he said.

"It really has been important to the community," Rasmussen added, noting the park is maintained by local volunteers. "We've always been supported very strongly by the community. Whenever we had a major project come along, we just let people know it was for the park and there was always money that came in to more than cover the expense, so it's been a tremendously important thing for the



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

The Darlingford Memorial Park is the site of the community's 100th memorial service July 3 in honour of the men who served and died in the world wars.

community and for the area."

If it should rain, the event will move inside to the Darlingford Community Hall, which is hosting a by-donation lunch following the service. Proceeds from lunch will go to the Zion Calvin United Church.

The Darlingford School Museum will also be open that day from 1-5 p.m.

You can learn more online at the Darlingford Memorial Park Facebook page or [www.pembina.ca](http://www.pembina.ca).



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# get informed

## Projects in the works to connect communities, create safer pathways

By Lorne Stelmach

Two projects that will provide vital links in two communities have received provincial funding to help make them a reality.

Provincial representatives last week presented the grants from the Building Sustainable Communities program to community representatives in Schanzenfeld and Plum Coulee.

Borderland MLA Josh Guenter and Eileen Clarke, minister of municipal relations, first presented \$103,000 to the Schanzenfeld pathway committee and RM Stanley council reps for the proposed Schanzenfeld to Winkler walking path.

They then headed to Plum Coulee, where members of the Plum Coulee pedestrian bridge committee received \$64,000 for that project.

The two initiatives were among 15 projects across the constituency which received a share of \$650,000 in funding.

"The region is growing really rapidly, and we know the growing pains that many of these communities are going through," said Guenter.

Stanley Reeve Morris Olafson said this funding together with the matching amount from the municipality

will make the Schanzenfeld project happen.

The path will go from the village on Road 10 North and continue on Road 22 all the way to Winkler, where it will connect into the city's pathway system. There will also be two crosswalks put in place as part of the project.

"Along with that, we're paving about a half mile of Road 22 ... we're just starting that project," said Olafson, who reiterated they believe the entire cost should be covered. The tendering process is already underway.

"We're pretty confident that's going to be close," he said. "It could come together this summer or at least be well on the way.

"It's a safety thing," Olafson said of the need for the pathway. "It's been on our agenda for quite some time, and we got a bit of a push for it from the community groups who thought this would be a really good idea.

"We're very confident that along the way it will really get used a lot," he said. "Eventually, there will also be a pathway from Reinfeld into Winkler ... the idea is to inter-connect that whole population."

"We were very pleased to be able to meet with members of the committee and talk about the project and hear their vision," said Guenter.

"It will be a great project ... it will really serve the growing community of Schanzenfeld and further unite the communities, but also there's a real safety aspect here. Highway 32 is incredibly busy and just not safe at all for cyclists and pedestrians."

The Plum Coulee project, meanwhile, will build a pedestrian bridge across the Hespeler drain, which currently divides the community.



**SUPPLIED PHOTOS**  
Borderland MLA Josh Guenter and Minister of Municipal Relations Eileen Clarke were in Schanzenfeld (above) and Plum Coulee (right) last week to present provincial funding for key community projects.



"It's not a frivolous thing. It's a very necessary thing," said committee representative June Letkeman. "There isn't a safe way for us to walk from the one site to the other except on Highway 14 or on PR 306, which are very, very busy ... it's just not safe, so this is a necessity."

They have now raised \$174,000, including the \$64,000 grant, so that pays for phase one of the project that starts with a geo-technical study—a necessity given the size and length of the bridge. It is also expected that piers for the bridge will be put in this summer with the hope that the bridge could be completed next summer.

"We still have to raise a lot more money because our budget is a little bit over \$400,000," said Letkeman. "It's a long bridge ... about a 140 feet; it has to be from berm to berm, so that's what makes it so expensive.

"We're going to get as much done as we can ... once we start, it will be easier to raise more money too."

Guenter said they "recognize all their work on that really important, really needed project. It's a bridge that's going to unite the two halves of Plum Coulee.

"Again, another growing community in the constituency," he added. "There's been a real fundraising effort put forward by the members of the committee and really supported by the community."

Guenter noted the value of the Building Sustainable Communities program, which in the last provincial budget was doubled to \$25 million overall and attracted perhaps over \$40 million in requests.

"It's a program that's always over-subscribed because it's a unique program ... it rewards those grass-roots efforts," he said. "Why I think the Building Sustainable Communities program is so great is it is a 50 per cent matching funds, so it rewards committees and volunteers who get out there and do the work."

**"IT'S NOT A FRIVOLOUS THING ... IT'S JUST NOT SAFE, SO THIS IS A NECESSITY."**

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### Devotion

If you do not know Jesus before you die, Heaven will not be your home.



# getinformed



## Elks donate \$15K to Altona library

By Ty Dilello

Last weekend, members of the Elks of Canada and Manitoba Elks Foundation met in Altona for their annual provincial conference.

"Everyone attending the confer-

ence loved the community and commented non-stop on how beautiful the town is," said Altona Elks leader Guy Mullen. "The number one comment they had was how helpful and kind everyone was to them, from the grocery clerks, MEC staff, strangers



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Manitoba Elks Foundation and Altona Lodge #447 members made donations totaling \$15,000 to the Altona Library Fundraising Committee last weekend during the Elks' annual provincial conference, held this year in Altona.

on the street, to hotel staff. It was a smashing success for the Altona Elks Lodge hosting this event, and it was the first one we've had since COVID-19 hit us all."

The weekend saw donations presented from both the provincial agency and the local lodge to the Altona Library to aid with its move to and

renovation of its new location in the Altona Mall.

Altona Lodge #447 contributed \$10,000 to the project and the Manitoba Elks Foundation donated \$5,000.

"Thank you so much to the Manitoba Elks and Altona Elks," said library said in a thank-you posted on social media.

## Plenty of fun on tap for Altona's Canada Day festivities

By Ty Dilello

This year's Canada Day in Altona is slated to be a full afternoon and evening packed with plenty of activities and entertainment.

Recreation Department manager Eric Hildebrand notes that there will be the traditional free swimming throughout the day at the Aquatic Centre, which is always a favourite to battle the July heat.

"Starting at 4 p.m., we'll have some food trucks (Tot Wheels and Anna's Freshly Squeezed Lemonade) in the park, as well as Ang's Pizza at the Aquatic Centre concession stand, so there will be no shortage of food op-

tions," Hildebrand noted.

Free inflatables and cotton candy sponsored by Access Credit Union starts at 4 p.m. as well.

There will be a chalk drawing contest with prizes for the kids that will take place on the path by the play structure in the park. The Prancing Pony Petting Zoo will also be setting up shop from 4-7 p.m.

"From 5-7 p.m., there will be a free kiddie carnival for young kids to enjoy that is put on by the Manitoba Sunflower Festival's previous royalty and current contestants," said Hildebrand. "During this time, Sleepy the Clown will be wandering amongst

the crowd and making balloon animals and entertaining the children."

Free watermelon and roll kuchen followed by free Canada Day cupcakes courtesy of IGA and Sun Valley Co-op will be available starting at 6:30 p.m.

Following remarks from local dignitaries at 8 p.m., the stage entertainment gets underway with a performance from Sons of the Drum, a drum band from the Roseau River First Nation.

"We'll then have local family cover band The Pylons perform some classic rock and roll music followed by the introductions of the 2022 Mani-

toba Sunflower Festival Queen contestants," said Hildebrand. "We will close off the evening with more music from a young local area band, Sun Sets West, playing mostly cover songs from popular bands from the past two decades.

"We really want to encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the activities and events (and food) in our beautiful Centennial Park on July 1," he said. "Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets and plan to make a day out of it, as it's going to be a fantastic day and a great time celebrating our nation's birthday."

The **Voice**

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SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Friesens reps made the rounds recently presenting donations to a variety of local community groups and projects. Above, left: Friesens' Vic Klassen (centre) with Marty Falk (left) and Sheridan Sawatzky of Youth for Christ/Station. Above, right: Tracy Robertson with Tracy & Stan Harder of Furever Friends. Right: Don Feaver with Ang Stoesz of the Rhineland Food Bank.

# Friesens Corp. employee-owners give back

By Voice staff

The employee-owners of Friesens Corporation have been making the rounds this spring bringing financial support to a variety of local agencies and projects.

Through the company's Employee Directed Giving Campaign, each year Friesens staff vote for their favourite charities. The outcome of that voting determines what percentage of funds are donated to each organization.

"As an employee-owned organization, it is important for us to have employees influence our charitable giving," CEO Chad Friesen said in a statement announcing this year's donation recipients. "For 115 years the employees of Friesens Corporation have played a major role in the community, and we continue to play that role today."

The company notes one of its core values is to help build a stronger community. It does this by investing

in the community through both cash donations and by supporting its employees as coaches, youth leaders, fundraisers, and many other volunteer roles.

Receiving funds from Friesens this year are:

- Rhineland Food Bank, \$8,036.
- Altona Fire Department, \$7,143.
- Youth for Christ/Station, \$6,101.
- Kiddie Sunshine Centre, \$5,208.
- Blue Sky Opportunities, \$4,464.
- Winkler Bible Camp, \$4,464.

- Furever Friends Cat Rescue, \$4,167.
- Katie Cares, \$3,720.
- Genesis House, \$2,530.
- Special Olympics/Altona Panthers, \$2,232.
- Altona Community Gardens, \$1,339.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley, \$595.

# ACAN, climate action team hosts climate change workshop

By Ty Dilello

Around 30 people came out last

week to hear from environmental experts at the Altona For Climate Work-

shop held at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre.

Altona Community Action Network (ACAN) president Jonah Langelotz was the organizer and host of the event, which was a joint venture between ACAN and the Manitoba Climate Action Team headed up by Dr. Durdana Islam and Curtis Hull, who came out from Winnipeg to present some new information on climate change in Manitoba.

Both Islam and Hull helped facilitate table discussions after the presentation on four areas of focus: food and agriculture, transportation, buildings, and electrical generation.

The presentation was based off of a document (<https://climateactionmb.ca/road2resilience/>) put together specifically for climate change adaptation in our province. It focused on quantifying the need to transition away from fossil fuels moving forward and what that might look like specifically in Manitoba based on our

energy production and consumption.

"I think that this is extremely important for Altona residents, residents of the Pembina Valley, and Manitoba," said Langelotz. "We don't have to look far to see effects of climate change in our lives already, from extreme weather events to increases of food and fuel. Of course, there are many factors at play here, but climate change is a significant part of it."

"Though the facts speak for themselves, I know that they aren't enough," he continued. "Our lives haven't changed drastically enough to wake up to the truth. And speaking personally, trying to process and deal with all the depressing news surrounding climate change is disheartening."

Langelotz's hope for Altona is that it can find its way through the negative realities and move towards what could be a positive future.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A few dozen people came out to the Altona For Climate Workshop at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre last week.

# W.C. Miller Youth in Philanthropy present grants

By Ty Dilello

W.C. Miller's Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) group partners with the Altona Community Foundation (ACF) each year to create grant opportunities to provide financial assistance to local charities.

The students raise money through a variety of fundraisers throughout the year, which is then matched by the ACF. The youth are then able to choose how to distribute this money based on the grant applications from local community groups.

This year, YIP members used the purchase of school clothing as a way for students and staff to contribute to the YIP fund. They also hosted two bake sales with the help of the school's culinary arts department and partnered with the Grade 11/12 drama class, who collected donations for the fund during their performance in the spring.

"I just really wanted to make a difference at our school," said member Madison Gerbrandt, Gr. 10, on what got her involved with both YIP and student council this year. "I like the

**"THEY'RE ALL DOING AMAZING THINGS WITH THE MONEY, SO THAT'S EXCITING."**



SUPPLIED PHOTO

W.C. Miller students and Youth in Philanthropy members Madison Gerbrandt, Mackenzie Friesen, and Wafaa Abukhousa presented the 2022 grants to representatives of a variety of local projects and organizations last week.

behind-the-scenes stuff and seeing how decisions are made, so I thought it would be really fun to help the community and be more involved in the school.

"I feel like this year of fundraising was a success," she added. "It was nice that we were able to do fundraisers again, as we missed them these last two years. We were also very grateful to have gotten enough fundraising to give money to each organization that put in a grant [application] ... they're all doing amazing things with the money, so that exciting."

Thanks to the student fundraising and the matching funds of the foun-

ation, YIP was able to distribute \$1,700 this year.

Genesis House received \$500 to help with the purchase of additional remotes and games for their Nintendo Switch, which provides a welcome distraction for families staying at the shelter.

The Garden's on Tenth Life Enrichment program received \$500 to be used in purchasing plants for their raised garden beds for both vegetables and flowers in their courtyard. The project will encourage residents to be active, promote inclusion, and create anticipation of seeing the progress in the garden.

Finally, the Kiddie Sunshine Centre received \$700 to be used in purchasing art materials and games and supplies to be used in their School Age program over the summer months.

All in all, it was a very successful year for YIP, said Gerbrandt.

"I think the fundraising went really well, coming back from two years of COVID-19, that we got to do fundraisers again," she said. "Overall it was a success."

Gerbrandt intends to stay involved with the YIP program through the rest of her time in high school.

"I'm just excited to see where the next two years lead."

# Downtown Summer Kick-Off is on this weekend

By Ty Dilello

Altona's Downtown Summer Kick-Off is coming up June 24-25.

It is sure to be a great time to bring out the family to enjoy rides, games, food and vendors at the Altona Mall.

"We are so excited to host the Altona Downtown Summer Kick-Off again after two years of COVID," said Cheryl Link of the Altona and District Chamber of Commerce. "All are invited, and Wonder Shows is returning with more rides to fill up the streets and mall parking lot."

The event will feature plenty of food booths, a craft and sidewalk sale in the mall, and sales, games, and contests hosted by businesses in the area.

Local bakeries will be showcasing

fair-themed goodies all week to promote the event as well.

"On the Friday we are promoting Kiddies Day from noon to 4 p.m.

when preschoolers will have all of the rides to themselves," Link said.

Tune in to local radio or check out the chamber's social media pages for

a chance to win ride wristbands for the weekend.

The fun runs from noon to 11 p.m. both days.

# Altona Farmers' Market returns July 2

By Ty Dilello

The Altona Farmers' Market is the place to find locally grown fresh produce, baked goods, and hand-made items every Saturday from July through September.

The 2022 market season begins on Saturday, July 2 from 10 a.m. to noon under a canopy across from the MCC

Thrift Shop on Main Street.

"We usually host around ten vendors selling a variety of products including pickles and preserves, baked goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, honey, and crafts," said coordinator Raven Nickel. "We've had interest from some new vendors this summer, so be sure to come check it out ... it is sure to be an exciting opening day."

You can also follow the market for updates throughout the summer on its Instagram page (@altonafarmersmarket). Anyone interested in being a vendor can email altonafarmersmarket@gmail.com.

"We're looking for buskers," Nickel noted. "If you or someone you know has musical talent to share, please contact the above email address."

# Remembering Altona's father of hockey

By Ty Dilello

An outstanding junior and senior defenceman who turned down a try-out with the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks, Harry Sulkers came to Altona to play with the Maroons from 1955 to 1963 and coached the Altona midgets to the 1956-57 Provincial "B" title.

Sulkers was the first "hockey mind" to come to town and help mould some of the town's players into budding prospects and show them how the game was supposed to be played. Although he has since passed on, he is still known today as the true "father of hockey" in Altona.

Sulkers was born on his family's farm in East St. Paul on April 13, 1920. The son of Dutch settlers, he grew up in a very sports-oriented family. When he was very small, his father had built a skating rink in the backyard for young Harry to learn to skate and play hockey.

Sulkers ended up living on his parents' farm for his entire life. He would work alongside his father for many years on the market garden surrounding the family homestead. He was a farmer true to the heart and continued his father's pride and work growing a variety of Grade A vegetable crops. He was known by many for his sweet corn and potatoes.

While the summers were about growing vegetables, Sulkers' winters were all about hockey. He played a lot as a youngster and soon became one of the top junior defencemen in the province, playing for the Elmwood Maple Leafs and Brandon Elks. One year, he was even invited to the Chicago Blackhawks rookie camp but refused to go because he felt he was needed on the farm in the fall.

As a teenager, Sulkers met Ada, his future wife and the woman that he would go on to spend the rest of his life with.

Soon after the pair met, the Second World War came calling, and Sulkers served in the Canadian Army for four years. When the war ended, he realized his chances at playing in the NHL were slim as he hadn't skated in four winters. So with that, he got into senior hockey back in Manitoba.

Sulkers played with the Winnipeg Reo Flyers, Winnipeg Nationals and Pine Falls Paper Kings for a few seasons before heading south to skate for the Emerson Canadians and Letellier Maple Leafs, beginning in 1949. He

made \$20 a game for some of those teams, which was pretty good money in those days.

In 1955, Sulkers was offered a gig to come to Altona and teach the game there while playing for the senior Altona Maroons.

"The town of Altona contracted Harry to have a look at the teams in town and coach the youngsters," recalls Ada. "They had us out one day in the town to see what it was all about, and in the evening, we saw them play against Winkler, and I never saw anything so rough in my life. It was all hitting and rough stuff!"

"I said to Harry that we shouldn't get involved in this, but he said, 'Ph, this can be changed.' So he took the job. And you know what, he did change it."

For the next several years, Sulkers would be busy in Altona all winter long. He was coaching the midgets and the junior team while also playing for the senior Maroons. He was even helping the five and under kids learn how to skate in the afternoons. He really did it all.

"I always remember Harry saying to the players: 'Keep your head up and your elbows out. Protect yourself,'" says Ada.

Sulkers' significant coaching accomplishment came when he coached the Altona midget team to the Provincial "B" title in 1956-57. One of his pupils, Jerry Rempel, even went on to become Altona's first pro hockey player.

"Harry really helped me a bunch. He was a pretty good senior leaguer in his day, and he came to Altona to move the sport of hockey along," says Rempel. "At the time, he was the playing coach for the Maroons, and I guess he saw something in me, and he recommended me to some of the scouts in Winnipeg. So some NHL scouts came from Winnipeg to Altona to watch me, and the next thing I know I was signing with the Detroit Red Wings."

As a player-coach, Sulkers not only frustrated the opposition with his defensive abilities but also outwitted them with his vast understanding of the game.

Playing for the senior team could be quite tough as one of the older players in the league. Ada recalls how her husband seemed to be in the hospital almost every Saturday night one winter after games because he would



PHOTO BY TY DILELLO/VOICE

Former junior hockey star Harry Sulkers (right) came to Altona in 1955 and taught the sport to a new generation of young players in town. Sulkers is shown here with John A. Gerbrandt.

need stitches. After a while, Ada got pretty good at putting in stitches, which saved some time going to the hospital.

Sulkers would get a lot of pretty tough charley horses and, as a result, had bad knees and shoulders later in life.

"The last year he played, he had a broken wrist and thought that maybe it's time to quit," shares Ada.

The Sulkers eventually moved to East St. Paul and Harry got into the sport of curling. He also did some hockey coaching with the local teams, but curling became a big passion later in life.

"He started throwing some curling rocks with his cousins and enjoyed it, so he started playing more," says Ada. "He did very well with curling, winning championships at their club and going out to bonspiels."

Sulkers joined the Dr. Bill McTavish senior team out of the Elmwood Curling Club in the 1970s and promptly won three provincial championships.

They even won a Canadian Senior Championship in 1973. That team has since been inducted into the Manitoba Curling Hall of Fame.

Sulkers passed away on Aug 26, 2005, at the age of 85.

The Altona Maroons still remember Sulkers as they give out the 'Harry Sulkers Heart Award' annually to one of their players.

"We had a lot of good times in Altona," Ada says. "We enjoyed our time there a great deal. I know Harry did because he always talked about Altona whenever we were with company. He really loved his job and what he did in helping the game along there."

*Ty Dilello is the author of Mosienko: The Man Who Caught Lightning In A Bottle. He is an accredited writer with the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), historian for the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame, and is a member of the Society for International Hockey Research (SIHR).*

## > WORKSHOP, FROM PG. 12

"Climate change will require us to work together as a society in a way we haven't done since World War II," he said. "People may not realize it, but it is that serious a crisis. It will force us to give up on some comforts we have grown accustomed to."

Langelotz believes that this is an enormous opportunity to step back and take stock of our lives and ask

questions like: what do we actually need to be happy?

"It's my hope that when we begin to engage more on this issue, we will be able to look around and see that our neighbours share the same needs as us, and face the same crisis, so the only logical way forward is to work together for one another moving forward."



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Paddlefest returned last Saturday at Lake Minnewasta. Despite the strong winds, people were still keen to try out the canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards, and the Manitoba Paddle Association also came out with additional paddle crafts, including two dragon boats (above). The event also served to promote the local Morden Paddle Club, which offers rentals all season long at the lake.

# Morden Police seize over 25 grams of crystal meth

By Voice staff

Several people are facing charges in connection to a series of drug busts in Morden this month.

On June 10, Morden Police Service officers were called to a local business regarding an assault.

A suspect was placed under arrest and, upon a search, was found to be in possession of almost three grams of methamphetamine.

The 31-year-old Morden resident was charged with one count of possession of a controlled substance. The

victim of the assault did not wish to press charges. The suspect will appear in Morden court in August.

The next day, June 11, officers conducted a traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle on Victoria Street.

During the investigation, police became suspicious of the occupants. A K9 search was conducted on the exterior of the vehicle and indicated the presence of a controlled substance.

Police arrested the occupants and searched the vehicle, locating over three grams of methamphetamine.

The passenger, a 31-year-old male

from Winkler, was arrested and later released on an notice to attend Morden Provincial Court in August.

Later that same day, Morden officers were joined by members of the Regional Support Tactical Team in executing a search warrant on a residence in the 200-block of 1st Street.

Upon police arrival, the accused fled the residence on foot but was taken into custody by police a short distance away.

Police located approximately 19 grams of methamphetamine, Canadian currency, and a digital scale on the

accused.

A subsequent search of the residence revealed hundreds of new unused baggies, another digital scale, and a cell phone.

The 46-year-old Morden resident was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance for the purpose of trafficking and released on an undertaking to attend Morden Provincial Court in September.

In total police seized over 25 grams of crystal methamphetamine, which would be the equivalent of 250 individual doses.



MORDEN POLICE PHOTO

Morden Police seized over 25 grams—about 250 individual doses—of crystal methamphetamine earlier this month. Three people are facing drug charges.

# arts&culture

## Author John Einarson at Morden Library Thursday

By Lorne Stelmach

It won't be the last book John Einarson will author, but in some respects *Heart of Gold: A History of Winnipeg Music* would be a fitting finale.

Published last year, it offers an exhaustive history of Winnipeg's rich and diverse music heritage spanning multiple genres, and it seems the well-known musicologist, broadcaster, educator and author of more than a dozen critically-acclaimed music biographies was destined to write this book.

"Everything I've done kind of led me to do this book," Einarson said last week in advance of a book reading at the Morden Library Thursday, June 23 at 7 p.m. "I've said to people maybe it's the last book I'm going to do, but I don't know about that ... this book though was calling me for decades. I could no longer resist the call."

Einarson, who lived in Morden and taught at Morden Collegiate from 1978 to 1987, was an award-winning high school teacher and former consultant for the Manitoba Department of Education during a 30-year teaching career.

It is his writing career centred around

music, though, which has earned him the most attention and accolades.

Einarson wrote the Juno-nominated Bravo TV documentary *Buffy Sainte-Marie: A Multi-Media Life*, served as writer/consultant for A&E Biography Channel's Neil Young episode, and wrote CBC TV's *The Life & Times of Randy Bachman*. He also curated the acclaimed 2010 Manitoba Museum exhibit *Shakin' All Over: The Manitoba Music Experience* and organizes the popular *Magical Musical History Tour of Winnipeg*.

Four of his books have been on the *Globe & Mail* best-sellers list, while several have been ranked among the top 10 best music biographies in the UK and received award nominations.

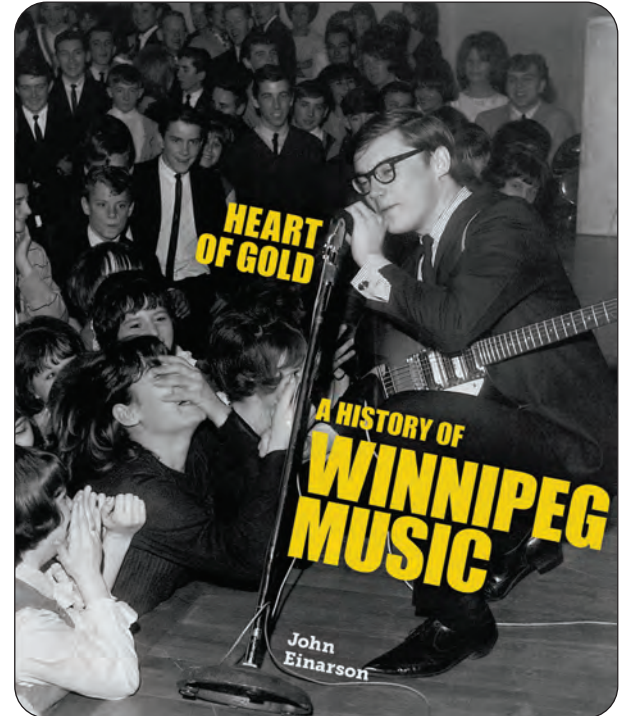
It was his book *Shakin' All Over: The Winnipeg Sixties Rock Scene* that in a way led him to write *Heart of Gold*.

"It just seemed that I had left a lot out, and I'm learning more and more about Winnipeg music history in a much broader sense," said Einarson, who has not only hosted music shows on CBC radio but has also been a frequent contributor to the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

"I really cast a wide net with articles about classical music, articles about



**SUPPLIED PHOTOS**  
Author John Einarson will be at the Morden Library this week to promote his new book: *Heart of Gold, A History of Winnipeg Music*.



Indigenous music, blues, all of it. And it really served to make me realize I needed to do a much more comprehensive book on Winnipeg music," he said. "It was gratifying for me to be able to pull of these different strands of music together. I'm the rock and roll writer guy, but there's so much to Winnipeg music and to Manitoba music than just rock and roll."

Singers and musicians from here of all musical stripes have gone on to shape and influence music across the country and around the globe, he suggested, and *Heart of Gold* presents a compelling case for Winnipeg being the centre of Canadian music for more than a century.

The book is an exhaustive exploration of multiple genres, including Indigenous, Francophone, country music, folk and roots music, classical and opera, dance bands and jazz, blues and rock 'n' roll.

"It's much more than a book about the big wheels who came out of Winnipeg," said Einarson. "It's not just about the big guys. It's a story about a lot of people who never scaled the dizzying heights of fame in whatever music genre, but they contributed to country or folk or classical ... there's been so much music going on in so many different places and venues and clubs."

Einarson stressed that he has always had a deep appreciation for all varieties of music, even as a musician himself, as he played in several well-known local bands through the 1960s and 1970s and has performed on stage with Neil Young, Randy Bachman, and Burton Cummings, jammed with

Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention, and at age 17 even opened for Led Zeppelin before 14,000 people.

"One of the things that really excited me was the chance to talk about and present in great detail the Indigenous music scene. It's never been written about before in kind of detailed way," said Einarson.

"It was a real learning curve for me to write about that ... but it was the first chapter in the book because everything kind of starts with the drum. And then the fiddle came in ... and the fiddle is still very much a part of Indigenous and Métis music.

"It's been very gratifying to have the book so well received by the Indigenous community already," he added.

He also reflected on how the book required substantial research, but he had plenty of time during the pandemic

"It gave me a chance to hunker down in my office for a year and a half or more and do the book. It gave me the time and the opportunity to tackle what in fact is a pretty big book," said Einarson, who noted the book includes an index of 1,750 names and places.

As for what now lies ahead for him, Einarson is currently working on another project and a couple documentaries as well as a book he is calling *Words and Music by John Einarson*.

"Each of the books that I have done, what's the back story to all of it? For every book I have put out, there's a whole other book of the back story, the interviews," he said. "So this is how the music connected with me first and foremost."

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# sports & recreation

## Morden hosts girls baseball workshop

By Lorne Stelmach

A training camp meeting in Morden each Saturday over the past six weeks is part of an effort to get more girls into baseball.

The Baseball Manitoba program was aimed at girls between the ages of six and 13. Camps were offered in Winnipeg, Brandon, and Morden, with each featuring 90-minute sessions every week led by Team Manitoba members.

"They teach them all the basic skills like hitting, fielding, throwing," said Natalie Vigier-Hutton, who is the girls baseball contact with Morden

Minor Ball. "We have tried to get this going for a couple years now. Last year, we had a one-day event, but this year we were finally able to get the full experience."

The goal is simply to develop and improve baseball skills in young players and give them an opportunity to grow and develop in a fun, all-girls setting.

"No matter the skill level ... if they play softball or any other ball game, they were welcome to come," Vigier-Hutton said. "We hope to get some more girls playing baseball. Softball is really big around here, but there's a lot of opportunities for girls in base-



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Team Manitoba members were in Morden the past several weeks to host a training camp for young female baseball players. The last session took place on Saturday.



ball too with provincial teams and such."

The camp attracted about 20 players from all across the region, though predominantly from the Morden and Winkler area.

Participants like Lua Pauls, 12, said it had been a fun program with lots to learn about the game.

"This is my first time doing this camp, but I've always like to watch baseball, and I always like to do sports. I don't really play ball, but I do go play with friends," she said.

"I just kind of wanted to fill out my summer a little more ... and I just kind

of want to play more sports and be more active throughout the summer," Pauls added.

"I think this really helps with the skills, and I've met some new friends here, so it's just a really good experience."

In 2022, Baseball Manitoba will be offering summer camps in July in addition to its spring programs in May and June.

"I think the girls have had a lot of fun with it," said Vigier-Hutton. "We just want to give them a taste of what they can experience in baseball. We hope to be able to grow this program."

**"WE JUST WANT TO GIVE THEM A TASTE OF WHAT THEY CAN EXPERIENCE IN BASEBALL."**

## Mud Hens, Bisons, and Whips all post wins

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Mud Hens maintained their flawless record in Border Baseball League action last week.

Morden blanked Clearwater 6-0 Friday night to make it a perfect 6-0

season thus far, which is good for first place in the league's East Division.

In second place right now with a 5-3 record are the Altona Bisons, who bested the Pilot Mound Pilots 9-3 and 12-2 in a double-header Friday.

The Winkler Whips are in third place

at an even 3-3 for the summer after a 9-0 win against the Baldur Regals Friday.

Rounding out the division are the Carman Cardinals in fourth and last place at 2-4.

This week Tuesday Morden travels

to play Altona and the Whips host the Cardinals. Friday has the Mud Hens in Clearwater and the Whips in Baldur. On Sunday the Bisons travel to play a double-header in Clearwater while the Mud Hens host Carman.

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



# New basketball court for Morden

By Lorne Stelmach

Work is underway on the construction of a full size basketball court in Morden, and credit for the birth of the idea is being given to youth council member Bijan Salimi.

The project also came about now with over \$125,000 being provided by Valley Fiber, so Mayor Brandon Burley appreciates how it has all fallen into place.

"For us, it's not an idea that we probably would have been drawn to or noticed if wasn't for the youth councillor, so the value of that position is there for us," he said. "And community minded businesses that like to invest back in the communities they serve is always a good thing. We're very grateful to Valley Fiber for their financial commitment because it wouldn't have happened without them."

The outdoor court will be located in the BSI Insurance Skate Park on Wardrop St. It will feature a full-length court as well as two half courts once it is completed.

Work is already underway on the site, and Burley anticipates the full court will be in place this summer with the rest of the project finished next year.

Burley said they were grateful to have Salimi bring forward this idea as a result of engagement with other youth who identified a basketball facility as being a real need here.

"There was nothing really that would be a destination for basketball," he said, adding council wasn't really aware of the level of interest in basketball in the community.

After having started as youth council member last fall, Salimi consulted with other youth to gauge what they might identify as priorities.

"When I started to engage with the youth in our community, especially in my school, something that always came up was a major focus on athletics," he said. "And an issue that always seemed very major to students was the fact that we don't really have many basketball courts in Morden."

The limited existing options for basketball in Morden were not full or proper courts, and what there is has not been properly kept up, Salimi noted.

He gives full credit to both the mayor and council for listening and acting on the idea.

"I'm very excited, and I do believe that everyone in Morden, not just youth, will benefit from this," he said. "This will help us be a more active



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A new basketball court featuring a full court and two half courts is under construction in the BSI Insurance Skate Park on Wardrop Street in Morden.

community."

Salimi noted he also sees further needs for more recreational facilities overall in the community, particularly more accessible playgrounds.

"Maybe we can work with organizations like Jumpstart to try to make our playgrounds more inclusive and accessible," he suggested.

Valley Fiber was pleased to be able to support the project.

"Many of our staff live in Morden or grew up in Morden, so being able to give back to the community that many of our staff call home is an honour," said Conley Kehler, senior vice-president of Valley Fiber.

"We feel fortunate to work with the City of Morden," he said. "We are

thrilled to make a difference in rural Manitoba and thrilled to be able to add a community basketball court for everyone to enjoy.

"The project itself aligned with our core value of giving back, and we understood from the city that one of locations for shooting hoops is the Access Event Centre parking lot, so not the safest place," Kehler added. "The city let us know that was something they were looking for, so the partnership and the project just made sense for us.

"Really, at the end of the day, it's important for us to give back ... this just aligned with everything that Valley Fiber wants to do with communities we are in."

# Big Brothers Big Sisters reports on a challenging year

By Lorne Stelmach

While feeling the impact of the pandemic, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Pembina Valley remains in a solid position as it now looks to move forward.

Following the organization's virtual annual meeting last Wednesday, executive director Jenelle Neufeld said she is excited and hopeful about what the year ahead will bring after the past year of challenges.

"It wasn't the greatest year that we've had, but, all things considered, we are happy with the position we are in right now," she said.

"We have come out the other side with the unprecedented years behind us, and we are excited for what the future holds," Neufeld said in her report to the board. "We look forward to the new year ahead, moving forward while getting back to a new sense of normalcy, which will reflect heavily in our programming as well as our fundraising."

The organization is coming out of the pandemic years in a good financial position. Although it recorded a deficit of about \$38,000 in the past fis-

cal year, it still maintains an accumulated surplus of over \$93,000.

It saw an impact on revenues particularly with not being able to hold its Bowl for Kids, which is a fundraiser that can bring in upwards of \$32,000 each year.

"That's kind of an irreplaceable fundraiser for us," said Neufeld, who noted they held, in its place, the Big Night In fundraiser where they partnered with Mulligans and raised about \$11,000.

"It was something that we could do within the restrictions at the time," she said. "It was a way for people to still support our organization."

There was also some impact on their mentoring programs, especially in terms of the way they delivered them.

"With our programming, it has been affected a little bit, but as a whole, we're still in a strong position with our casework numbers," said Neufeld.

"It was just a different dynamic because you have to anticipate that some people were still not going to be comfortable attending events ... it was a little bit of a learning curve.

"It was hard to keep the connections

going," she continued. "We did transition to virtual matches, so they were meeting online, however they wanted to do it.

"If you're not able to see the person, though, it's harder to keep that connection going," she said, adding they also had their in-school matches transition to a traditional community-based match because it allowed a little more flexibility during a time when access to schools was limited.

Overall, the agency reported 19 mentored youth as of the annual meeting, with 15 on a waiting list.

Looking ahead, Neufeld noted they hope to start making in-roads into Carman, starting with a July 14 fundraising golf tournament there. They are also working to get some matches started in the community.

"We will need volunteers first in order to do that," she said.

Otherwise, one significant change for the organization sees Mark Bennett stepping aside as board chairperson. Rebecca Wiens is the new board chair.

In his final report, Bennett recalled the reason he had originally joined

the board.

"Jeremy Ward, who served as president in the early 2010s, told me that the reason he became involved was that he had learned that some children in need of our services had actually aged out of the program. That is to say, these children in need were on the waiting list for a match for so long that they had grown too old to qualify for the program.

"I know some of my fellow board members have heard me recount this story numerous times, but my hope in mentioning it yet again, in this context, is that the spirit, drive, purpose and vital importance behind what the agency is tasked with doing are embedded in the mindset of each of the members, donors and potential supporters that make our programs possible.

"Our mandate of ensuring that every child in need of a mentor in our region has a mentor remains unchanged," Bennett stressed. "Our focus for 2022/2023 remains unchanged. As an agency, we must continue to uncover mentors for youth in need of mentorship."

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF HEARING - RE: RENT REGULATION - COMPLIANCE APPEAL**

The Residential Tenancies Commission will be hearing an appeal for Residential Tenancies Branch Order Nos.: 2021WRR-000093, 2021WRR-000094, 2021WRR-000098 to 2021WRR-000116. The details of the appeal hearing are as follows:

Date: JULY 11, 2022

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

The rental unit addresses at issue in the appeal hearing are as follows:

Units 1 - 4, 161 - 2nd Street, Winkler, Manitoba R6W 4A9

The past tenants to be notified are as follows:

Abe Dyck, Melanie Fehr, Martin Volcko, Yvette Pockett, Henry Wall, Courtney Omar, Jeremy Hoffman, Helena Wiebe, Johanna Wirtz, Alexandra Fehr Hildebrand, Abe Wall, Tyler Banman, Willie Sawatzky, Kellen Pratt, Gerhard Thiessen, Karter Fehr and Elizabeth Adams.

The contact information for the Residential Tenancies Commission is as follows:

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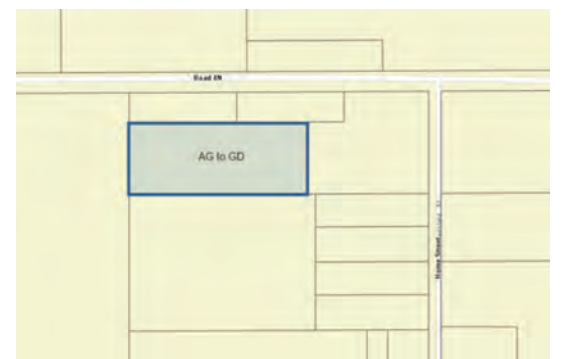
**Annual General Meeting**  
**June 28 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Gateway Resources Dining Hall**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

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



**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF STANLEY BY-LAW 13-22**  
**Being an AMENDMENT to the R.M. OF STANLEY ZONING BY-LAW 8-18, AS AMENDED.**

**HEARING:** R.M. of Stanley Council Chambers  
**LOCATION:** 1-23111 PTH 14, SW 7-3-4W  
**DATE & TIME:** July 7, 2022 at 9:05 a.m.

**General Intent:** To re-zone a portion of a parcel of land in the RM of Stanley  
**From:** "AG" Agricultural General  
**To:** "GD" General Development  
**AREA:** Part of Lot 1, Plan 600 Village of Friedensfeld West

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Melissa Groening,  
Planning and Development Officer  
Rural Municipality of Stanley  
1-23111 PTH 14, Stanley MB R6P 0B1  
Phone: (204) 325-4101  
Email: mgroening@rmofstanley.ca

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

For further information, please contact the Planning and Development Officer at 204-325-4101 or mgroening@rmofstanley.ca.

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**OBITUARY**

## Raymond John Warkentin 1939 - 2022



Raymond Warkentin passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at Boundary Trails Health Centre at the age of 83 years with his family by his side.

He was born on March 29, 1939 to Jacob and Anne Warkentin (nee Friesen). Ray leaves to mourn his beloved wife of 58 years, Eileen Warkentin (nee Letkeman). He is also survived by his three children: son Darrell and wife Jacquie and their children, Janessa Warkentin, Danitra and husband Riley Lemky; daughter Danell and husband Allan Enns and their children, Chantal and husband Trevor Coulombe, Gavin and wife Lindsay Enns; daughter Darcia and husband Dwayne Unger and their children, Colton Unger, Ashton and husband Erwin Lau. Ray is also survived by four

great-grandsons, Ryder, Easton, Knox and Timber Lemky and one great-granddaughter, Cassie Lau. He is survived by two sisters, Evelyn and husband Rene Giuliani, Diane and husband Ed Sawatzky; one brother, Ron Warkentin, one sister-in-law, Ella Warkentin and their families.

He was predeceased by one grandson, Brady Enns, one brother, Lawrence Warkentin, one sister, Verna Peters.

Ray's childhood years were spent around the Haskett area and later in Morden. Ray worked on the pipeline, Texaco Service Station, gravel company, bridge construction, Triple E, Gardewine Transport, apartment maintenance for HF Wiebe, and part time at P.M Elias Trucking, all prior to his retirement. While working at the Texaco Service Station he met the love of his life, Eileen, at the Blue Moon Cafe where she worked. He fell in love with her ponytail, and she fell in love with his convertible. Needless to say, shortly after they got married, Eileen cut her hair and Ray had to sell his convertible to purchase furniture. Now that's true love!! Ray and Eileen were married April 25, 1964 in Morden. Their love for each other was clearly evident in their everyday life! They were blessed with three children: son Darrell (1965), daughter Danell (1967), daughter Darcia (1970). During their 58 years of marriage they enjoyed travelling, which also included delivering motor homes to many locations. And as a family they went on numerous camping trips with family and friends. Ray supported all sports and activities that his children were involved in and when he was blessed with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, hands down, he was their greatest supporter. Family was extremely important to Ray and he loved and was proud of each and every child, grandchild and great-grandchild beyond words and he cherished every moment spent with them. Ray enjoyed going for walks and bike rides and while doing so met up with many friends and family and he always took a moment to chat. You could also find Ray at many hockey games or baseball games. One Father's Day, he was so involved in watching his baseball he forgot to come home, so we started celebrating without him.

Ray was baptized in 1963 in Morden Bergthaler Mennonite Church and later became a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1977. Here he was an active member and served on church council for many years. His faith, and trusting in the Lord, and attending church were very important to him.

Funeral service was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at the Trinity Lutheran Church with interment at Westridge Memorial gardens.

We, the family, would like to thank the medical team at Boundary Trails, especially the paramedics, Dr. Jacob Miller, Nurse Jamie and Nurse Shelby, Brenda Unger for her medical assistance prior to the paramedics' arrival and for the many prayers, messages and calls, flowers, visits, and food deliveries; to Pastor Alex Klages and Vicar Nigel Prozenco for their spiritual guidance during this difficult time and to Wiebe Funeral Home for their service.

Heaven gained the sweetest man when you left us, and we know you are up in Heaven with your mother, who passed away when you were a young boy, and whom you've missed so much! We will miss you tremendously! Until we meet again...we love you!

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# Mateychuk ready for NHL Draft

By Ty Dilello

Dominion City's Denton Mateychuk is beginning to make a name for himself in the hockey world.

At seventeen years of age, the 5'11 defenseman is considered a top prospect slated to go in the first round at next month's 2022 NHL Entry Draft.

Mateychuk credits his family and growing up in a small town in helping him get to where he is today.

"My dad played college baseball, and so he's always been a huge sports guy, while my mom was also into sports too," he said.

"Growing up in a small town, there are ups and downs as there are good things that come from it and some disadvantages as well. There was certainly more access to ball fields or hockey rinks in Dominion City than in other places, I'm sure," Mateychuk said, recalling his dad was always able to get a rink for him to practice on growing up. "I would skate for hours. That really helped, and it just gave me the love for the game that I have today."

Mateychuk just completed his first full season with the WHL's Moose Jaw Warriors, scoring 64 points in 65 games as his team fell in the second round of the playoffs.

"My first full season with Moose Jaw was great," he said. "It was a great group of guys, and I enjoyed it from start to finish. Of course,

it sucks coming up short in the playoffs, but it gives you motivation for the year coming up. Playing in the Top Prospects Game was also awesome, as well as being able to go with my teammate, Jagger Firkus."

Earlier this month, Mateychuk attended the NHL Draft Combine. The annual event held ahead of the NHL Draft is an assessment of the top prospects involving interviews, medical screenings, and fitness tests over four days.

"I really enjoyed the experience being at the NHL Draft Combine. I did quite a few interviews, and it's really nice to get to talk face-to-face and not just on Zoom," Mateychuk observed. "With the testing, I only did the upper body stuff, but I think I did well in it. I think most of my interviews went well."

Mateychuk doesn't care where he gets selected next month but would be over the moon if it was the Winnipeg Jets that drafted him with the fourteenth overall selection.

"It would be awesome to be picked by the Winnipeg Jets. Growing up going and watching the Jets and being able to go to some games, it would definitely be an awesome place to play."

Mateychuk has been keeping busy so far this summer playing a few games with the Altona Bisons junior baseball team. However, after the draft, he will probably stop playing baseball and focus on hockey and his training.

"It is nice to play a bit of baseball. I try to get out to the games if I have nothing going on,"



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dominion City's Denton Mateychuk hopes to take the next step in his hockey career with the NHL Draft next month.

Mateychuk said. "I don't let it affect my summer training, so I make sure I'm not missing any of that."

Through it all, Mateychuk is building lots of excitement internally for the upcoming draft as he will finally figure out which direction he will be headed in regards to his future professional career.

"I am very excited for the draft. Going through the year, it was something I would think about a bit. But now that the hockey season is over, and that is the next thing up. It gets more and more exciting. It will be an awesome moment and something that I have worked hard towards for a long time."



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