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Michelle Doerksen and her 94-year-old mother Jean Tarnick had a thrilling ride at the Downtown Summer Kick-Off in Altona July 8. This was Tarnick's first time on a Ferris wheel in 45 years and her granddaughter, Stephanie Doerksen, shared that she "had an absolute blast!" For more kickoff photos, see Pg. 12.

SUPPLIED PHOTO BY
STEPHANIE DOERKSEN

Kicking off the summer

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



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getinformed

Sunburst art lights up gardens

By Lori Penner

If you need a little more sunshine in your life, head over to the Altona Community Garden, where a big, colourful sunburst will greet you when you arrive.

The art piece is featured on the west-facing wall of the pavilion and was designed and created by James Friesen of Tinker Creek Construction.

"He had this in mind right from the beginning before he even put up the timber frames of the pavilion. It was in the original design," says Community Garden Task Force member Jack Heppner. "He put the final touches on it last week.

"It's on a timer, with a spotlight shining on it from dusk until dawn," he says. "It looks really great at night, and looks like the sun rising over the hills, with a variety of colours match-

ing the pavilion itself. The top layer is yellow sunbeams coming up over the horizon."

Heppner says all but one of the 140 plots are filled this year, with 96 families happily growing their produce.

"We increased by 30 plots this year. The gardeners are doing a great job keeping their plots clean. We really could use some rain, but there is water available at the site."

The pavilion area itself is nearly complete. The timber shelter provides a place to sit and visit. There are two accessible washrooms, and the paved walkway will be complete this summer.

Heppner says anyone can come by and use the pavilion, whether you're a gardener or not.

"Anybody can sit here and enjoy it. We're getting lots of local and out of town visitors just coming around to



SUPPLIED PHOTO

James Friesen created this sunburst piece of artwork at the Altona Community Garden pavilion.

check it out. There's a big sand box for kids, and a lot of moms just come here to watch their kids play. The pavilion has become yet another one of Altona's attractions."

Heppner adds that they are planning a grand opening for the pavilion on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 11 a.m.


"There will be hot dogs and drinks provided by Co-op and a local band called Alterlimitz will be performing for guests," he says, noting all are welcome. "We want to celebrate the completion of this beautiful place in Altona."



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Altona Elks donate \$2,000 to Katie Cares

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Members of the Altona Elks headed to Morden-Winkler last week to pay a visit to Katie's Cottage.

Elks Sharon Makara, Candy Neustader, Lloyd Schroeder, Chris Klassen, and Guy Mullen stopped by the respite home, located a stone's throw from the Boundary Trails Health Centre, to present Ruth Reimer of Katie Cares with a sizeable donation.

"We donated \$2,000 to Katie Cares for their little Beanie Babies because we want to do something for the kids that are going to the hospital," explained Mullen, noting that going to the hospital for any reason—whether it's an emergency or a simple blood test—can be scary for a kid, so getting a furry friend to hug can help make things a little easier.

Katie Cares distributes thousands of free Beanie Babies every year to child patients at BTHC, Altona Community Memorial Hospital, and the hospitals

in Carman, Portage la Prairie, and La Salle. Winkler Dental Clinic also recently got involved with the program.

"It's a wonderful idea," Mullen said, noting this is the Elks' second donation to Katie Cares in recent years, but it won't be their last. "They are an amazing group ... from now on, we are going to be donating to Katie's Cares because it's what we do: [help] children. That's all we work with is children. So we would love to be working with Katie's Cares to help the children in the area."

Reimer says the \$2,000 will go to purchase 1,000 Beanie Babies to be distributed at the Altona hospital.

"It doesn't matter where I go, somebody will come up to me and say, 'You know, our daughter, our son, our baby got one of these little things, little Beanies,'" she says. "It's just seems like such a small thing, but ... these furry little friends come into their lives and they wipe away a tear

and a smile appears on their faces. It's beautiful to hear the stories."

The initiative is at the very heart of Katie Cares. It all started when Reimer's late daughter, Kaitlyn, gave comfort to a fellow patient in the hospital by giving them a teddy bear.

"That was her first project when she was in the hospital," Reimer shares. "She was able to give a little girl that was so badly beaten, she gave that gift to that child. And it has not been forgotten. This is something that is important to us and I never want to stop giving that to the kids."

The Altona Elks currently have a couple dozen members and they're always looking for more. The club has been in operation since 1960.

"With each member we have, we grow stronger and we get better ideas," Mullin says.

One of the ways the club raises funds for the programs and projects it supports is through a weekly Chase the Ace game at the Altona Hotel.

You can find and connect with the Altona Elks through Facebook or at altonaelks.wordpress.com.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Altona Elk members Lloyd Schroeder, Guy Mullen, Sharon Makara, and Candy Neustader with Charley the Elk and Katie Cares' Ruth Reimer (front, centre) at Katie's Cottage last week. The Elks donated \$2,000 to the Beanie Baby program.

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Tractor Trek expected to reach \$1M milestone for Eden



By Ashleigh Viveiros

Forty-nine vintage tractors hit the road Saturday in support of Eden Foundation and mental health programming.

The foundation's 16th annual Visit the Village Tractor Trek set out from Winkler that morning with participants parading through town in the first leg of a 46 km route that took them through Reinfeld, Blumengart

Hutterite Colony, Gnadenthal, and Neuenberg.

"It was an extremely enjoyable day with lots of smiles and just a positive vibe, a positive attitude from all of the trekkers," said Jayme Giesbrecht, Eden Foundation director of development. "It was a great success in so many ways."

While the final tally of donations collected wasn't expected to be available until later this week, Giesbrecht

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Forty-nine tractors set out from Winkler Saturday morning in the annual Eden Foundation Visit the Villages Tractor Trek. Donations were still being tallied at press time, but organizers expect with this year's amount the event will reach \$1 million raised over the past 16 years.

is confident the event—which last year raised over \$92,000—has hit a milestone.

"It's a significant year as this is the year that we surpass the \$1 million mark for the event in its totality," she says, sharing that the funds go to support Eden's myriad of programs in the communities it serves across southern Manitoba. "It all goes towards housing, employment services, and counselling programming, as well as to [projects at] the mental health care centre.

"I'm just so grateful for everyone involved," she adds. "To see the community support as we started and ended in Winkler, to see people come out in the villages to watch the tractors go by, and for our local business sponsors to make sure that we have the overhead funding so that all of

the donors' money can go directly towards the cause is so valuable and important. It's a long day, but it's so fulfilling."

The Tractor Trek got its start back in 2007 as a special event to mark Eden's 40th anniversary. That first year saw, fittingly, 40 tractors travel 40 kilometres and exceed the \$40,000 fundraising goal by over \$11,000.

To see the trek reach \$1 million is amazing, notes event founder Armin Ens, who has been the lead tractor driver for years.

"The fact that we've reached this milestone signifies that this is a very important and significant cause," he says. "We live in an incredibly generous community, and we have a very gracious God who has allowed all of this to happen."



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"We can all do our part"

Morden-Winkler leaders urge residents to be water conscious

By Lorne Stelmach

The region may now be two years removed from extreme drought, but Morden and Winkler leaders were recently reminding residents to continue to have water conservation in mind.

The cautions came in the midst of the season being a peak time in terms of water usage and with the City of Morden especially warning that its water treatment plant was being pressed to near capacity.

It's about helping ensure a sustainable future for water while the city continues to pursue short and long term options, stressed Nancy Penner, who chairs the drought committee for Morden city council.

"We can all do our part just to be more aware of how much water we are using," she said.

"I think we are above normal as far as the Canadian average per person per litre per day consumers of water, so I think that is something that we

have to be aware of," Penner continued. "We're not at the low end of the scale, so I think we have room to be more water conscious with our consumption."

"We're not mandating to conserve but we're always asking everybody to conserve water," said Travis Duff, water services supervisor for the City of Winkler.

"Water usage goes up considerably, usually in mid-May and June ... so it's just a reminder to everybody that water consumption goes up in summer time and that water conservation is always a good idea."

The City of Winkler shares weekly "Water Wednesdays" posts on its Facebook page to keep residents up to date on water usage. Last week, for example, had consumption at 77 per cent of production capacity, which was rated as just barely down in the green or normal zone.

"I think the residents of Winkler are outstanding. Our water usage for the city is in the range of 130 to 140 litres

per person per day, which is quite phenomenal when you look at the average water usage," Duff said, noting the Canadian average is 215 litres per person.

"By no means are we concerned that we don't have enough production or that we can't treat enough water or that we can't get enough water from Pembina Valley Water Co-op. All of those things are fine," he said. But they do want to keep residents aware of what's happening. "We work and communicate almost daily on what our plants are doing ... do we have any concerns or is it business as usual?"

In Morden, Penner recalled how the need for conservation became vital during the drought of 2021. She feels residents continue to be mindful of how much water they're using.

"Everybody stepped up and showed that we could do it ... there's lots of little things that we can all do."

The city had noted recently that the water plant was running at 43 litres per second, which was getting close to its maximum capacity of 45 litres per second.

If circumstances warranted, they



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE
Leaders in Morden and Winkler are asking residents to do their part to conserve water this summer.

could consider options like people only being allowed to water even or odd days, Penner said.

"We're not there yet," she stressed. "I'm not sure that we're even back to having that bowl in the sink every time you rinse something, but it's just always being aware of water conservation."

"Even with the Pembina Valley Water Co-op, I think they're at their peak water usage right now as well," she said. "So I think we always have to create that awareness."

Continued on page 10

Central Station receives 'Spruce Up' grant

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Central Station's outdoor seating area is getting a face-lift thanks to funding from Red River Mutual.

The insurance agency last week announced the Winkler community centre as one of 10 recipients of this year's Spruce Up Your Story funding, which totals over \$150,000 for projects across Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Central Station received nearly \$15,000 to transform the space by its front entrance into a more welcoming community gathering hub.

"We are super excited. We have plans to do a bit of a timber frame roof with some sails over it to create a kind of an awning to get some shade in the picnic area in the front of our building," explains executive director Bev Wiebe. "Our building is very industrial, so it will be nice to add some character into there."

"It'll add some life to it and create a community space people can use ... we're right on Main St., so we want it to look appealing and welcoming."

The grant will cover the full costs of the project, which is expected to get underway soon.

"We have two builders that are going to start working on it in the next couple of weeks," Wiebe says. "It sounds like hopefully it won't take

them too long."

The Spruce Up Your Story campaign received a total of 317 submissions this year.

"We're thrilled to see the enthusiastic response this initiative is still getting in its fourth year. There were many worthwhile submissions and it was hard to pick just 10 recipients. We're excited to see the impact these projects will have in their communities," says Red River Mutual CEO Brenda Gibson. "We're committed to helping make a positive impact in the communities and neighbourhoods we do business in. Learning about our communities' needs and building connections with them is something we look forward to, and we're grateful to be a part of their stories."

Since 2020, the campaign has provided over \$500,000 to support community projects in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The submitted renovation or beautification projects are evaluated based on community use and significance, their commitment to sustainability, opportunities for volunteerism, and connections to a local insurance brokerage

Other winning Manitoba projects this year include those in Winnipeg, Forrest, Argyle, and Virden.



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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Help at home

Over the years, particularly when we approach municipal and provincial elections, the calls for dramatically increased spending on social infrastructure in Winnipeg get louder.

Honestly, who can blame people? The evidence of need for a massively expanded inventory of safe, accessible, affordable housing is obvious. There are clear signs that we need more shelter beds, addictions care, safe injection sites, transitional housing, and more throughout the city.

One fact that is often not talked about loudly enough is that a large number of people utilizing social infrastructure come from outside of Winnipeg. In fact, according to the Winnipeg Street Census 2022, more than 40 communities are represented amongst Winnipeg's homeless population, most from Manitoba, and a disproportionately large percentage are Indigenous (68.2 per cent).

"While cultural norms within Indigenous cultures include such supports as extended kin networks, widespread poverty and lack of adequate affordable housing mean that too often, families lack the resources to assist with the transition of family members from home communities to Winnipeg," the census noted. When it comes to Winnipeg's social

infrastructure needs, we have a sort of chicken and egg scenario. Which came first? The social infrastructure or the need for social infrastructure? Of course, complex issues such as homelessness and social need cannot be boiled down to such simplistic questions, but you get the point. How many people utilizing the infrastructure have come to Winnipeg because they lacked supports in their home communities?

Often people move "to the city" because of the allure of urban density and opportunity. But how many people are leaving the support network of family, friends, and community for Winnipeg simply because they lack the social infrastructure supports locally and feel they have no other option?

In the Pembina Valley communities of Morden (where I live), Winkler, and the surrounding municipalities, there is a population of about 40,000 people and little in the way of transitional housing (Genesis House does have one three-bedroom unit for the victims of domestic violence). That means a youth aging out of care in the region or a woman leaving the shelter must move to a city like Winnipeg for support or, in the case of many women, potentially be forced back into an

abusive circumstance.

I have had numerous conversations with community support workers, politicians, and others about the possibility of distributing social infrastructure throughout rural and northern Manitoba with varying levels of receptiveness.

Community support workers readily agree that if the infrastructure necessary existed locally in outside communities many people would remain near home rather than going to Winnipeg. With the added support of familiarity, family and friends, people have a higher likelihood of overcoming barriers they may be struggling with as well.

Still, there is hesitancy to talk about the possibility of distributing social infrastructure outside of Winnipeg, particularly amongst local politicians, for fear it would mean reduced and/or redirected funding. But isn't this the point?

And let's be honest: most rural communities and councils are not clamoring for provincial and federal assistance to grow and build social infrastructure. If certain people go to Winnipeg instead of remaining, our local leadership isn't exactly fighting

Continued on page 7



By Peter Cantelon

Letter policy

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

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

The *Voice* reserves the right to edit,

condense, or reject any submission.

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

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

View the Voice online at www.winklermordenvoice.ca or altonavoice.ca

Letters

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

This letter is about the state of health care in our area.

We created seven questions to help us understand what is happening in our local Altona Memorial Hospital and apparently throughout our provincial and federal health care system, and sent them to Southern Health, our MLA, our Minister of Health, and the Altona Memorial Hospital lead. We believed that having actual data would help us dialogue better with health care representatives and understand the situation better. We asked:

- "Regarding our Altona Hospital,
1. What is the full equivalent number of nurses and doctors currently at the hospital site?
 2. What is the full time equivalent of paramedics and ambulances that work out of our hospital in Altona?
 3. Is stretcher service still available for stabilized patients to free up am-

bulances?

4. What would the full equivalent doctors/nurses staffing need to be at in order for the community to notice a major improvement in services?

5. If a stretcher service is no longer available at our hospital, how could it be instituted?

6. What would be the ideal full equivalent of paramedics and ambulances needed to meet our communities' demands?

7. Any other factors I am missing besides sufficient support staff?"

At the time of this letter, we have received no response.

Hearing from hospital doctors, nurses, and support staff, we've learned that the responses they receive from their managers when voicing their concerns all have a common thread:

- "We appreciate you contacting us."
- "Thanks for taking the time to let us know of your concerns."
- "We are working on it."

Our impression is that constructive communication lines and collaborative problem-solving are broken and or nonexistent.

Staff venting is drastically reduced when staff feel and see their concerns being acknowledged by management and that they are included in finding more effective ways, including process updates with meaningful feedback from hospital staff.

Often a manager's strategy throughout this healthcare issue is listening to their staff concerns and doing nothing about it. Sadly that is when staff turns to venting among themselves, leading to a toxic workplace, and then to friends and community, creating a sinkhole where issues aren't raised through the proper lines of communication. Now you not only need to resolve

the original issue but have to somehow rebuild a positive work environment.

By not constructively including staff in the decision making process, we are seeing highly trained staff leave the profession because of burnout and not being respected for their input.

If you get the impression that we are venting or frustrated, we are. However, we are more saddened by the manner in which the constructive input of our hospital floor staff is not being acted upon by management, or the lack of timely feedback to staff to confirm if changes are having the desired impact for staff and for individuals seeking help from our healthcare system.

Mary Ann & Art Wiebe,
Rosenfeld

> CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

to get them back.

If greater funding of rural and northern infrastructure reduces the strain and need in Winnipeg and allows people the choice of remaining close to family, friends, and community, shouldn't this at least be considered and pursued?

I think about this a lot because I run a non-profit in Winnipeg called The Jubilee Fund and while we have a provincial mandate to assist with

poverty reduction initiatives, most of the work we have done has been within Winnipeg.

It's time for funding bodies to start seriously considering increasing (and in some instances starting) funding to social infrastructure in northern and rural Manitoba communities to allow people the dignity of choice – to remain in the communities they grew up in, close to family and friends, or to head to Winnipeg if they want.

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Concerts in the Park

Orlando & Grace kicked off a summer of music last Wednesday in Bethel Heritage Park. The evening show was the first of nine scheduled for the weekly Concerts in the Park series. This week's show features Three's Company. Coming up is Young & Haggard July 19, The Seven Pines July 26, That 80s Band Aug. 2, Jakebrakes Aug. 9, Nathan Keys Aug. 16, Brian Jacobs Aug. 23, and The Cracked Eggshell Aug. 30. The music starts at 7 p.m. and usually runs for about an hour.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH
VIVEIROS/VOICE



Municipal Board overturns council's decision

By Lorne Stelmach

A local developer has won their appeal of an earlier Morden council decision that denied a rezoning for a proposed new condo development in the city.

The Manitoba Municipal Board heard the appeal in late April and last week released its decision that clears the way for the three, 16-unit, three-storey condos near the busiest intersection in Morden.

The proposal was initially rejected by city council, but K Block Developments appealed the decision to the provincial oversight body.

Morden Mayor Brandon Burley last week expressed dismay over a process that allows a provincial body to overrule a local council.

"We're being given notice that what we want doesn't matter," said Burley, who suggested this is an example of local authority being eroded and removed by the current provincial government.

"To just circumvent local government is a disappointment, and it's a reflection of the fact that they seem not to care about local voices at all," he said. "The municipal board exists solely to achieve whatever ends the province seems to want to have, and an unelected, undemocratic institution is allowed to bypass the local voices of government."

K Block owner and president Frank Klassen was appreciative of having the opportunity to have the municipal board take a closer look at the

matter, but he especially emphasized "their desire to work with the City of Morden planning and council to come up with something that works for everyone.

"I realize that we can't satisfy everyone, and you face this all the time with developments. Multi-family isn't desired anywhere and yet, over and over, once the project is built, it helps build up the community," said Klassen, who reiterated it is "their desire to work with everyone and not against them."

The rezoning will change the properties at 20 Victoria Street and 227 First Street from residential two-family to residential multi-family to allow for the development of the three buildings that will have 48 units overall. They will be similar to the development at the corner of 15th Street and Highway 14 in Winkler.

K Block had maintained there was strong interest from Morden for this development and that the project will help address a real need for more housing options in the community.

They also countered that many of the issues raised by opponents can be mitigated in some way and that the increase in traffic would be more minimal than what had been suggested by opponents.

City representatives and opponents however had noted the Winkler development does not have single-family residential directly adjacent to it and also cited a number of other concerns, including the loss of privacy and the potential impact on their property

values, while also just suggesting there are other better locations in the city for this kind of development.

As well, the impact on what is already heavy traffic in the area of First Street and Victoria Street/Highway 3 was a key concern cited by not only area residents who spoke in opposition to it but by council as well.

"It's kind of a difficult thing to swallow," said Burley. "The disappointment for us is that people who had no history or context in this community are now making decisions on our behalf ... we have the information and awareness of our community.

"It's something that communities all across Manitoba are facing right now in that it is a provincial government that seems to not want to respect other orders of government."

He added this is a concern that is shared by all municipalities and their provincial organization, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities.

"The AMM is working on this ... the increasing levels of disrespect that the province seems willing to show to local orders of government," Burley said. "Sometimes, you feel like you're in the way, and they have something they want to do and are going to get it done, and we're just a roadblock to their objectives.

"We want to work towards partnership with the province ... if they have objectives that we're not aware of ... then work with local municipalities. We want to know what those are," he added.

In the meantime, Burley said council

will be sending a response to the municipal board as well as to the provincial government.

"We will express our distaste for the municipal board. We will be sure we submit this to the correct ministers."

Burley noted how people province-wide spoke up loud and clear against the plans to centralize control of the education system, and he hopes there could be a similar movement against the Manitoba Municipal Board system.

"Until there is that kind of outcry over the municipal board and the loss of local voice and local representation, nothing will change," he said. "If what they want is to put an administrator in every municipality in Manitoba and let them represent their wishes, they might as well do that because they'll pay that representation more than they support councils to make those choices.

"If they want to keep playing this way, it's hard to support that government. It's hard to have respect when respect isn't given," he concluded. "We need a provincial government that will respect local orders of government ... we need real partners and real partnerships."

Moving forward, Burley said they will be working and consulting with K Block Developments on this project as it proceeds.

"We will certainly do our best to do what we can to see the development happen as amenably and as well as possible."

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



Works of art

FACEBOOK.COM/WINKLERARTS

The first week of Winkler Arts and Culture's Chalk the City art campaign yielded some colourful results on sidewalks all throughout the community. The event runs until Aug. 11, so there's still plenty of time to get your entries in on WA+C social media pages. Every entry gets a free Co-op slushie coupon and a chance to win weekly prizes.



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MANITOBA CANADA'S HEART IS CALLING

Rosemary Siemens to perform in Austin July 30

By Voice staff

Rosemary Siemens is back in Manitoba this month to perform at the Manitoba Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede in Austin.

Rosemary & The Sweet Sound Revival take the stage at the Grandstand Rodeo Grounds on Sunday, July 30 at 11:30 a.m.

"Rosemary Siemens has performed around the world but she also has a strong Manitoba connection—she is originally from Plum Coulee," said Ed Heppner of The Mobile Stage Co., which is presenting the show. "One day I was wondering if Rosemary and her band might be available for the Threshermen's Reunion. I got in touch with them and before long the arrangements had been made.

"They'll actually be flying out from Italy to play this show, so I hope everyone is ready to welcome them

back to Manitoba. I know I am."

Rosemary & The Sweet Sound Revival is a six-piece instrumental bluegrass/country group that won album of the year at the Global Music Awards a few years ago. Their Austin show will feature a mix of country, gospel, hymns, and inspirational classics.

Siemens has performed at New York's Carnegie Hall and is the only solo violinist to play in the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City.

"I've written songs about my experiences so that people will be inspired and connect to the stories. My goal is to touch, inspire and make people smile," says Siemens. "This show takes you on a journey from classical to bluegrass to gospel to down-home fiddle, to tear-jerking inspirational stories perfect for any age."

The concert will also feature as special guest Grammy nominated Nash-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rosemary Siemens (left) and The Sweet Sound Revival perform in Austin July 30. The concert also features special guest Kristen Bearfeld (right).

ville artist Kristen Bearfeld.

Tickets to the show are available in Austin (Phil's Fine Foods and Norfolk Lumber) or online at <http://bit.ly/RosemarySiemens-July30>.

Adult tickets are \$35 each while kids

age six to 12 are \$10 (both of which includes Sunday admission to the Manitoba Agricultural Museum grounds). Kids five and under are free.

The concert happens rain or shine. Rush seating starts at 11 a.m.

> WATER CONSERVATION, FROM PG. 5

The City of Morden recently offered some recommendations on how to conserve water at home and in your workplace:

- Fix leaks and drips. A single leaky

faucet can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water per year.

- Installing water-efficient fixtures: low-flow shower heads, faucets and toilets can save thousands of gallons

of water per year.

- Water your lawn and garden efficiently. Water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation, and use a soaker hose or drip irrigation system to target plant roots.

- Consider using rain barrels to collect water for your garden. Rain barrels can be purchased at the Morden Civic Centre.

- Use water wisely indoors.

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GIFF

'Walk and roll' helps assess Altona's accessibility

By Lori Penner

When the Equal Access Altona (EAA) Committee was formed in 2018, their goal was to make sure every area of the community was accessible to all residents and visitors.

At that time, a Walk and Roll event took place, with committee and community members making their way around the downtown area, some using wheelchairs, walkers and canes, and others using welding helmets and devices to hinder their mobility, vision, and hearing, to get a better understanding of physical barriers on streets and sidewalks.

That first tour also included residents with physical challenges to provide a firsthand opinion of what was needed to improve accessibility.

Since those initial findings, the town has worked hard to remove barriers, such as grinding down sidewalks to remove lips, and smooth other uneven spots that could be a danger or hindrance to those with disabilities. The crosswalk on Centre Ave. was also the result of that original assessment.

On June 27, a seven-member EAA subcommittee made up of town man-

agers, councillors, and community members met for another Walk and Roll event, this time focusing on Altona's recreational facilities.

Altona communications and human resource officer Sarah Cail was part of a group that looked at the Millennium Exhibition Centre (MEC), including the Pioneer Centre, Sunflower Gardens Arena, Curling Club, and Community Gardens.

Riding a wheelchair for the first time, Cail says, was a shift in perspective.

"I was using a wheelchair to navigate the facility, which was helpful in identifying barriers. Most of the MEC is relatively accessible. But there are certain areas that are not as accessible as we thought they were. I felt a bit frustrated. I know we've come a

long way, but we still have a long way to go."

During the tour, Cail noticed things that have been affected by weather and time, such as buckling in the pavement near the entrance doors. There were also things that needed to be updated, such as the signage on the wheelchair lift.

"The signage needs to be more universal and clearly visible," she said.

"WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BUT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO."



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Members of the Equal Access Altona committee and community members recently toured Altona's recreational facilities to determine their accessibility for those with physical challenges.

The group also took a quick look at the Community Gardens, where accessible approaches are nearly complete.

"That's a work in progress," noted Cail. "They are still in the process of building accessible washrooms, and the raised garden beds are not yet complete. They will be complete this summer, providing eight raised beds which the EAA has provided funding for to help make those beds a reality."

A second team examined the Centennial Park, where they noticed that some of the ramps and entrances going in and coming out of facilities are rough and not well marked.

Committee members noted that they are not conducive to anybody in a walker, nor anybody that would be using assistive equipment because of seeing impairment, and not even for people in wheelchairs or the people that would be pushing them.

In their approach to the Aquatic Centre, the committee also identified poor signage, with access to most areas proving difficult for people with mobility devices or visual impairments.

Some of the people in the group put on a welding helmet to emulate visual impairment. Their inability to be able to see found it extremely rough, extremely dangerous and had to have sight guides with them.

The biggest issue was the bathrooms and changing rooms at the swimming pool, which were awkward and tight for wheelchairs, with poor signage

for the visually impaired.

Signs around the park were also noted as poor, particularly for those who are new to the area, or those who don't speak English.

The next step will see the EAA committee members review the findings of the Walk and Roll and compile it into a report for town council which is in the midst of strategic planning right now.

"Taking a hard look at these spaces obviously we're going to find a lot more than we thought we would," said Cail. "The committee will go over feedback from participants and committee members. We'll review that together and identify what are some things that we can change in practice, fix right away, or add more education for staff. What can we plan for in the future? Equal access does have a budget allotment through Altona council, and so what are things we can accomplish with that budget and what is going to be a bigger project to put forward to council and the community."

Looking at long-term and short-term plans, Cail said they will consider areas that have the highest impact first.

Cail attributes much of the town's progress to initial EAA committee chair Amy Pankowich, who first raised awareness of the community's accessibility issues.

"She did such a great job in steering the committee through former connections and changes. We look forward to continuing that work."



Altona Farmer's Market draws weekly crowds

By Lori Penner

The Altona Farmer's Market continues to be the busiest place on Main St. every Saturday morning.

Coordinator Raven Nickel says the lineup begins well before the 10 a.m. start time.

"It's been like this since the season began," Nickel says. "Right now, the biggest draw is the June and July strawberries. Those always go first."

Along with that, there are vendors selling baked and canned goods, such as jams, pickles, buns and cookies, bags of roasted coffee, and plenty more.

Later in the season shoppers can expect garden produce, which is great for gleaners who prefer to do their gardening at the market, or anyone who wants to sample the goodness of locally grown food.

"We recently purchased a picnic table from Blue Sky Opportunities, so visitors can relax and enjoy a coffee break while they're here," Nickel says.

New to market this year is a food currency program. Farmers markets across Manitoba are partnering with community organizations to bring locally grown food to those who need it most.

"We are working with the Community Exchange. They identify partici-

pants who could benefit from receiving this currency that acts as vouchers for locally grown food at the market," Nickel explains. "The currency can be used for purchasing whole food like vegetables, honey and meat, etc. Then I reimburse vendors with money received through Manitoba's initiative."

They hope to see about \$5,000 flow through the program this summer.

"It supports local people and adds a level of diversity to the Farmer's Market and brings exposure to a variety of demographics of people, which is important," Nickel says. "And it really supports the growing and selling of local food."

"It's a win-win situation. Money stays in the community. Food is locally grown, and products that are locally made so food doesn't have to be shipped thousands of miles across the world to get to people's homes. It just builds community. People come to the Farmer's Market, and they chat. It supports a sense of community and makes people aware of what kind of food we have."

Nickel adds that you can't beat the social aspect of the market.

"It's cool getting to know the vendors and seeing the amount of care they put into their products and the little bit of extra love they put into them, because they're seeing the people who are buying their products."



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

Jacob Friesen of Gnadenthal's Mini Acres Farm is one of the vendors at this year's Altona Farmer's Market, which runs every Saturday morning downtown.

This year, Nickel is making use of social media to let people know what items are available at the market from week to week. You can follow The Altona Farmers Market on Facebook and Instagram.

They're also looking for buskers to entertain visitors while they shop.

And back by popular demand, the

Altona Farmer's Market will once again be set up on the Saturday of the Manitoba Sunflower Festival, along the trail beside the park from 10 a.m. to noon.

For more information, contact Raven Nickel at altonafarmersmarket@gmail.com



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The Altona and District Chamber of Commerce got the summer off to a fine start last Friday and Saturday with its Downtown Summer Kick-off featuring Wonder Shows rides and games and street food vendors in the Altona Mall parking lot.

Let the summer begin



get informed

Gretna Hot Spot Festival is on this weekend

By Lori Penner

Organizers of the 2023 Gretna Hot Spot Festival are hoping for lots of sunshine and smiles as the annual event returns on July 14-15.

Organizer Faye Dyck says thanks to some great planning from her fellow committee members, and the generous support of local businesses, this year's event will be better than ever.

"We're bringing back a lot of old favourites and adding a few new events as well," she says.

Friday night's lineup begins with the return of the Amazing Race at 6:30 p.m. which will see teams of teens search for clues around the community.

"The teens always have a great time with this one, and I'm so glad it's back. Each clue comes with a special challenge they must complete before they can proceed to the next one. The winner gets a prize, and all participants get free slushies."

This is followed by an hour of line dancing with a professional instructor to show you all the steps. The eve-

ning rounds off with more music and dancing for everyone.

Saturday morning begins with a pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. followed by the annual Hot Spot Festival parade, featuring a variety of creative floats and special visitors.

The canteen, run by Furrever Friends Cat Rescue opens at 10:30 a.m. and runs right until 9 p.m. for anyone craving a snack or a cold drink.

"And it also supports a great cause," Dyck says.

A huge community raffle will be offering some fantastic prizes, donated by local businesses.

"There are some really big ones this year. We've got Bombers tickets, Goldeyes tickets, and a barbecue. Some metal art. There are a number of prizes valued at hundreds of dollars. Our sponsors have been super generous."

As always, there will be a wide variety of fun events and attractions to keep the kids busy. The foam party is back by popular demand.

"That was a huge hit last year. We're also bringing the petting zoo, inflat-



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The foam party is back by popular demand at the Gretna Hot Spot Festival.

ables, the Kiddie Carnival, and the train. Everything is free. And every child who completes the entire carnival gets a prize at the end."

Gretna Fire Department members will once again be perched inside a dunk tank from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. giving everybody a chance to test their throwing skills, and raise funds for the department, as well.

For those who love a good round of Bingo, cards will be available under the big tent from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. The tent will also be the location for a tasty meal from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

"Supper is by donation and will be pulled pork poutine, coleslaw and a dessert."

Johnny Cash and Elvis will make

their grand appearance from 7 to 9 p.m. performing all the beloved hits that made them so famous.

The festival rounds off with a fireworks presentation.

"We had a lot of fun organizing this year's event," Dyck shares. "We've got a great variety of free events for the whole family, and a lot of open and safe spaces for the kids to run, so mom and dad can sit back and relax. The entertainment and food will be amazing."

"Everybody is welcome and we're hoping to draw a big crowd. So come on down to Gretna. You'll have a great time."

Free provincial parks entry all this week

By Voice staff

If you haven't ventured into Manitoba's provincial parks before, this is the week to go.

Entry to all provincial parks is free July 10-16.

"For the third year in a row, our government is providing week-long free provincial park access to coincide

with Canada's Parks Day," said Natural Resources and Northern Development Minister Greg Nesbitt. "This initiative allows all Manitobans to enjoy our parks' extraordinary natural beauty, intriguing historical sites and diverse recreational activities."

Through to the end of the weekend, a vehicle permit will not be required to visit any of the province's 92 parks,

though overnight camping fees remain in effect. Entrance fees are also still in effect for any national parks.

A calendar of free interpretive events and experiences including guided hikes, historical tours and campfire talks, is available at <https://gov.mb.ca/nrnd/parks/education-and-interpretation/event-listings.html>.

Several campgrounds have also or-

ganized special events to celebrate Canada's Parks Day on July 15. Visitors can check with the local campground office for details on any activities happening in the park.

Individuals who wish to camp in a provincial park can make a reservation through the Parks Reservation Service at www.manitobaparks.com or by calling 1-888-482-2267.

getinformed

Local police, firefighters preparing for World Games

By Lorne Stelmach

The chance to take part in the largest sporting event ever hosted in Manitoba was too good to pass up for some local emergency personnel.

The 2023 World Police and Fire Games takes place from July 28 to August 6 in Winnipeg, and some members of departments from Morden, Winkler, and Altona will be participating in it.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience, so I'm looking forward to it, and hopefully I can bring my A game," said Rick Schroeder, a Winkler firefighter who be competing in golf.

"It's all over the world ... so the fact that it is in Winnipeg and close to home, I figured I should give it a shot," said Altona firefighter Adam

Skelton, who will be involved in three events including the mountain bike race as well as two related to firefighting: a stair race in full gear and the ultimate firefighter competition.

Held biennially, the World Police and Fire Games is an Olympic-style competition with more than 8,500 athletes representing law enforcement, firefighters and police officers from more than 50 countries across the world.

A few members from the Winkler Police Service will be going, including Phil Letkeman in hockey and Megan Goertzen in jiu-jitsu.

"This is the first time that I'm aware of that it's been this close to home in Winnipeg," noted Chief Ryan Hunt. "It's a fantastic opportunity for police officers and firefighters to get together



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Winkler firefighter Rick Schroeder (right) was out practising Thursday with Winkler golf club manager and pro Colton Harder. Schroeder will compete in golf in the World Police and Fire Games in Winnipeg later this month.

and be involved with other police and firefighters from all over the world ... I hope to be able to get in and take in some of the events."

The Morden Police Service will be sending a curling team featuring special constables Pam Goertzen and Morgan Reimer, Sgt. Scott Edwards, and a fourth member from elsewhere in the region. Cst Jon Goertzen is also entered in the jiu-jitsu event.

"It's a huge event, so to have members representing our services is pretty special," noted Chief Brad Neduzak.

"We're anxious to see how everybody makes out," he said, adding the fellowship is a huge part of it. "A lot of them are looking forward to that ... meeting people from all over the country and all over the world. It will be interesting to connect and hopefully make some friendships that they could maybe keep up."

Representing the Altona Police Service, meanwhile, will be Cpl. Mark Legal and Cst. Dustin Giesbrecht in the individual angling and team angling events while Cst. Brendan Funk will be part of the opening ceremonies

For Skelton, who has been with the Altona fire department as a full-time member for three years, the ultimate firefighter competition especially is a challenge he is looking forward to tackling.

It includes four events testing such things as their strength and endurance such as rolling hose and carry-

ing it a certain distance and hoisting a high-rise pack including 100 ft. of one and a half inch hose up five stories.

"There's stuff that applies to what we do in the line of duty and there's stuff that doesn't," said Skelton. "I'm excited for the experience. I'm looking forward to the challenge ... it's definitely been a challenge with the training I've been trying to do for it,"

"It's not every often you can meet people from all over the world ... people who have the same loves and passions as you do."

"I thought it would be a pretty cool thing," agreed Schroeder, who has been with the Winkler fire department for 18 years. "At the time when I heard about it, I thought would be just a spectators event, but going into a little research, I found out we were eligible to play.

"It's pretty exciting. I look forward to playing some golf on three really nice courses in Winnipeg and the chance to meet firefighters, emergency personnel, law enforcement people ... people on likeminded career paths from all different countries."

As part of his preparation, Schroeder has spent extra time out on the golf course, including with Winkler club pro Colton Harder.

"He's been really helping me with my game," said Schroeder. "I've been playing a lot of golf.

"There's a wide variety of sports in these Games, so it should be interesting," he added. "I hope I get a chance to watch some of it as well."

Supporting the food bank



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Friesens Corporation's John Thiessen stopped by the Rhineland Area Food Bank recently to present Ang Stoesz with a cheque for \$9,375, The charity was selected as a recipient through Friesens' employee-directed giving program. "Unfortunately, the food bank remains an essential service in our community for many different types of families," noted CEO Chad Friesen. "We are grateful to the volunteers and we're proud to be long-term donors."

Berry season well underway

By Lorne Stelmach

It's berry season again, and there are a number of growers in the region offering both pre-pick and u-pick options as well as selling at the local farmers markets.

A new addition to the range of producers in the Pembina Valley this year is Berry Shack Farm, which was started up by Trent and Melany Krahn.

They planted their first strawberry plants last May and were excited to start selling this year.

"We had the opportunity here, so we just decided to go for it, and we thought it would work well with our schedules," said Krahn, who teaches the electrical vocational program at Northlands Parkway Collegiate.

"I've just always been interested in agriculture and had the opportunity to start one. We had a property close to Winkler that we felt would do well with strawberries."

Krahn noted he has heard that growing conditions this season have varied widely from one area to the next.

"On our farm, we're doing well. The heat in May was a bit of a challenge, but the berries pulled through, and we're doing okay," he said.

"I think lots of farms have been challenged," he said. "The heat here has sped up the ripening, and so we don't then have as much time to get the crop off."

And he noted as well that it has been a learning process for them.

"We are still learning. There's a lot that we need to learn yet ... it's things like learning how to manage people to pick, people to sort and teaching

those skills and learning about strawberry plants.

"You have to seek out the resources and build your network," Krahn added. "A lot of strawberry growers have helped me out along the way here ... just having that network of people that you can call on for advice has really helped us. And the Prairie Fruit Growers Association has been really helpful with advice and in setting up new growers for success."

A representative of the Prairie Fruit Growers Association noted last week that the hot spring weather had brought on a slightly earlier season for picking berries than in the past couple years.

Some berry farms offering haskap and strawberries were open a bit earlier, and they suggested people could expect saskatoon berries at the beginning of July at many farms, with raspberries and sour cherries not far behind.

The Prairie Fruit Growers Association has a website set up with all the member berry farms in Manitoba listed. Head to pfga.com for an up-to-date status of all types of fruit.

The association urges customers to double check with farms to make sure they are open for picking. Local weather events or large volumes of customers can sometimes result in a farm having to change its plans and close last-minute.

"The best time to pick berries is in the morning or in the evening when the berries are cooler," suggested Philip Ronald, a haskap and saskatoon grower and president of the association. "Try to put your picked



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Strawberries at local berry farms, including Berry Shack Farm, are ready to go.

berries in a cooler for the ride home, then cool them in the refrigerator as soon as possible."

You can also head to the PFGA website to find producers' favourite reci-

pes using fresh berries.

To learn more about Berry Shack Farm, check out their page on Facebook.

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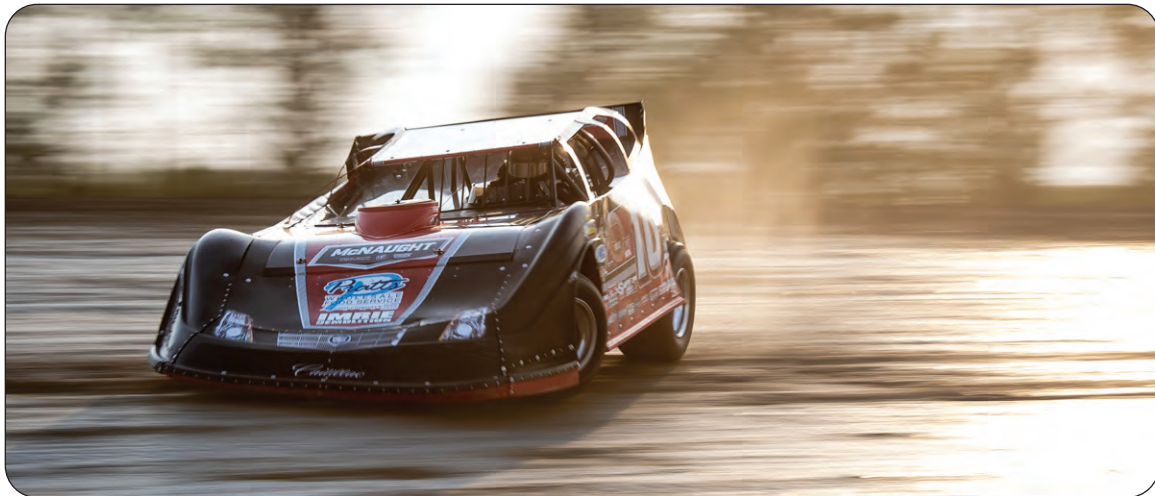
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Off to the races

Racing fans filled the stands at the Dead Horse Creek Speedway west of Morden last weekend for the inaugural Watermelon Cup. The Friday and Saturday evening races featured Dead Horse Stocks, Wisconsin Midwest Mods, Wisconsin Modifieds, and a Wisconsin Late Model demonstration/exhibition. Below, left: Driver James Wall in the winner's circle. The next race day is the King of the Corn event Aug. 25-26. Head to deadhorsecreekspeedway.ca for details.

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



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sports & recreation

Mud Hens fall to Cardinals

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Mud Hens found themselves on the wrong side of a home game against the Carman Cardinals Friday night.

Carman took it 5-0.

The Mud Hens had better luck on the road against the Altona Bisons a few nights earlier, winning that one 9-1.

In other Border League Baseball action last week, the Winkler Whips beat Carman 7-1 and Cartwright 9-4 while the Bisons fell to Baldur 6-2.

With that, Winkler is in first place in the East Division standings with a record of 7-2-2. Not far behind at 7-3-1 is Morden in second place. Altona (5-4) and Carman (3-8-1) are in third and fourth.

In the West Division, Pilot Mound leads the way at 7-4 followed by the Cartwright Twins (5-4), Baldur Regals (4-7), and Clearwater (3-9).

Coming up, the final week of regular season action sees Winkler host the Bisons Tuesday night and then Baldur on Friday, Morden host Altona Wednesday and then Cartwright Friday, and the Bisons host Clearwater Friday. Sunday is the league's all-star game in Cartwright.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

The Morden Mud Hens lost their Friday night home game against the Carman Cardinals 5-0.

MJBL quarter-final playoffs begin this week

By Lorne Stelmach

The playoffs got underway this week in the Manitoba Junior Baseball League with the Pembina Valley Orioles and Altona Bisons both in the roles of underdogs.

The Bisons finished seventh in the regular season and were taking on the second-place St. James A's, while the Orioles were in the cellar in eighth

place and were facing first-place Elmwood Giants.

Both best-of-three series had been scheduled to get underway with game one Wednesday followed by game two Thursday and game three Friday, if necessary. Altona and Pembina Valley were both 1-2 against St. James and Elmwood in the regular season.

The last week of the regular sea-

son began with the Orioles ending an eight game losing streak by edging the St. Boniface Legionaires 5-3 Wednesday. Johnny Martens pitched a complete game, scattering five hits.

Things didn't go nearly as well then on the weekend as Pembina Valley dropped a 12-0 decision to the Carillon Sultans Friday and then fell 8-0 Sunday to St. Boniface.

The Bisons meanwhile could only

manage four hits last Wednesday in falling 6-2 to Elmwood.

They ended the season Friday with a bases loaded single in the bottom of the eighth inning, providing the winning margin for a 6-5 win over the Interlake Blue Jays.

The other opening round playoff series pit Carillon against the Winnipeg South Wolves and Interlake against St. Boniface.

The **Voice**

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Rocking Barrel Charity Race raised over \$30,000

By Ty Dilello

On June 16-17, the Rocking W Rick Wiebe Memorial Charity Barrel Race and Open 4D Barrel Race was held in Carman at the Dufferin Agricultural Society Fairgrounds.

The 2023 Charity Race raised a total of \$30,700 for South Central Cancer Resource, which now brings the four-year Race total to \$90,709.20 in total funds raised to date.

Dusty van der Steen has been producing barrel racing events for the past 15 years. He ran a long-standing and successful barrel series for ten years near Winkler/Morden, and it ended due to the pandemic.

"When the Denim and Dust took off during the pandemic years, I decided to step back from the Series and put more focus on the Charity Race event," said Dusty van der Steen, CEO of Rocking W Barrel Racing Productions. "We made it a weekend event with other opportunities to compete, such as the Dash for the Cash Slot Race, which paid out just over \$26,000 this year."

The Rick Wiebe Memorial is in memory of van der Steen's dad, who died from cancer in 2020. Supporting the South Central Cancer Resource through this initiative helps support cancer patients and their families through their cancer journeys.

There were competitors on the weekend that turned out from all over Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and northwestern Ontario.

There were Open Entries in the Charity Race, 30 Youth and 13 Pee Wee entries. Over \$12,000 in prize money was awarded for the Charity Race, and over \$20,000 in prize value for the Charity Race.

The Dash for the Cash Slot Race paid out \$26,275 in prize money. And over \$10,000 in prize money was paid out in the additional races and side pots



Natalie Elias of Reinfeld raised \$3,125.

(futurity and derby categories for young horses, Manitoba bred horses, average between Friday night and Saturday Charity race).

"We had wonderful, cooperative weather for the weekend, as everyone enjoyed their stay in Carman at the Dufferin Agricultural Society Fairgrounds. The event ran very smoothly with next to no hiccups," said van der Steen. "I am just so thankful for the community support and all of the competitors for raising \$30,700 for South Central Cancer Resource. It's our highest fundraiser to date."

HIGHEST FUNDRAISERS

- Open: Mercedes McKay of Altona raised \$1,525
- Youth: Natalie Elias of Reinfeld raised \$3,125

CHARITY RACE OPEN RESULTS

- 1D Champion: Justine Cornelson from Virden. Reserve: Shannon Mullin from Pilot Mound
- 2D Champion: Bailey Martens from Steinbach. Reserve: Lindsey

sion SMSL Conference.

Storm 1, meanwhile, is struggling a bit in Premier Division. Sunday's loss puts them in seventh place with a 2-6 record.

The two teams host another pair of home games at the 15th St. field this Sunday. Storm 2 plays Punjab FC at 4:30 p.m. while Storm 1 plays Sporting Club Mosaic at 6:30 p.m.

Storm 2 also has a road game in Winnipeg against Dunvegan Castle Wednesday night.



Dusty van der Steen presented a \$30,700 cheque in support of South Central Cancer Resource. The funds were raised at this year's Rocking W Rick Wiebe Memorial Charity Barrel Race and Open 4D Barrel Race event.

Schulz from Morris

- 3D Champion: Jennifer Gomien from East St. Paul. Reserve: Deanna Baker from Wapella, SK
- 4D Champion: Alex Worms from Manitou. Reserve: Sawyer Billekop from Eriksdale

from Carnduff, SK. Reserve: Bailey Martens from Steinbach, MB

- 2D Champion: Rylee Olafson of Morden. Reserve: Meadow Skuce from Carnduff, SK
- 3D Champion: Morgan Turner of Miami. Reserve: Jemma Day from Virden.

CHARITY RACE YOUTH RESULTS

- 1D Champion: Natalie Barber

- Charity Race Pee Wee Champion: Raegan Friesen from Altona. Reserve: Raelene Husbands from Carman

Storm teams suffer losses

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Storm teams both suffered losses in their home games Sunday evening

Storm 1 fell to Luso Canadian CCS 2-0 while Storm 2 was narrowly defeated 3-2 by the Richmond Kings. Mosi William scored both of Winkler's goals that game.

The Storm 2 have a 3-2 record for the summer thus far, which has them in fifth place out of 10 teams in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's 3rd Divi-



PHOTOS BY JOSH RIETZE
Krysten Peters of the RM of Stanley rounds a barrel in the charity race.

The **Voice**

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ARTHUR FRANK SAWATZKY, late of the City of Winkler, in Manitoba, Deceased.
ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be sent to the undersigned at Box 1150, 1-655 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba, R6W 4B2, on or before the 30th day of August, 2023. DATED at the City of Winkler, in Manitoba, this 7th day of July, 2023
DOELL LAW OFFICE
Attention: Christopher G. Doell
Solicitor for the Executor

WATER RATES

PUBLIC NOTICE

In Order No. 73/23 dated June 23, 2023 the Public Utilities Board (Board) hereby approves the revised water and sewer rates for the City of Winkler (City) for July 1, 2023, January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025.

The current and revised rates are noted below:

	Current Rate	July 1, 2023	January 1, 2024	January 1, 2025
Quarterly service charge	\$18.15	\$27.50	\$27.50	\$27.50
Water per 1,000 Imperial Gallons	\$9.98	\$10.21	\$8.35	\$8.55
Wastewater per 1,000 Imperial Gallons	\$6.42	\$6.59	\$8.42	\$9.25
5/8" Minimum Quarterly Charges*	\$67.35	\$77.90	\$77.81	\$80.90
Bulk Water per 1,000 Imperial Gallons	\$13.73	\$12.81	\$12.81	\$12.81
Wastewater Only Customers**	\$69.51	\$80.22	\$94.86	\$101.50

*Based on 3,000 gallons
**Based on 8,000 gallons

Jody Penner
City Manager



Reporter/Photographer Wanted

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

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

Qualifications:

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

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

Lana Meier
Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca



NOTICE TO CREDITORS

"In the matter of the estate of ARNOLD LUDWIG KRUEGER, late of the City of Morden, in the Province of Manitoba, Retired, deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at 326 Stephen Street, Morden, MB on or before the 15th day of August, 2023.

Dated at the City of Morden, in the Province of Manitoba, this 15 day of July, 2023.

PKF Lawyers
Solicitors for the Executrix*

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CAREERS

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CAREERS



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FARMLAND TENDER

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER R.M. of RHINELAND

Title #	Legal Description	Total Acres
2531918/4	THE E 1/2 OF THE W 1/2 OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 22-1-2 WPM	40

When submitting an offer, please note:

1. The highest, or any, offer will not necessarily be accepted.
2. The date of closing and possession may be selected by the purchaser, provided same is after the current crops are removed.
3. The date of adjustments will be January 1, 2024.
4. You must provide a certified check or bank draft in the amount of \$10,000.00 payable to Cole & Mace Law Office. The cheques accompanying unsuccessful tenders will be returned.
5. You must rely on your own research of the property.
6. Tenders are binding upon acceptance and not subject to any conditions precedent.
7. Tenders may only be submitted in the form provided by Cole & Mace Law Office; a form of tender may be requested from Cole & Mace Law Office in person at the address below, or by emailing: adam@colemacelaw.com.
8. The Vendor will be responsible for the taxes on the property up to the date of closing.
9. The Purchaser will be required to pay GST unless the Purchaser is registered for GST and agrees to self-assess.
10. Title to the land will be transferred free and clear of all encumbrances and liens.

When submitting an offer, please note:

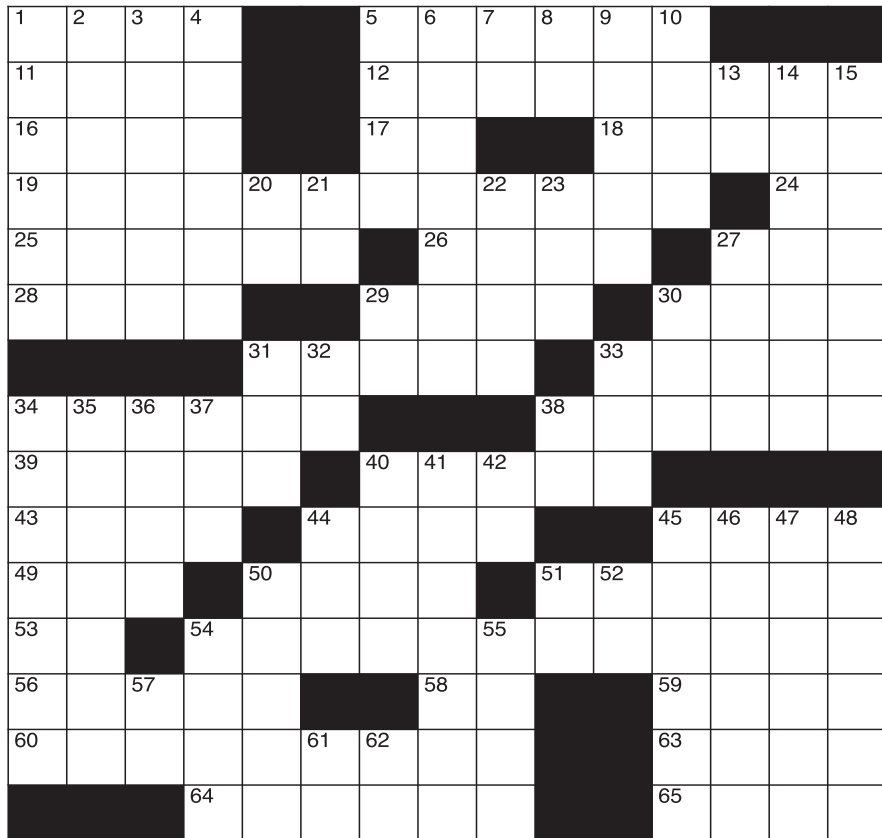
Signed and sealed Tenders will be received up to 4:00 p.m. on July 18, 2023 at:

Cole & Mace Law Office
26 Centre Ave. East, Box 2039, Altona, Manitoba, R0G 0B0
Attn: Adam Mace

take a break

> GAME

X CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Database management system
5. Medical procedures
11. ___ Clapton, musician
12. Defender
16. Exert oneself
17. Indicates position
18. Prevents river overflow
19. Atrocities
24. Mister
25. Ends
26. Slope or tilt
27. Taxi
28. The very ends
29. Actor Sean
30. Japanese persimmon
31. Sours
33. Beneficiary
34. Baseball official
38. Muddy, boggy ground
39. Not worldly
40. Actress Lathan
43. Soil
44. ___-Cola
45. Asleep
49. ___ Angeles
50. Give birth to a child
51. Beach shelter
53. Commercial
54. Taste property
56. Local jurisdictions
58. It cools your home
59. Dismounted from a horse
60. Charge with a crime
63. Close in
64. Spoke
65. Famed garden

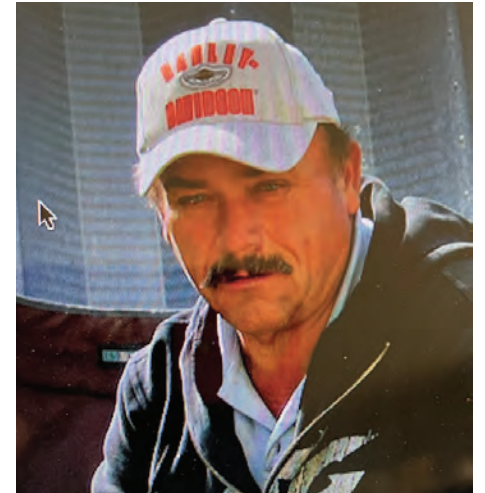
CLUES DOWN

1. Draw a scene
2. Its sultan is famous
3. Unlucky accident
4. A way to ski
5. Abba ___, Israeli politician
6. Saw
7. "Westworld" actor Harris
8. Belonging to me
9. Shoelace tube
10. Takes to court
13. Early multimedia
14. In a way, produces
15. Bowlers
20. Of I
21. Equally
22. Gets some sun
23. A place to stay
27. Town in Galilee
29. Aronofsky film
30. Klingon character, "Star Trek"
31. Equal to 100 square meters
32. Atomic #58
33. Arrived extinct
34. Loosen grip
35. A distinctive odor that is unpleasant
36. Membranes
37. Some is poisonous
38. Partner to Pa
40. Small brown gray rail
41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
42. Sodium
44. Military official (abbr.)
45. Lighted
46. Took off
47. All
48. Ohio city
50. More abject
51. A radio band
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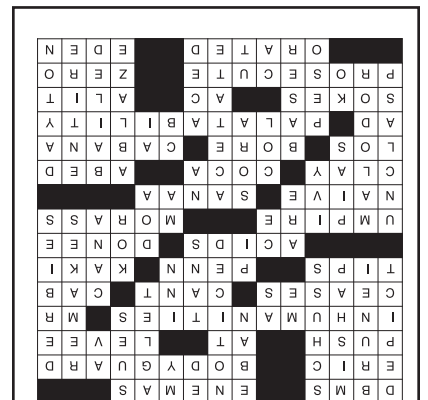


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 The stories I want to share...
 The encouragement I crave...
 The gifts you used to bare...
 The ways of your teasing...
 The laughter I no longer hear...
 The fishing partner I so miss...
 The knowing you're gone is so surreal...
 So...I begin to remember not just that you died...
 But that you lived...
 And that your life gave me memories too beautiful to forget...
 I'll never not remember you!
 -Forever and always,
 Sherry

54. Monetary unit
55. Passed with flying colors
57. A way to win a boxing match
61. The Golden State
62. Home of the Longhorns



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OBITUARY

Susanna (Susie) Thiessen 1927 – 2023



Susie passed away shortly after midnight on Wednesday July 5, 2023. She had reached the age of 95 years, 11 months. Her mother taught her the prayer "Lieber Heiland mach mich from daz ich in den Himmel komm."

Susie was born on August 9, 1927 in Chortitz, the 10th child of John and Maria Thiessen, they named her Susanna. She started school in Chortitz when she was six years old and completed grade 10. She knew no English when she started school but she learned to speak and read English in a very short time. She loved to read and has read hundreds of books over the years. This was her entertainment as she did not have, or care for a television although sometimes she liked to watch Jeopardy with Annie. The teacher

told her father that she was the smartest student in his class. In school, they had half an hour of religion every day. The teacher told them Bible stories and they had catechism once a week. Once Susie got a strapping because she had not memorized her catechism. She was baptized in the Old Colony Church by Bishop Jacob Froese upon the confession of her faith in Jesus Christ. She was a faithful and loyal member of the church. When she got older, she stopped attending because she became very hard of hearing and couldn't understand what was being said. She received visits from the ministers and deacons and they had communion with her. She read her Bible regularly. Susie, her sister, Agnes and brother, John lived with their parents on the farm in the village of Chortitz. They all worked together to run the small dairy and grain farm. Susie loved gardening so could most often be found tending vegetables in the big garden and of course her lovely flower gardens. Susie loved flowers and had rows of hollyhocks, morning glories, gladiolas, and four o'clocks would line the driveway. Some of her nieces say they must have gotten their love of gardening from her. Susie loved her nieces and nephews and she liked to spoil them. The children that went to school in Chortitz would often have lunch at the house and another favourite was faspas on Sunday afternoons. They also enjoyed playing in a large sandbox and she didn't mind when they got a little dirty. Susie loved family gatherings and never missed one. She also wanted to ensure that her nieces and nephews would inherit something one day. In 1991 Susie, John and Agnes retired to Winkler. After John passed away, Susie and Agnes moved into a brand-new condo at Oakview Terrace. Here she made many friends and loved visiting and playing games with her neighbours. After Agnes passed away her sister, Anne moved to a condo at Oakview Terrace and for the last three years Anne spent the night with her so could continue to live at home. Susie also loved to travel and went on numerous bus trips to the Maritimes, New Orleans and California to name a few. She also kept busy by volunteering at the MCC store for a number of years. She embroidered many school bags and at age 95 she was still embroidering quilt squares.

Susie was very sick in December 2019 and was placed in assisted living and paneled for Salem. With her stubborn nature and the Lord's help Susie found a way to get better and move back to Oakview Terrace in May 2020 and when Salem called, she was able to decline the available room. As a family we are very thankful for the service of Kathy Harder who was employed to provide care for Susie. Thanks to Kathy's compassionate care Susie was able to return home after being placed in assisted living and she lived on her own for the past three years. It was a family effort ensuring her needs were met with John Dyck and Anna Wieler running many errands for her. You knew she was loved as nieces and nephews made a point of stopping by for a visit whenever they could. Susie was hospitalized on June 1st and decided that she was ready to go to her everlasting home. We are thankful for the excellent care provided by the staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre over the past five weeks. May God Bless you all!

Susie was predeceased by her parents, 10 siblings and is survived by her siblings, Peter, Anne and Betty.

We would like to thank Bishop John Wiebe, the song leaders, the ladies for serving the lunch and Wiebe Funeral Home.

Funeral service was held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday July 9, 2023 at the Chortitz Old Colony Mennonite Church with interment at the Church Cemetery.

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



OBITUARY

Patricia Humeniuk (nee Borkowski) June 07, 1925 - July 05, 2023



It is with very saddened hearts that we announce the passing of Patricia Humeniuk on Wednesday, July 05, 2023 at the age of 98, with her family by her side.

Patricia was predeceased by her loving husband, Waldy, their son, Ivan (Carolyn) Humeniuk and their daughter, Jo-Ann (Mike) Gogal.

Left to survive Patricia are her daughter, Rosemarie (Garry) Haggerty, her three grandchildren, Patrick (Tanis) Haggerty, Jodi (Andrew) Terhoch and Landon (Lucia) Gogal. Patricia also leaves behind four great-grandchildren: Teagan, Kiera, Sienna and Easton.

Patricia was born in Poland in 1925 and was the eldest of three girls. Her family immigrated to the Ethelbert area when she was 10 years old. She met Waldy while he was teaching school in the Dauphin area and they were married in 1945. In the early years as a family they moved to several communities throughout Manitoba for Waldy's teaching career. During this period, Patricia's focus was on raising their three children. In 1965, the family moved to Swan River where they spent the next 20 years. Patricia was able to finally settle down and become part of the community. While her children and the church remained her focus, it was here that she began a career in retail. When Waldy retired in 1985, they moved to Morden to be closer to family, especially the grandchildren. They enjoyed several winters at their second home in Texas. They became active members of the St. John Roman Catholic Church in Morden where they attended mass daily. Patricia initiated the idea of making perogies to raise money to help pay for a new church, a fundraising effort that the parishioners still continue. The two most important things in Patricia's life always remained God and family. She was a much talked about cook and baker (especially her apple pies, donuts and perogies) and she had the best garden in the neighbourhood. She maintained a warm and welcoming home with her kitchen as the gathering place for family and friends. She took pride in cooking the traditional Ukrainian Christmas and Easter dishes with recipes she taught to her family. Her beautiful sweaters, afghans and slippers will always keep her loved ones warm. Patricia was a very thoughtful and caring person. She will be sadly missed and thought of fondly by all those who knew her.

The family thanks Patricia's special angels at Tabor Home—Joy, Halyna, May and Lea. Also a thank you to her faithful friends Alice and Judy.

Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, July 10, 2023 in the St. John Roman Catholic Church in Morden. Interment followed at Chapel Cemetery.

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



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Eden's Community Friends Program is looking for volunteers

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A program that has been building bridges in the community for nearly 50 years is looking for volunteers.

Eden Health Care Services' Community Friends Program is hoping to regrow its volunteer roster now that the pandemic is behind us.

The upheaval of the past few years saw them lose a number of volunteers, but the need is as great as it ever was, shares Irma Klassen, Eden's coordinator of volunteers.

"The purpose of this program is to assist staff in helping clients of Eden programs cope with specific areas of socialization and/or adjustment to community living through a one-on-one relationship between a volunteer and an individual coping with mental health issues," she explains.

"These are people living in the community," Klassen says. "So a request will come from one of our community services workers at Pathways [which runs Eden's community-based mental health programs] or the housing program."

An Eden staff supervisor works with the client and the volunteer to come up with a game plan for what the client hopes to get out of the relationship.

"It really begins with establishing a friendship," Klassen says. "And then the staff supervisor will identify specific things this person maybe needs some help with, like navigating shopping or being introduced to the library. Sometimes it's just simply going out for coffee or getting together to do a puzzle, going to a hockey game.

"Through sharing these activities, clients receive much-needed support

and encouragement to regain self-confidence and self-worth," she adds, noting volunteers serve as role models of someone living independently and coping well in life. "By connecting with a friend, opportunity is given for the client to return to a more fulfilling, normalized life that may result in building better relationships with others."

How often participants in the program meet is up to them.

"It really is something that depends on the client and the volunteer," Klassen says, noting the pair might get together once or twice a week or a few times a month—whatever works best for their respective schedules.

The program asks for a three to six-month time commitment from volunteers, though many successful matches have run for years. In other cases, a volunteer may be with a client for a time and then move on to another once the relationship has run its course.

Alvina Reimer has been involved with the program for 14 years. She began volunteering after retiring from her clerical job at Eden.

"I've had the same Community Friend for all these years," she says, noting in the early years they would go out together for coffee and walks regularly. These days Reimer more often visits her friend in her home.

"It's a connection. It breaks up her day or her week," Reimer says, noting she gets a lot out of the relationship as well just "knowing you've made a difference for somebody."

It gives you a different perspective on the impact mental illness can have on a person, she observes.

"That person that used to be well, that person is still there. It's just she's



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Irma Klassen, Eden's coordinator of volunteers, is looking for people to take part in the Community Friends Program.

got an illness and sometimes you have to look for who is the person that's inside."

Fallon Tanguay was a Community Friends volunteer for four years pre-COVID and is hoping to get back into it again in the near future.

"The thing that I really liked about this particular volunteer opportunity was just the fact that you get to meet with one person individually one-on-one and really build a relationship, a deeper connection with person," she says, noting mental health is something she's always had an interest in. Tanguay also works at Eden Health Care Services.

"I think a huge part of mental health is getting out there and connecting," she says. "When we're struggling with our mental health, that's one of

the hardest things to do, but it's one of the best things we can do.

"I think it was mutually beneficial in that way: I was getting out and doing stuff with her and getting involved in our community, and then she was also able to get out into the community and have someone to chat with."

To learn more about the Community Friends Program, contact Klassen at 204-325-4525 ex. 3253 or via email to iklassen@edenhealthcare.ca.

If this program doesn't suit you, Klassen notes they have many other ways of volunteering at Eden, including chapel accompanist, chapel leaders, volunteer drivers, the therapy dog program, providing entertainment or presentations for patients, and assisting with other activities at Eden.

Locals victorious at Junior Trap Provincials

By Ty Dilello

The Pembina Triangle Trap Club hosted the Manitoba Provincial Junior Trap Shooting Championship on June 25.

Thirty-seven shooters ranging in age from 12-18 descended on the Roland area club. Good conditions prevailed on the day with a little wind to make the targets dance.

"Things ran very smoothly other than a little wind which made the targets tougher, but everything went very well," said the club's Tyler Brown. "With the provincials being over now, we will continue to be open

Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. We always welcome new shooters, even if they have never touched a firearm before."

Kelsey Gloor of Brandon won the girls' division with an 85 out of 100, Nic Neufeld of Morden won the boy's title by shooting a 93 out of 100, Jill Goff from Elm Creek School who won the girl's novice trophy, and Karissa Giesbrecht of Miami won the girl's open trophy.

Goff, who is going into Gr. 10, has only been trap shooting for six months.

"I would not have been able to do it without all the amazing coaches at

Pembina Triangle Trap Club and all the fantastic people in the sport who have helped me along the way," she said. "I got involved in this amazing sport through the Manitoba High School Rodeo Association ... and it is quickly becoming one of my favourites."

"I felt as though all my hard work and practice over the past few months has paid off even though it just started to come together in the past weeks," said Goff. "As for future events, I am hoping to attend the High School Rodeo Association Canadian Finals and am considering attending the Manitoba Trapshooting Association Pro-

vincial Championships in Brandon."

Giesbrecht, who is also going into Gr. 10, was shooting in competition for just the second time. She did the event because she wanted to learn how to shoot without a mount to rest her gun on.

"I loved the last event because it happened right where I practice," she said. "When I was called up to collect my trophy, I felt so happy because I knew that all my family would be so proud and that for me is the most rewarding thing about winning."

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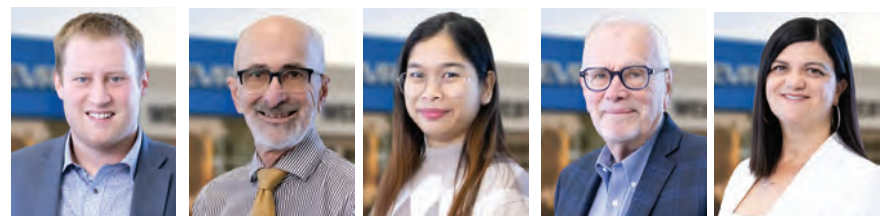
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