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VOLUME 2 EDITION 29

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Photo by Lori Penner/VOICE

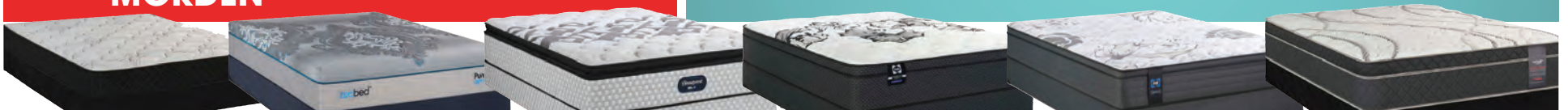
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Altona census count increased

By Lori Penner

The Town of Altona recently received the results of Statistics Canada's formal review of the 2021 population and dwelling counts.

Altona Mayor Harv Schroeder is satisfied with the results of the review by Statistics Canada with the revised census population set at 4,390, which reflects a five-year growth rate of 4.23 per cent.

"We requested this review when we saw the results of the 2021 census, which showed a five-year growth rate of 1.31 per cent," said Schroeder.

"The population listed was 4,267, an increase of only 55 people over five years. Looking at the growth within the housing sector and across the community from 2016-2021, those numbers didn't line up with expectations," he said. "This is more in line with what was expected. For comparison, the five-year growth rate from 2011-2016 was 3.03 per cent."

The investigation involved a review of maps, enumeration records and census data in order to verify boundaries and ensure all population and dwellings were correctly enumerated

and allocated within those boundaries.

The addresses of the completed 2021 Census questionnaires were validated, and the unoccupied dwellings were reviewed to ensure the correct follow-up actions were taken to confirm their status. A list of multi-unit residential dwellings submitted by the town was also used to compare against census data.

Ultimately, the review found 10 private dwellings and one collective dwelling with a total of 116 usual residents were missed by enumerators in the 2021 census. An additional seven people were estimated to reside in three private dwellings that were misclassified as unoccupied.

"Altona continues to be a growing and thriving community, and it is good to see the data reflect that," said Schroeder said.

"Census data is very important, as a lot of federal and provincial funding that we receive is per capita based," he explained. "That means that the dollars that the municipality receives to spend in the community from other levels of government are based on the



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE


"Altona continues to be a growing and thriving community, and it is good to see the data reflect that," said Mayor Harv Schroeder.

number of people in the community, rate data ensures that we are getting as determined by the census. Accu- accurate funding."

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Local reps to have voice on immigration

By Lorne Stelmach

The south central region will have representation on a provincial body to provide leadership on economic immigration and settlement in Manitoba.

The government selected members for the Advisory Council on Economic Immigration and Settlement, and it includes Stephanie Harris, who is the economic development officer for the Town of Altona and the RM of Rhineland, as well as Shelly Voth, who is the immigration coordinator for the City of Morden.

"It is exciting," said Voth. "I was hoping I would be able to get in on it because it's neat to be able to see things from a different perspective and to help shape the future of immigration in Manitoba."

She thinks a factor that may have worked in her favour is Morden is widely recognized for the success of its immigration program.

"We've had a lot of different communities in the past year come to us for advice on how to set up their own programs and how we are working things," said Voth. "This is the next step in that as well, as I can represent some of these communities. I can bring to the table what they are looking for as well."

"I'm hoping to be a rural voice. I want to be a voice at the table that will represent the needs of immigration outside of Winnipeg. They've made an effort this time to bring in some rural people, and I like that," said Voth.

"I'm honoured to have been appointed to this council," said Harris.

She feels her experience connected to the rural immigration pilot program and working with a range of stakeholders will be a benefit.

"I'm really looking forward to assisting the province in amending the current available services to make them more user friendly for both the employers and the immigrants," said Harris.

"It's really important to continue that community-based focus when it comes to immigration," she concluded. "We've got significant labour market shortages in our region, so immigration is critical in assisting to fill those labour market needs."

The council's role is to co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of the Manitoba government's Immigration Advisory Council recommendations including the development of a provincial economic immigration and settlement strategy. A report released in February outlines 70 recommendations to address the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Labour and Immigration Minister Jon Reyes with Stephanie Harris, who is the economic development officer for the Town of Altona and the RM of Rhineland.

following goals:

- attracting more immigrants and business investors to Manitoba;
- streamlining the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP), setting the right balance between the province's regional labour market, economic development and community needs;
- enhancing Manitoba's settlement, integration and foreign credential recognition programs and services to bolster newcomer retention.

Members will serve 12-month terms, and the chair and vice-chair sat on the Immigration Advisory Council as members, so it ensures continuity and will build on the work and recommendations.

Five recommendations have already been acted on by the province and include the following:

- requesting additional MPNP allocations and receiving 9,500 nominations for 2023, which meets the goal to boost the number of allocations to Manitoba;
- conducting targeted MPNP expression of interest draws to select candidates working in Manitoba in occupations with high levels of reported labour shortages;
- doubling the investment in the Newcomer Community Connections Stream of the Newcomer Community Integration Support Program to \$4 million to fund 24 direct service providers to enhance settlement and integration services and programs in Manitoba including six projects in communities outside Winnipeg.

This investment exceeds the amount collected in MPNP application fees.

There are 39 recommendations currently underway including:

- adding additional staff to the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program office to increase file processing capacity;
- recruiting international students, skilled workers and business investors through recruitment missions like the Philippines Health Recruitment Mission in February with plans for future recruitment missions underway;
- enhancing MPNP capacity to support employers through the Manitoba Employer Direct Recruitment Pathway;
- developing enhancements to the Business Investor Stream of the MPNP which will be re-launched later in 2023;
- advocating for improved processing times for work permit and permanent residence applications for MPNP candidates and standardized processing times for permanent resident applications across all federal economic class immigrants; and
- working with regulatory bodies to improve and streamline foreign credential recognition processes.

"Our government continues to work to advance Manitoba's economic immigration priorities, particularly addressing labour shortages, encouraging economic development and supporting Manitoba's francophone population," said Labour and Immigration Minister Jon Reyes. "I thank the members for joining the council and look forward to seeing their leadership translate into opportunities and supports for Manitobans, and those seeking to make Manitoba their new home."

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Exciting time at BTHC

By Lorne Stelmach

The campaign to support the expansion of the regional hospital is obviously top priority, but the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation is also not losing sight of its other ongoing goals.

That was the message from chairperson Ben Friesen after the foundation's annual meeting July 10.

"The palliative care and the spiritual care is still our core being of the foundation along with of course getting equipment," said Friesen. "That's the good part, the stuff that they can't get right now from Southern Health. They come to us, and we can't do everything, but we definitely provide the equipment needs.

"That's still the core and that's going to continue ... when our expansion fundraiser is completed, we still need to continue on with the core of the foundation."

He also noted the expanded hospital will present greater needs in terms of programs and equipment.

"The need for the foundation to con-

tinue to contribute will be there," said Friesen.

"We know there's going to be a lot of equipment needs ... we know that the equipment needs will continue and they'll be very great going into the expansion," he said. "As we continue with the expansion fundraiser, we'll bring it to completion ... even if we reach the \$10 million goal, there will still be a lot of other equipment that will be required."

The annual meeting reflected on what was a successful year that ended March 31, 2023 with the foundation showing a surplus of over \$331,000.

There was a significant boost from fundraising events which were able to resume post pandemic. It included \$90,000 from its fall 2022 gala and \$72,000 from its golf tournament as well as a \$115,830 total jackpot from its winter 50/50.

The foundation also received \$272,908 in donations and \$108,300 in estate gifts as well as \$40,000 from the Morden Community Thrift Shop and over \$21,000 from Dr. Bob's Bed Push for Cancer Care.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

"It's been a really good year, very exciting year," said Ben Friesen, chairperson of the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation, here with executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett.

The foundation then provided \$161,200 for the palliative care program and \$70,000 for the spiritual care program as well as equipment purchases totalling over \$112,000.

Overall, it was good to have things return to normal, said Friesen, who added there has been a real boost to the hospital especially with the expansion in the works.

"We got back into the original programs and were able to get people in ... we did the virtual meetings, and they were all good, but any time you can sit person to person, face to face, you just get better results.

"I think the whole atmosphere of the whole hospital ... it's been really improving the last year ... the morale is good," he said. "It's been a really good year, very exciting year."

Executive director Shannon Samatte-Folkett agreed there has been a boost in "the morale for the staff, knowing that they're going to have more space for the things they are so passionate about, the care that they're giving ... the more that they learn about what is going to be added in the additional wings and the programs that will have more space, you hear a lot of excitement.

"And the community, they came out. They came to the golf tournament; they came to the gala ... we know we're doing the right things for the community."

Folkett also benefitted from the addition of Jennifer Ching-Faux as a fundraising co-ordinator and administrative assistant.

"She, leaps and bounds, has been such a positive experience. She helps me in ways I can't explain, and we get to do more with the foundation. There is so much I was unable to touch on my own and with her help,

I think that you have seen it," said Folkett. "She's making more people aware and also helping in the office, and it's fantastic."

Kyle McNair, implementation lead for the expansion, also offered an update on the project with the key point being that work will be proceeding well on the structures for the in-patient building followed by the energy centre and then the community services building.

"So by the winter time, we'll have three buildings going up on the structure, and all the work that's going to be done on the interiors will be occurring then," said McNair, who noted there is a summer 2025 target for completion.

"When we close out the construction project, that's when we open up the reconstruction of the existing facility," he added. "Starting this fall, we'll start the redesign of the existing spaces in the hospital.

"Those renovations are very complicated because not only do you have to think about construction but you have to consider how to keep the hospital running while you're doing these construction projects."

Friesen noted a training facility will be a key part of the hospital expansion as well.

"We often don't talk about the training facility that's going to be within this expansion, but it's really huge. They have a dedicated training room that will be for staff who are here right now, for future staff and staff from other communities even," he said.

"There's huge training opportunities that are coming there, and that's something that the foundation really wants to be involved with," he concluded.

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Thanks for farming tour returns

By Lorne Stelmach

The Thanks for Farming Tour returns to Winkler for a second straight year, and it will be bigger and better.

The first event in 2022 attracted about 45 exhibitors, and the total will be up around 70 for the 2023 show set for July 26 and 27 at the Meridian Exhibition Centre.

"The displays have definitely grown this year ... and we've got some companies that are coming all the way from Ontario, coming from Alberta," said Krissy Fiddler, a lead organizer of the event. "A lot of them are returning because they were able to have the time with the farmers ... it's a nice, easy one day event, and you can easily get through the exhibitors in that one day."

The Thanks for Farming Tour started in 2020 when farm shows were being cancelled in the midst of the pandemic and the farm community needed support. Since then, it has been able to visit 12 communities while supporting a local non-profit organizations in each one.

Here in Winkler, the show will be supporting the Central Station Community Centre, while local 4H members will also be involved and using it as a fundraiser by coming out to pressure wash all of the equipment.

"The reason we're coming back to Winkler is the response that we got from both exhibitors and attendees was overwhelmingly positive response. They felt that this was very needed in the community," said Fiddler.

Winkler council addresses library issues

By Lorne Stelmach

The issue of banning books and withdrawing support for the South Central Regional Library came up again before Winkler city council last week.

At its regular meeting last Tuesday, council received a petition signed by area residents but this time with business names attached to press council to withhold funding for the library in light of concerns about books deemed to be pornographic in nature.

For council, without being able to fully vet the petition, they just re-

ceived it as information, but Mayor Henry Siemens said withdrawing financial support for the library is not on the table for discussion.

In conjunction with appointing Don Fehr as the board representative, council however did pass a resolution stating the following: be it resolved that City of Winkler council instruct these appointed board members to exert influence as members of the SCRL board of directors to create policy whereby graphically sexually explicit books be moved from the

With Winkler and the surrounding areas being big farming communities with not many agricultural events that really focus and key in on that community, it was a good fit for the tour to come back to Winkler.

The two day event will feature exhibitors from all across western Canada with displays inside and outside, and they cover a variety of things including new technology, grain handling, grain storage and other farm equipment with a particular focus on new innovations and products.

In addition, there will be guest speakers on plant diversity and full season cover crops as well as optimizing your grain marketing. There will also be a session on mental health as well as something more lighthearted for laughs.

"The aim is really to be able to give back to the community, especially with the charity of choice being Central Station," said Fiddler.

"What we try to provide all our attendees is education, some laughter and some mental health focus, and we try to make sure we've got exhibitors there who can help them back on their farms and improve their productivity on the farms," she concluded. "The key focus is really thanking the farming community. We want them to feel like they're hosted and they're appreciated."

You can find more information online at the thanksforfarmingtour.com website.

Continued on page 9



VOICE FILE PHOTOS

The first event in 2022 attracted about 45 exhibitors, and the total will be up around 70 for the 2023 show set for July 26 and 27 at the Meridian Exhibition Centre.



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There's no such thing as luck

It's been a heck of a month. I broke a molar, the car broke a windshield, three flat tires (on different days), and we found out our cat has diabetes.

Well, they say things have a way of happening in threes so we should be well on our way to an extended string of good luck by now.

Things pile up and you do your best to find ways to explain it. I am not remotely superstitious (I'm not even a little stitious, ala Michael Scott) and so I chalk these things up to coincidence.

Still, we like to try and find reasons for the unreasonable and explanations for the unexplainable—it is who we are. We will jump through incredible logic hoops and structure insanely detailed systems simply to offer a shred of reason for why some things happen when there is no sound reason at all or we simply do not know enough yet.

Not only do we do this to ourselves we absolutely LOVE doing it to others ... especially with tragedy. It is odd how a string of good happenings will often go unquestioned (or is because of something good we did) but a string of poor happenings is somehow someone's fault.

I wonder why that is? I think part of it has to do with our fear of the unknown. As a species we've proven ourselves fairly adept at surviving

but the unknown scares us silly. It's part of what drives our curiosity and desire to learn and explore. Nature is not the only thing that abhors a vacuum; humans do too.

In our deep past when we were simpler creatures, we would chalk it up to some supernatural thing. Thunder from the thunder god, rain from the rain god, sun from the sun god, etc. We would pile up offerings and sacrifice the food we didn't have or the people we didn't like to such fictional beings and if things went well, we knew we did it all right. If things were the same or worse, obviously we screwed something up and needed to do more.

Now in the 21st century we have space ships, cell phones, computers, and telescopes that can peer nearly 14 billion years into the past, but somehow we also still have horoscopes and ghost stories. We are a weird species capable of containing incredible contradiction within ourselves and still able to continue happily along our way.

We are the nuclear physicist who is on their way to discovering a new element subconsciously stepping over cracks to avoid breaking their moth-

er's back ... just in case.

At their best these beliefs are harmless hangovers from a bygone era, held onto for the sake of fun cultural remembrance like the Icelandic tradition of leaving things like whisky as gifts for the elves to ensure they do not become angry and subject them to bad pranks.

At their worst these beliefs cause us to judge and punish others, ostracizing them for fear the evil of their circumstance will spill into our own lives and harm us.

Ridiculous.

When bad things happen, I will try to understand why in case there are things I can do to avoid them in the future, but at the end of the day I will simply clean up the mess and move on.

When good things happen, I will try to understand why in case there are things I can do to ensure it happens again, but at the end of the day I will relax and enjoy the circumstances.

What I will not do is throw spilled salt over my shoulder or worry about a broken mirror. Life will go on just the same.



By Peter Cantelon

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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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Opera for kids coming next week

Manitoba Underground Opera on the road in rural Manitoba

By Lorne Stelmach

A company that aims to make opera more accessible is coming to the region next week with its touring production for children.

The Manitoba Underground Opera show *The Bremen Town Musicians* is on tour from July 14 to August 6, and it comes to Altona and Morden July 28 and Winkler July 29.

The Opera for Children Tour brought live opera to over 1,000 children and parents in Southern Manitoba in 2019, and administrative director Janice Marple said it is always exciting for the company to hit the road into rural Manitoba.

"It's so great to see these communities, and it's exciting for the performers as well because normally opera is a very static thing," said Marple, who was also involved as a performer previously a couple years ago.

"There's something so exciting about performing for children ... they buy into the stories in a way that adult audiences I don't think really

are capable of," she said, citing an example of how kids might shout out to the characters, so they engage in an honest way.

A production needs to be presented somewhat in a different way, but they also don't need to dumb it down, suggested Marple.

"Hearing little pieces of Verdi in a context that the kids can relate to is a great way to introduce them to the art form and hopefully make some opera fans for life."

Manitoba Underground Opera began in 2008 as a group of students who simply wanted to share their love of opera, and it's grown into an established fixture of Winnipeg's arts scene.

It creates original productions of classic operas with a modern perspective, and its shows are immersive theatrical experiences that bring you up close and personal with some talented performers.

Manitoba Underground Opera presents a festival each August that includes mainstage operas, concerts, and free outreach events.

Placing the heightened drama of opera alongside contemporary social commentary, these productions come to life in iconic venues like the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Canadian Museum for Human Rights and La Cathédrale

de Saint-Boniface with one production in September set to be done in the setting of the Nonsuch ship in the Manitoba Museum.

The Opera for Children tour was first done in 2017 and previously came to Morden and Winkler in 2019.

The Bremen Town Musicians begins with Eddie, a rooster with operatic aspirations, who is chased away from his farm for waking the barnyard with his singing. On the very same day, Barcarolle, a dog, and Dorabella, a cat, are cast out by their owner for being too old.

The three animals run into the woods where they meet General Boom, a retired army donkey. They initially argue and refuse to collaborate but begin to come together when they are frightened by rumors of robbers nearby.

They ultimately accept the General's invitation to overlook their differences, join his band and march to Bremen, and the newly formed Bremen Town Musicians celebrate the idea that friendship, cooperation, and respect for others is far better than facing problems alone.

The excitement around starting the tour mounted after doing a final re-

hearsal last Friday, said Marple.

"On the first day of rehearsals, our director, who has done a lot of children's theatre in the past, made the point that children's audiences are the most honest audiences you will ever perform for ... they let you know immediately if they like it.

"This opera for children tour is just a way of bringing live opera to all these communities because it's something that's not easy to access if you're not in a bigger centre like Winnipeg," she continued.

"We love opera, we love this art form ... it definitely has a reputation for being very formal, something that people associate with people who have a lot of money, and a lot of people feel like they can't really relate to it," she concluded. "At the end of the day, opera really is just storytelling, so that's the aspect of it that we try to focus on as a company."

The local shows all take place at the local libraries with show times of 11 a.m. in Altona and 2:30 p.m. in Morden July 28 and then 11 a.m. in Winkler July 29 with all taking place at the local libraries. Space will be limited, so people should contact their libraries to register to attend.

Festivals receive funding

Voice staff

Local community festivals continue to benefit from a provincial funding program.

The Manitoba government is providing over \$221,000 in grants to 38 rural and northern communities, and it includes just over \$8,300 to both the Harvest Festival and Corn and Apple Festival as well as about \$8,000 to the Manitoba Sunflower Festival in Altona and the \$3,500 for the Plum Fest in Plum Coulee.

This year's funding increased from last year to allow additional funds for community celebrations, noted Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Obby Khan, who said the aim is especially to support festivals that promote understanding, awareness and appreciation of their heritage, culture and identity.

"Manitoba is known to have incredible festivals that truly showcase the

unique character and spirit of our province and we encourage all Manitobans to get out and enjoy these celebrations," said Khan.

"I love the diversity, inclusiveness and cultural heritage in these great communities, and our government is proud to support all forms of community festivals in all corners of this great province."

The community festivals and events program provides operating grants to festivals that take place over a minimum of two days in rural and northern Manitoba and are recognized as the community's signature annual event.

The program supports events that encourage youth participation and leadership, reflect, celebrate and profile the unique character of communities, foster a sense of identity and pride and contribute to local tourism and economic activity.

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Speeding a concern in Manitoba

Voice staff

Speeding on Manitoba roads continues to be one of the top contributing factors in serious and often deadly collisions.

The results of an MPI study show 40 per cent of vehicles were found to be travelling above the posted speed limit, and seven per cent of these vehicles were travelling more than 10 kilometres above the limit.

The 2022 study included over 1.2 million vehicles at over 50 different urban and rural locations throughout the province, and it was aimed at better understanding how frequently drivers were speeding on Manitoba's roadways.

MPI plans to use the findings to improve existing programs and develop new targeted initiatives to reduce speeding.

"MPI data has consistently shown us that speed is a contributing factor in almost 20 per cent of all fatal collisions annually, and this latest study tells us that remains a common and risky habit for many drivers," said Satvir Jatana, MPI's chief customer

officer. "No matter what road you're on, when you're behind the wheel it's important to drive the speed limit for that area and remember to adjust for weather, road and traffic conditions."

Preliminary fatal collision data shows speed was the primary contributing factor in about 30 per cent of the fatalities on Manitoba roads to date in 2023.

To increase drivers' awareness of their travelling speeds, MPI is launching a new program this fall to provide electronic speed display signs to interested municipalities and First Nations.

As part of the program, MPI will fund the purchase of up to 35 electronic speed reader signs in 2023 and an additional 20 signs in 2024 with no cost to communities.

"The results of our pilot program conducted last year found electronic signs are effective in reducing vehicle speeds and making our roads safer for all road users," Jatana said.

MPI also encourages drivers to follow these road safety tips to always keep speed in check:

- Plan your route and give yourself



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Preliminary fatal collision data shows speed was the primary contributing factor in about 30 per cent of the fatalities on Manitoba roads to date in 2023.

enough time to safely reach your destination.

- Use cruise control to avoid inadvertently going over the speed limit.
- Maintain a safe following distance, which means a four-second distance in ideal driving conditions.
- Remember when passing by a

roadside emergency vehicle, you must move to the farthest lane from the scene whenever possible. In this situation, drivers also are required to slow down to 40 km/h when the posted speed limit is below 79 km/h or 60 km/h when the posted speed limit is 80 km/h or higher.

Outstanding youth honoured with scholarships

United Way Pembina Valley presents annual scholarships

By Lorne Stelmach

United Way Pembina Valley faced a tough decision when it came to selecting this year's three recipients of the organization's annual youth scholarships.

It was a good problem to have though as it was heartening to see such strong candidates, said scholarships committee member Audrey Armstrong.

"It was a good round of applicants, and we hope each year we're going to see a few more," she said. "The applicants we had were all really strong ... lots of students who were really good candidates."

"We were looking for kids who will not just do volunteer work but also show social activism and take initiative," added Armstrong, who noted they had reworked the application

with that thought in mind. "We were hoping we would kind of broaden the scope of applicants that we're getting for it."

The agency distributes three \$1,000 scholarships annually to a graduate from each Morden and Winkler high school - Garden Valley Collegiate, Morden Collegiate Institute and Northlands Parkway Collegiate.

They are looking for students who have demonstrated social awareness and leadership through volunteer service and involvement within the community.

This year's winners include Tabea Nickel from Garden Valley Collegiate. Nickel has been an active volunteer with Central Station for the past six years in a variety of capacities including helping out with fundraising events, food prep and serving, child care and as a drop-in host. She will be attending the University of Manitoba this fall with a goal of becoming a therapist.

"What stood out about her was she did a lot of volunteer work at Central Station," said Armstrong. "And she talked about the things she had

learned from being willing to kind of step out of her comfort zone and try to understand some different perspectives and try new things and how she learned from it."

The recipient from Morden Collegiate is Melanie Rouire. Her community involvement includes volunteer work with RCMP national youth advisory committee, South Central Cancer Resource, Morden Physiotherapy, local Canadian Parents for French chapter, Love Your Lake cleanup, Morden Achievers 4-H Club and others. Rouire plans to study kinesiology at the University of Manitoba.

"She had a really impressive, extensive list of volunteer work," said Armstrong.

And the third recipient is Eric Xu of Northlands Parkway Collegiate. Xu has volunteered at Salem Home and the Winkler Senior Centre and has been active in his school community as a math tutor, founder and president of the math club and a student council member. Xu will study computer engineering at the University of British Columbia.

"I think what impressed us the most

about him was the initiative he took in his school in getting a math club organized and how he promoted it," said Armstrong.

The three students were all appreciative of the honour and the support for their further studies.

"Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me as a student and as a person. It lessens the burden of the cost of university but more importantly, represents the people behind the scholarship," said Eric Xu.

The scholarship coming from United Way represents the support that our community has for me and the other recipients, almost as if we are one of the organizations they are funding," he said. "This motivates me to excel in my upcoming education, in a way to 'repay' my community for their confidence in me. I am very grateful to United Way for the scholarship."

In addition to the scholarship program, United Way Pembina Valley also contributes two bursaries of \$750 to each of the three high schools. Those recipients are selected by the schools.

Steppler starts up Little Nugget Speech Therapy

By Ty Dilello

Miami's Sarah Steppler has recently started Little Nugget Speech Therapy and has begun taking on clients.

Steppler has been a Speech-Language Pathologist for 19 years. She has worked across Southern Manitoba through preschool services at Boundary Trails Health Centre and Borderland and Garden Valley School Divisions.

Steppler, who lives near Miami with her husband and two children, first had the idea for Little Nugget Speech Therapy this past year and is happy to see it come to fruition.

"I have always dreamed of running my own practice one day, and once I put some thought into this plan, I decided it would be a good direction to take my own career," said Sarah Steppler.

Steppler knows firsthand why private speech therapy is needed in rural Manitoba after working in the preschool setting and in K-12 schools for the last 19 years.

"The waitlists aren't getting any shorter, cases are becoming more well-identified, and Speech-Language Pathologists are in high demand," said Steppler. "I have heard from parents that the wait for



VOICE PHOTO BY SARAH STEPPLER

Sarah Steppler has recently started up Little Nugget Speech Therapy and has begun to take on clients at her office at 47 3rd Street in Miami.

a preschool assessment is lengthy. I had also been approached in the last few years by friends and moms if I knew anyone doing private speech therapy in the area. It really tugged at my heartstrings, because I had that little thought in the back of my

mind about opening a private practice."

Steppler is already taking bookings for July. She has made three days a week available at this time, running from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the summer. Currently, you can access her availability on the website: www.littlenuggetspeechtherapy.ca. Interested clients can email Steppler at littlenuggetspeechtherapy@gmail.com to set up initial appointments or consultations.

In the fall, she will offer preschool screenings, but there will be more information on the website in August or September.

"I can also offer online support through video sessions if the case is suitable for online therapy and distance is a factor. My preference currently is to work with preschool children with speech sound disorders, school-aged children with speech sound disorders, as well as preschool language development. I'm also available for consult appointments, so if parents have concerns about their children's speech and language skills, I can meet with them, answer any questions they have and then make a decision for that family as to what a good fit would be moving forward."

> LIBRARY, FROM PG. 5

children's section to another section of the library as appropriate so that children will not stumble across them but they remain available to parents who wish to use them as an educational resource.

"We have had a number of library presentations over the last period of time ... I don't believe at this point that anything further would come out of what's there," said Siemens.

He made it clear withdrawing financial support for the operation of the library is not being considered.

"That is not part of our conversation," said Siemens. "In the end ... any decision in terms of what happens with the library rests with the library board. We want to be careful to recognize that that's where the authority and the jurisdiction lies. We don't want to muddy the water. We don't want to make anybody's job more difficult.

"We'd like to see a specific policy with regards to a certain piece looked at, but it is not for us to write that policy. It is for us to bring that forward to the board," he continued. "We're not in that place where we want to remove funding. The library is an extremely important part of our community. They provide an exceptionally valuable service to our community."

RATES HIKED

Winkler city council also gave its final approval to an increase in what

residents will pay for water and sewer service.

For 2023, the water rate increases by 2.3 per cent and the sewer rate by 2.65 per cent, while the service charge jumps by just over 51 per cent. For the average residential water user, it will result in an increase of around seven per cent from last year.

It results from a utility rate review that was initiated in 2022, and the Manitoba Public Utilities Board approved the new rates for 2023 through 2025 starting as of July 1 with the next quarterly bills.

The last rate review was done in 2012, which is why there is a larger increase particularly with the service charge, noted Siemens, as it is required to cover the total administrative costs.

"This is something that we want to make sure that we regularly review," he said. "The challenge with doing a full utility rate review is it's time consuming for our staff ... there's a lot of resources that have to be expended for it.

"Our costs are significantly different than they were in 2012," he continued. "We're pleased that moving forward into the future that we can do an abbreviated review ... that likely will mean that we will be able to do this every couple of years because it is important to not fall too far behind so that the change, when there is one ... that surprises people and makes it more difficult to absorb.

"The full rate review is an onerous process, so we don't do it regularly, which is why we are back now to

2012 rates ... we do have an option moving forward in the future to do a less intensive review, which is going to allow us to hopefully stay on top of it every couple of years, so that when we do have changes," said Siemens.

"The fact that there is an increase I

don't think surprises any of us, but it is important that again that we make sure that this is a well funded, stable utility, and in order to do so, we have to make sure we fund our reserves properly and our operations properly."



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Come check out the Miami Railway Station Museum

By Ty Dilello

The Miami Railway Station Museum, located on Highway 23 in Miami, is a growing interactive museum for the whole family, train enthusiasts and history buffs. The volunteers, board members and employees are working hard every year to make the Museum an enjoyable visitor experience.

The Station, which was built in 1889 and is a National Historic Site, is set up today as a museum to represent the life and times of a rural prairie agent and his family. In the past few years, a platform, a 1920s-style train shed, a 1914 wooden caboose, 280 feet of rail, a 1947 motor car and several other items of rail equipment have been added to the outdoor exhibits.

Inside, the Museum has exhibits portraying the importance of the rail, and a model train has been set up. Each year more exhibits are added and changed.

Unfortunately, the Museum has had its fair share of problems lately. During the past two springs, water has leaked into the basement, causing

damage. In order to prevent further damage, expensive repairs are necessary as soon as possible.

With that said, the Miami Railway Station Museum is hosting a Fun Golf Scramble on July 29 at the Miami Golf and Country Club to raise funds for these repairs. Registration is at 9:30 AM, and 10:00 AM is the starting time.

The Miami Post-Secondary Education Organization will be at Hole #4, fundraising with a "Land on the Green" contest. There will also be a 50/50 and a Rainbow Auction.

"This is a fun, family event at the beautiful Miami Golf and Country Club," said Joan Driedger, Chair of the Miami Railway Station Museum. "Golfers and non-golfers are welcome to come for nine holes of fun golf, great prizes, and a delicious lunch while helping the museum raise money."

In order to register, please call 204-435-2756 to reserve your spot. For \$50 per person, you get nine holes of golf and lunch. Cart rental is not included, but carts can be reserved by calling Miami Golf and Country Club.



VOICE PHOTO BY JOAN DRIEDGER

Come out and visit the Miami Railway Station Museum, which includes a platform, a 1920s style train shed, a 1914 wooden caboose, 280 feet of rail, and a 1947 motor car.



Firefighter overlooked

An article in the July 13 edition of the Voice entitled Local police, firefighters preparing for World Games neglected to highlight the participation of Clint Seward.

The member of the Darlingford fire department is taking part in the curling event along with three

members of the Morden Police Service.

"We are very proud of him to be competing," said fire chief Cal Funk.

The Voice apologizes for this oversight.

Raising some summer time cheer

By Lorne Stelmach

For the Morden Christmas Cheer Board, it's not too early to get people thinking about the holiday season now.

The organization is holding a couple summer fundraisers to help start building up some funds for what they think will be another busier campaign later this year.

"Last year, we made over 300 hampers which supported over 800 people, and we're expecting it will be another busy holiday season this year," said public relations chairperson Ali Wiens.

"We couldn't have Christmas Cheer without all of our sponsors and all of the businesses that donate and all of the individuals who donate to us ..."

"It's all very critical for Christmas Cheer. If people didn't do that, we wouldn't be able to support all of these families at the holiday time."

The idea for a raffle started with the donation of a quilt, so they solicited donations from a number of businesses to make a bigger prize.

The Get Cozy in Morden raffle offers a chance to win a one night stay at the Best Western, an 18 hole golf pass for Minnewasta Golf and Country Club,

a \$45 gift card for Le Parq, a \$25 gift card for Sharptooth Adventures, a \$20 gift card for Chicken Chef, an annual family pass for Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, a queen size quilt donated by the Reichert family and a \$20 gift card and a glass at Rendezvous

The draw date is Aug. 21, and tickets are one for \$5 or three for \$10. If you are interested, they will be selling raffle tickets at the Morden farmers market July 27, or you can also message them through their Facebook and Instagram pages.

In addition, the cheer board will be hosting a Christmas in July movie

night at the Stardust Drive-In featuring Dr. Seuss's The Grinch

The gates open at 8:30 p.m. July 25, and admission is by donation of either cash, unwrapped new toys, non-perishable food items with an expiry date after January 2024.

"We had heard that quite a few years ago they had done a movie at the drive-in in the summer, so we contacted Stardust, and they were willing to sponsor that for us," said Wiens. "We thought it would be a fun outing for families plus a great way for us to do a bit of fundraising."

Local talent shines at Cripple Creek

By Lorne Stelmach

For over four decades now, things haven't changed much at the Cripple Creek Music Festival.

Organizers do change things up a little bit and aim to bring in a different act or two, but keeping it simple and traditional is the draw that keeps bringing the crowds back year after year.

"We always have some repeat performers but some new ones as well," said organizing committee member Art Wiebe.

"One thing we did, this will be the second year in a row, is rather than having 30 minute sets, we have one hour sets," he noted. "That seems to make much better use of the time for the performers rather than having them on twice for 30 minute sets.

"We are excited ... there's a lot of talent lined up for people who enjoy gospel or bluegrass or folk or country music," said Wiebe.

The 2023 festival takes place Sunday, July 23 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the traditional location southeast of Morden.

Cripple Creek brings people out each year for bluegrass, country, folk and gospel music performed in the scenic shade of the mighty oak and ash trees at the scenic site just south of the Glencross Church.

The appeal of the festival aside from the setting is just the traditional roots



Joel Wilson

music that has lasting appeal.

The day starts with a morning of gospel music followed by the remainder of the festival lineup which includes Ed Wayne at 11 a.m., Byron Falk at 12 p.m., Blue Water Boys at 1 p.m., the Yodeling Farmers Daughter at 2 p.m., Orlando and Grace at 3 p.m., Three's Country at 4 p.m., The Travelling Kind at 5 p.m. and Joe Wilson at 6 p.m.

There will be food available through the youth ministry The Bunker as well as snacks from Sunny Day, and a shuttle will be available to take people from the overflow parking lot.

Wiebe noted the festival has only had to postpone or cancel the festival three times in 42 years - once because of weather and two years during the pandemic - so they were pleased to return again last year.



PROVIDED PHOTO AND VOICE FILE PHOTO

Joe Wilson will be the closing act for the Cripple Creek Music Festival which, as always, is set in the scenic location southwest of Morden.

"It was amazing. There just seemed to be an atmosphere of jubilation, a freedom that we had taken for granted ... it was just enjoying the moment," he said.

"They will be unable to keep their feet still ... in fact there might even be some dancing in front of the stage," he said with a laugh.

And, as always, the setting adds to the appeal.

"There's a lot of areas in and around Morden and Winkler that could be used, but it would not be the same ... we have the creek, and we have the

oak trees ... it's just a special, unique spot," said Wiebe. "We cut the grass ... otherwise, we don't disturb the setting ... it's left as natural as possible for the people to enjoy and for the musicians to enjoy."

Cripple Creek is located about six miles south of Morden on Road 27 West or go seven miles south of Winkler on Highway 32 then six miles west on PR 201 and a half mile north. You can find more information on the festival at www.facebook.com/CrippleCreekMusicFestivalMB.

Highway work on the way

Improvements planned for sections of PTH 2, 3 and 23

Voice staff

More highway improvements are in the works for the region this summer.

A number of highways in southern and western Manitoba including sections of PTH 2, 3 and 23 will undergo major improvements over the summer to support traffic needs in the region.

Planned work as part of the \$201.4-million investment includes PTH 2 receiving an estimated \$26.5 million total investment for 25.5 kilo-

metres of surface rehabilitation from St. Claude to Elm Creek.

PTH 3 will receive an estimated \$90.1 million total investment through projects including surface reconstruction from PTH 3A to PTH 34 for an estimated investment of \$19.7 million and various other surface reconstruction, rehabilitation and preservation projects along PTH 3 for an estimated investment of \$54.1 million.

The work includes sections of highway from La Riviere to Crystal City, PTH 34 south of Crystal City to the junction with 5 and a short stretch from PTH 31 near Darlingford to 528.

PTH 23 will receive an estimated \$57.5 million total investment in surface rehabilitation and reconstruction through projects including PTH 34 to PTH 5 for an estimated investment of

over \$37 million and PR 336 to PR 422 near Morris for an estimated investment of \$20.5 million.

Projects are in various stages of design and planning with the majority of surface upgrades to begin this spring and be completed by the end of summer weather permitting.

The upgrades support the 2023 multi-year infrastructure investment strategy which outlines over \$4.1 billion in strategic investment in roads, highways, bridges, airports and flood protection over the next five years.

"This announcement by the Manitoba government is great news for the province," said Shawn Wood, executive director of the Construction Association of Rural Manitoba.

"This commitment to providing a \$201.4-million investment into our

transportation infrastructure will make our transportation routes safer for residents but also increase the access for industry, which will provide opportunities for economic growth and continue to provide employment opportunities to the construction industry

"Our trade and commerce routes are vitally important to Manitoba's economy, allowing local businesses and producers to receive supplies and then move their goods to market in a seamless, efficient way," said Chris Lorenc, president and CEO of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association. "These investments will support that necessary activity in western Manitoba, home to some of Canada's richest agricultural land."

Candlewick brings *The Silver Chair* to the stage

By Lorne Stelmach

The Candlewick Players will be taking their audience on an adventure into the world of Narnia this summer.

There will be giants, lions, talking owls, kings, queens, and lost princes when the theatre company presents *The Silver Chair* the weekends of July 28-30 and Aug. 4-6 at the Manitou Opera House.

Director Richard Klassen suggested there is a special appeal to this story aside from the attraction of Narnia in general.

"*The Silver Chair* is a great Narnian adaptation for those who are familiar with the popular movies and are interested in experiencing more of that world," he said. "More than any other of the novels in the Narnia series, *The Silver Chair* delves into the underland of Narnia, the deep and mysterious land underneath the surface where the Green Queen, played by Hannah Franz, rules."

Adapted by Klassen with permission from the C.S. Lewis Company, the play follows Jill and Eustace as they venture in search of Prince Rilian (played by Ian Wiebe), who is the lost son of the aging and heartbroken



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Candlewick Players performs *The Silver Chair* at the Manitou Opera House July 28-30 and Aug. 4-6.

King Caspian of Narnia (played by Jeff Franz).

The adventure ensues as an unlikely trio come together to overcome the evils that lurk deep under Narnia. Bickering schoolmates Jill Pole and Eustace Scrubb (played by Jacinda Young and Quentin Stoesz) team up with a glass-half-empty Marshwiggle named Puddleglum (played by Ezra Reimer).

Under Aslan's careful instructions,

they embark on the perilous journey to help King Caspian find his lost son Prince Rilian, who disappeared many years ago shortly after the mysterious death of the queen (played by Emily Penner) by a great serpent.

Klassen noted that there will be a couple special aspects to this production.

"I think the audience will be amazed by the crew's craftsmanship in creating the 'overland' and 'underland'

special effects and their respective fantastical creatures," he said.

"There will be huge giants and a great Aslan puppet played by a team of two—Alex Klages and Luke Qually—and a host of fawns, nymphs, dryads, gnomes, dwarves and underlanders."

Tickets are available by visiting www.candlewick.ca or calling 204-822-SHOW or emailing tickets@candlewick.ca.



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No matter your age, the time to think about the sustainability of Manitoba's Personal Care Homes is now

Personal care homes are an essential part of Manitoba's healthcare system. Yet most of us don't think about this aspect of our province's social safety net until we or our loved ones need such care.

With the aging Baby Boomer population, projections indicate demand for personal care home beds will soon far exceed the supply.

Please come share your personal experiences, concerns, ideas and recommendations.

What does this mean for you ?

The reality is, we are all on the aging journey, and many of us will need the extra care provided by Manitoba's system of personal care homes.

The future of not-for-profit personal care homes in Manitoba is at risk, but fortunately this is the time to reverse it through engagement with the community and government to bring forward evidence-informed solutions.

Contact Cheryl Huber to confirm your attendance by e-mail chuber@salem.ca or [204-325-4316](tel:204-325-4316) ext. 222

It's Your Future.

Will a personal care home have the means to care for you when it's your time?

Cyclist rides across Manitoba in support of Ukrainian newcomers

By Jennifer McFee

An octogenarian cycling enthusiast is pedalling across the province for a good cause.

Fred Enns of Winnipeg plans to raise funds for Ukrainian newcomers by biking about 3,000 kilometres across southern Manitoba in 30 days.

His ride will be entirely self-supported, and all funds will go directly to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Manitoba.

Over the years, Enns has embarked on many long-distance cycling tours, including one that took him from Inuvik on the Arctic Ocean all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

He also participated in Odyssey 2000, which travelled to 45 countries by bicycle. Destinations spanned the globe, including South America, Africa and Europe, with participants cycling an average daily distance of 130 kilometres.

When the war in Ukraine began to dominate the news, Enns felt compelled to find a way to help.

"When I started watching the news with the Ukraine issue, I simply got the feeling that this cannot be happening in the 21st century — but it was. It became more difficult

to watch these broadcasts," said Enns, one of nine children born to parents who immigrated to Manitoba around 1923 from a Ukrainian settlement in Tienjehagen, Molotschna, Russia.

"It's like history repeating itself. I was wondering what on earth I could do. Well, I know how to ride a bike, so that's what I'm doing."

For those who are interested, he recommends reading the book *Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine* by Anne Applebaum. Enns said this book outlines the history that parallels today's catastrophes — and inspired him to get involved.

Enns began his month-long ride on July 19 through multiple communities en route to Steinbach, where he spent the first night.

After traversing the province for several more days, he'll make stops in Grand Marais, Libau, East Selkirk, Lockport and Birds Hill Park on July 25.

On July 26, he plans to cycle through Selkirk, Clandeboye, Winnipeg Beach, Sandy Hook, Gimli and Valhalla.

After that, he'll be in Arnes, Hnauasa, Arborg, Poplarfield and Eriksdale on July 27, followed by Mulvihill, Camper, Ashern and Narrows on July 28.

Later in his journey, he'll bike through Darlingford, Thornhill, Morden, Winkler, Schanzenfled, Gnadenthal and Altona on Aug. 13.

After that, he'll be in Rosenfeld, Morris, Roseport, Osborne and Domaine on Aug. 14, before heading to LaSalle, Sanford, Brunkhild, Sperling, Carmen and Elm Creek on Aug. 15.

On Aug. 16, Enns will ride to Fannystelle, Elie, St. Eustache, Marquette, Warren and Stonewall, followed by Lockport, Birds Hill, Oakbank, Dougald, Lorette, Landmark, Ile des Chenes and Winnipeg on Aug. 17.

He'll wrap up his journey on Aug. 18 at the Ukrainian Folkorama Pavilion in Winnipeg.

"I'll be self-contained and self-equipped. Whatever expenses I incur are mine," said Enns, a retired teacher. "But it's not about me. It's about the Ukrainian newcomers."

Joan Lewandosky, president of Ukrainian Canadian Congress Manitoba, expressed appreciation for Enns' efforts.

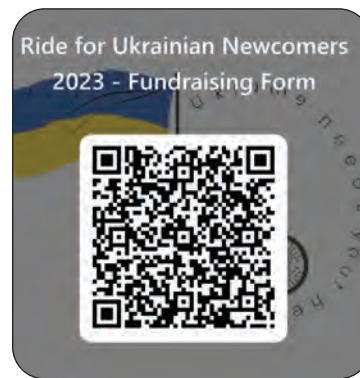
"This fundraiser will help UCC Manitoba deliver important support to Ukrainian displaced persons in Manitoba who have arrived here because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine," she said.

"UCC Manitoba is helping with settlement support, job finding, material and educational aid."

All donations must be made directly to Ukrainian Canadian Congress Manitoba rather than to Enns.

To make a donation by e-transfer, email fundraising@uccmanitoba.ca and fill out the obligatory e-transfer form at <https://forms.office.com/r/8qFJieQFEf>.

Another option is to write a cheque payable to



To donate, link on the QR code.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Fred Enns will bike 3,000 kms in southern Manitoba in 30 days to raise funds for Humanitarian Aid for Ukrainian newcomers in Manitoba.

UCC-MPC, Box 3567, Redwood Postal Outlet, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2W 3R4.

To learn more about Ukrainian Canadian Congress, visit www.uccmanitoba.ca.

For additional information, visit the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Manitoba Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/uccmb>.

RIDE FOR UKRAINE - 2023

Day-by-Day Cycling Route

(N) = Night stay

July 18 City bike routes

July 19 Official start – Creek Bend Road, St. Adolphe, Niverville, St. Agathe, St. Pierre-Jolys, La Rochelle, St. Malo, Grunthal, Steinbach (N)

July 20 La Broquiere, Giroux, St. Anne, Anola, Beausejour (N)

July 21 Vivian, Elma, Whitemouth, Rennie, Red Rock L. (N)

July 22 Seven Sisters, Lac du Bonnet, McArthur Falls, Great Falls, St. Georges (N)

July 23/24 Pine Falls, Fort Alexander, Victoria Beach, Lester Beach (N)

July 25 Grand Maris, Libau, East Selkirk, Lockport, Birds Hill Park (N)

July 26 Selkirk, Clandeboye, Winnipeg Beach, Sandy Hook, Gimli, Valhalla (N)

July 27 Arnes, Hnuasa, Arborg, Poplarfield, Eriksdale (N)

July 28 Mulvihill, Camper, Ashern, Narrows (N)

July 29 Eddystone, Shergrove, Ste. Rose du Lac, Ochre River, Dauphin Beach (N)

July 30 Ashville, Ethelbert, Garland, Pine River (N)

July 31 Cowan, Renwer, Minitonas, Swan

Continued on page 22

Golf with Us!

The Carman Golf and Curling Club (CGCC) is located in Carman, Manitoba. The club was originally established on May 12, 1924 as a five hole club. In the spring of 1930 land was purchased and nine holes were opened on the "old side". On August 28, 1953 the first tournament was held. The course began production on the "new 11 holes" in 1982 and opened the 18 Hole Golf Course in the spring of 1984. On August 17, 1990 the new clubhouse officially opened and is enjoyed today! Carman Golf and Curling Club is known as a select destination for golf in the summer and curling in the winter months. Formerly two clubs, the CGCC amalgamated its executive and combined all operations to be a year round facility managed by a general manager and offering something for everyone. CGCC features a beautiful restaurant with an attached patio, a 200 capacity banquet facility, a five sheet curling arena, and an 18 hole golf course. Both the golf course and curling club have been recognized as top-notch clubs hosting many prestigious provincial and local events.

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Gretna festival now going strong for 24 years

By Lori Penner

While the cooler temperatures didn't quite represent the name, the Gretna Hot Spot Festival was still a warm, welcoming place last week.

Festival committee chair Delores Smith said all the pieces came together to create a fantastic, well-attended event.

"The weather was great, but not what we're used to. It's normally about 33 degrees for the Hot Spot Festival. We usually earn our name," she said.

Friday evening's events began with the Amazing Race.

"We had 11 teams sign up. It was really good. We also had line dancing lessons with Peg Peters. We had about 30 people at one time learning the moves. That was lots of fun," said Smith.

Saturday morning began with a pancake breakfast and parade.

"That was all very well attended with over 300 people under the tent. We ran out of pancake mix. The parade was also fantastic, and we had tons of people lined up all the way down Hespeler. We haven't seen that in a while."

Children's attractions such as Bouncerama, the petting zoo and the Kiddie Carnival resulted in a lot of smiles, and the foam party drew a huge crowd of kids to the concrete pad where for a full hour, happy squeals of delight echoed across the playground.

Bingo under the tent gave some visitors a chance to sit and relax, while winning some cash as well.

The giant raffle was a big attraction with a wide variety of impressive prizes donated by local businesses and organizations. Also on site were members of the Gretna Fire Department, running a dunking tank to raise extra cash for the department.

Furever Friends Cat Rescue of Altona ran the canteen and sold so many hamburgers, they ran out of buns.

"It was a great way to raise funds for their organization and took some of the pressure off of us," Smith said.



PHOTOS BY LORI PENNER/VOICE
The Gretna Hot Spot Festival last weekend included a variety of children's attractions such as a Kiddie Carnival and inflatables. Furever Friends Cat Rescue of Altona ran a fundraising canteen, and the entertainment included Corny Rempel as Elvis.

The pulled pork supper attracted hundreds of diners, and the evening reached its peak with an outstanding performance by Johnny Cash and Elvis tribute artist Corny Rempel.

A crowd then gathered for a big fireworks display, putting another Hot Spot Festival in the books.

The Hot Spot Festival caters to families, offering games and attractions for little ones so that moms and dads can socialize and enjoy themselves too.

"We have a safe zone, where the street is blocked off. So the moms and dads can just relax and let their kids play. And because it's a small town, you know a lot of the people and if you see a kid that's lost, you can just say, I know your mom, and know where to bring them," Smith said.

She noticed a number of out-of-town visitors this year as well.

"We've always said we don't attract a lot of out-of-towners, but for some reason, they came this year. It might have been the timing between the other festivals. And we're seeing more and more people who grew up in Gretna come back for a visit with



their families. It's kind of like a reunion. We're really happy with the crowd we had," she said.

All the events were free, so Smith said that's where the fundraising comes into play.

"We've had generous donations from businesses and individuals, and a Manitoba Sports and Culture grant. Our giant raffle also generates some income for the festival. Therefore, we can offer it for no charge to the public."

They were strategic in planning the schedule.

"You want to keep people here as long as you can," she said.

"It was just a great event this year.

It's an impressive history that began with a small grassroots event and just kept growing," concluded Smith, noting this was the 24th Hot Spot Festival.

"As the years go on, it's important that we keep on getting new committee members to bring new energy and new ideas. Some of them have young kids, so they kind of know what it's been like and we're already talking about next year's festival. We're hoping to tie in farmer's market to add a country fair feeling to the event."

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Smaller beekeeping operations feeling the sting

By Becca Myskiw

Manitoban commercial beekeepers will be able to start recovering from the recent years' losses thanks to the federal and provincial government.

Last month, the Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba announced \$7.5 million in support for commercial beekeepers. This is in response to the devastating losses beekeepers have recently faced due to drought, plant stress, wet springs, and disease.

Manitoba Beekeepers' Association chairperson, Ian Stepler, said the last two years had been a struggle for many if not all Manitoba beekeepers. The drought of 2021 brought extreme heat and smoke, which put a lot of stress on honeybee colonies and the plants they rely on for food. That led

to malnutrition for the bees, which allowed the disease to take over them that fall. The following spring, five consecutive Colorado lows hit the already vulnerable colonies, killing many of them in the country.

In Manitoba, the average honeybee colony loss was 57 per cent compared to the average loss rate of 30 per cent, but losses of 2021-22 ranged from 25 per cent to 90 per cent. Stepler suffered a 25 per cent loss last year, but this year, he's lost 50 per cent of his colonies. Out of his 1,500-colony business by Miami, he now has 750 to work with.

There are around 250 commercial beekeepers in Manitoba. Before the devastating losses as of late, they



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ian Stepler is a commercial beekeeper near Miami, eligible for government support to rebuild his beehives. The Canadian and Manitoba governments are giving \$7.5 million in support to commercial beekeepers in the province to help them rebuild after devastating losses.

Continued on page 17



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> BEES FROM PG. 16

were producing 18 to 20 million pounds of honey annually and contributing enormously towards crop pollination, which comes out to a \$150 million contribution annually. This means agriculture as a whole is feeling the effects of the honeybee losses.

Because the losses were felt across Canada, getting replacement stock became harder and harder. Stepler was bringing in packages from overseas and from beekeepers in B.C., but it still wasn't anywhere close enough to replace everything he lost.

"It's just a huge spectrum of hardship," said Stepler. "It was going to take four years for producers to recover from those losses."

Luckily, that should no longer be the case.

Of the 115,000 colonies in the province, 95 per cent of them (almost 110,000) belong to commercial beekeepers. The province sees commercial beekeepers as anyone with 50 or more colonies. Those registered with the government can apply for the program to purchase replacement stock.

"Beekeepers and healthy bee populations play a vital role in the sustainable production of many high-value agricultural crops," said Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "With support to help overcome this unique sector challenge and recover unexpected colony losses, beekeepers will be better equipped for future growing seasons."

To be eligible for the Canada-Manitoba Bee Morality Assistance Program, commercial beekeepers registered with the province must meet the following criteria and finish their applications by Aug. 31, 2023:

- Be 18 years or older when applying and not be funded by the government or an institution
- Have a valid Manitoba Beekeeper Registration Number as of Nov. 1, 2021
- Have owned and prepared fifty (50) or more colonies for the 2021-2022 winter
- Have owned eligible inventory and experienced extraordinary losses between Nov. 1, 2021 and May 21, 2022
- Report farm income and expenses for income tax purposes
- Be liable to pay income tax in Manitoba (or is specifically exempted but is a permanent resident in Canada)

The \$7.5 million is shared between the two governments, with the Province of Manitoba giving \$3 million. Beekeepers can apply under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and AgriRecovery.

"This financial aid from the government is quite welcome to our industry," said Stepler. "It's going to allow



Bailey Gitzel is a small beekeeper by Homewood not eligible for the government support.

beekeepers to reach out further to access replacement stock to fill boxes."

He said with the government's financial help, a four-year recovery might now look like a three-year recovery.

"This should help beekeepers fully recover by next year," he said.

Stepler noted the attention from the provincial and federal governments helps everyone in the agriculture industry. It will allow beekeepers to get back on their feet and let the bees get back into the fields.

Not all beekeepers in the province get the leg up, though. Bailey Gitzel has 35 honeybee colonies by Homewood — just 15 short of being eligible for the program. By the time summer 2022 came, she was down to three.

"It was devastating," said Gitzel. "It was a long winter. The girls just didn't have enough life left in them to make it through."

She split the two strongest hives last year and got five honeybee colonies for the year. This year, she still has those five, which is reassuring, but it's still not 35.

Gitzel has tried to get replacement stock but even with their scarcity, they've nearly tripled in price from when she started beekeeping over a decade ago. So, she's buying honey by the barrel from commercial beekeepers to meet her customers' needs. Before the losses, she was also selling her honey at markets all year. This year, she's registered to do just one.

"It's great to see the government helping out Manitoba beekeepers after these devastating losses," said Gitzel. "Manitoba honey is top notch, and we need to get our overall hive numbers back up but unfortunately I don't qualify for this funding."

Her small operation is struggling the same as everyone else with the difference being she doesn't qualify for government funding. In other words, Gitzel must rebuild her honeybee operation with her out-of-pocket money.

"It almost feels like we're getting forgotten about," she said. "We're a part of the beekeeping community too."



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Something for everyone at Sunflower Festival

By Lori Penner

The Manitoba Sunflower Festival is taking place from Fri., July 28 to Sun., July 30, and this year's festival features a huge variety of events and attractions for the whole family.

Eric Hildebrand, recreation services manager for the Town of Altona, said the Sunflower Festival is something not only the community looks forward to but also visitors from across the province.

"Our hope is Altona and surrounding area residents are ready to come out to celebrate and enjoy a weekend of fun," said Hildebrand.

"It's an event for everyone to take in and often to maintain connections to the community. Maybe they grew up here and want to make the festival weekend a kind of a homecoming with family and friends. Events like this tend to form lifelong connections where great memories are made."

The excitement begins Friday with Queen Quest speeches at the MEC, Mennonite food at the Rhineland Pioneer Centre featuring all the traditional favourites, and Gifted - The Market which celebrates the talents and creativity of local small businesses and artisans.

Friday night will take you back in time when Revenge of the 80s takes the Altona Centennial Park stage, covering hits from all your favourite artists, such as Aha, Cyndi Lauper, B52s, Michael Jackson, Corey Hart, Survivor

and many more.

Next will be Hip Hop Night featuring Tirrel Thomas and Yung Balboa. From Roseau River First Nation and Altona, they will turn it up and round off the night with hip hop music and rhymes.

Saturday at the festival begins with the much-anticipated free pancake breakfast at the Access Credit Union parking lot. Then pull up a lawn chair and watch the gigantic commercial parade, bringing colourful floats and free candy for the kids all along the parade route.

After the parade, pack up the family and head back to the park where a huge selection of entertainment options awaits.

There will be Eric the Juggler, who makes a living tossing dangerous objects - fire, knives and chainsaws. A petting zoo, inflatables and free face painting return as a festival standard, and a Sprkl Studio Youth Rock Band Showcase will show kids how to create their own songs.

Also on Saturday, enjoy the arts, crafts, clothing and games from countries around the world at the Regional Connections Culture Fest. Along with music, dance and drumming, it's a great way to celebrate, connect and educate.

If you love to cheer on your favourite team, don't miss the Altona Rhineland Emergency Services Fire Truck

Continued on next page

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2023 MANITOBA SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL

ALTONA, MB JULY 28-30

Friday, July 28, 2023

- 11:00AM – 5:00PM** Gallery in the Park features artwork throughout the weekend Featuring Kroeger Clocks Heritage Foundation, Barb Bottle, Candace Propp, and Jozanna Loewen
- 2:00pm** – Queen Quest Speeches (@ the MEC)
- 4:00 – 8:00pm** – Mennonite Foods (Rhineland Pioneer Centre)
- 4:00 – 9:00pm** – Gifted the Market (@ the MEC)
- 5:00 – 8:00pm** – Bounce-a-rama Inflatables sponsored by Elmers Manufacturing (Altona Centennial Park)
- 5:00 – 10:00pm** Food Trucks Open (Altona Centennial Park)
- 6:00 – 7:00pm** – Altona Fire Dept – Family Fun! (Ecole Parkside School) Opening Ceremonies (Located at the PlayNOW Stage)
- 8:00PM** – Introduction of the 2023 Manitoba Sunflower Festival Queen Contestants
- 8:00PM** – Altona Farm Service Friday Night Stage Show by "Revenge of the 80's" (located on the PlayNow Stage)
- 10:00PM** – Hip Hop Night Feat. Tirrel Thomas and Yung Balboa (located on the PlayNow Stage)

Saturday, July 29, 2023

- 7:30 – 9:00pm** – Pancake Breakfast by donation sponsored by Access Credit Union (All proceeds going to Kiddie Sunshine Centre Expansion Project) (Access Credit Union parking lot)
- 10:00AM** – Gigantic Commercial Parade (Downtown)
- 11:00 – 7:00pm** – Mennonite Foods (Rhineland Pioneer Centre)
- 11:30** – Free Yoga, outdoors at the Gallery in the Park (Bring a mat) *WEATHER DEPENDENT*
- 11:00 – 3:00pm** – Altona Farmers Market (located on 10th Ave at the Altona Centennial Park)
- 11:00 – 8:00pm** – Bounce-a-rama Inflatables sponsored by Elmers Manufacturing
- 11:00 – 8:00pm** – Cole and Mace Law Office Petting Zoo by Riklyn Farms
- 11:00AM – 5:00PM** Gallery in the Park features artwork throughout the weekend Featuring Kroeger Clocks Heritage Foundation, Barb Bottle, Candace Propp, and Jozanna Loewen
- 12:00 – Dusk** – Food Trucks Open
- 12:30 – 4:00pm** CultureFest
- 12:00 – 8:00pm** – Gifted The Market (@ the MEC)
- 1:30** – Altona Rhineland Emergency Services Fire Truck Pull (10th Ave Across from Park)
- 2:00pm** Manitoba Sunflower Festival Queen Quest Fashion Show (PlayNow Stage)
- 3:00pm** – Eric the Juggler (PlayNow Stage)
- 4:00pm** – Sprkl Studio youth band showcase
- 3:00 – 6:00pm** – Free Face Painting
- 7:30pm** – Saturday Night Stage Show with entertainment by Emma Peterson and Manitoba Sunflower Festival Queen Quest fashion show brought to you by Town of Altona and Friesens Corporation (PlayNow Stage)
- 9:30 – 11:00pm** – Gallery After Dark Silent Disco (Dance party at the Gallery in the Park)
- 10:00pm** – Crowning of the Manitoba Sunflower Festival Queen
- 8:00 - 1:00am** - Elks Dance (Rhineland Pioneer Centre)

Continued from previous page

Pull supporting Altona Panthers Special Olympics. One team will reign supreme at this fun, family friendly community event.

You can also witness and encourage another set of competitors at the Outland Games event where local teams challenge their strength and put their fitness to the test.

All the while, you can satisfy your appetite anytime at the food trucks located along the park loop.

Anchoring the Saturday evening stage entertainment is Emma Peterson, an up-and-coming country music star whose powerful voice, relatable lyricism and storytelling will leave you wanting more.

And the grand finale Saturday night on the stage will feature the crowning of the 2023 Manitoba Sunflower Festival Queen at 10 p.m.

Sunday's stage lineup begins with the community worship service at 10:30 a.m. followed by an afternoon of Music in the Park from artists that include Noah Gitzel, SNACKIE, Bowen and Silas Presley.

Find a picnic table in the shade and enjoy all this free entertainment while munching on watermelon and rollkuchen. If you need to cool off, take a plunge in the pool as the aquatic centre offers free swimming for everyone.

Legends Car Show returns on Sunday as well with a huge assortment of classic and antique cars, trucks, motorcycles and snowmobiles, all beautifully displayed through the park.

And thrill seekers will love the freestyle stunts presented by Twinstunts – two energetic twin brothers who bring two action-packed shows consisting of wheelies, acrobatics, burnouts and more.

Now in its 57th year, the festival is always offering a few things for all age groups with an overall focus on families, said Hildebrand.

"I know they've been working really hard over the last number of months to try and put on a weekend-long event that caters to the community at large, for everyone young and old to enjoy," he said. "They've done a fantastic job to provide a wide variety of things to see and experience, and the committee is always changing up a few things to keep it fresh and exciting. A big part of that is the entertainment.

"It's going to be a fantastic weekend. We're looking forward to seeing all our plans come together and watching everyone have a great time."

NOTE: The Elks dance social is from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and not 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. as indicated in the festival brochure.

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2023 MANITOBA SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL

ALTONA, MB JULY 28-30

Outland Games offer fun fitness test

By Lori Penner

The Manitoba Sunflower Festival not only offers fun but also supports fitness with the Outland Games event.

This exciting out of the ordinary mixed partner outdoor fitness competition takes place Sat., July 29 and will see teams of two work together through four workouts throughout the day with a chance to reach the final for the top five teams.

There are three different skill level divisions, making this competition suited for all athletic levels. It is scaled for those who are newer to competitions, Intermediate for those who have been in the game for some time and can master almost all the movements, and there is RX for those who are more experienced and can master all the movements.

"Each workout is designed to test their fitness, push them a bit and bring in things they may not have seen before," says Outland Fitness owner Dan Maguet.

While there is no age limit, there are standards for each division that athletes should have including different weights for fitness levels they would

need to perform, he noted.

There are 28 teams registered for the event with about 30 volunteers lending a hand.

Prizes for the winning teams include swag bags for all athletes registered and prizes for the top three teams in each division.

Event one takes place at the Altona Aquatic Centre at 9 a.m. and will involve a swimming competition incorporating a variety of movements. Event two takes place at the Buffalo Creek Nature Park hill at 11 a.m. with the remaining events at the Gallery in the Park parking lot.

"All the events test overall fitness, skills, capacity, endurance and strength for upper and lower body. You'll definitely feel the workout at the end of the day," said Outland Fitness general manager Dominique Wiebe.

"This will be our fourth time hosting this competition. It was held in Winkler for the past three years. We are excited to bring it to our hometown this year," added Maguet. "Working out doesn't

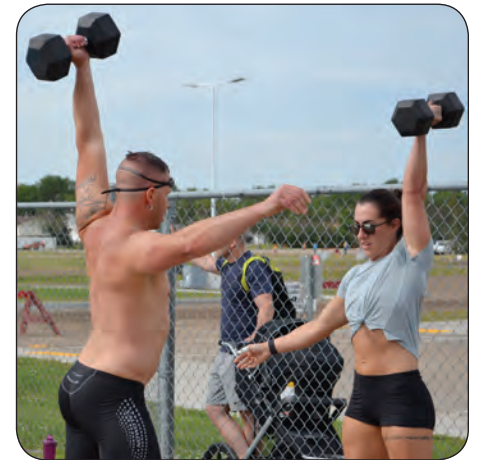
need to be traditionally the same old training for everyday functionality. So you're strong, able and can continue to move for a long time."

Wiebe said it's a fun event, and they're hoping to see big crowds cheering on the competitors.

"We want their support, but we also want to show them that there are different competition opportunities out there, even after you're out of high school. People tend to drop out of sports later, and don't really have those competitions they can participate in, but there is this option.

"We want to show them that working out can be fun and there are a variety of things you can do to stay active, no matter your age or fitness level. We're looking forward to seeing everybody there and hoping for great weather. But this event will take place, rain or shine."

To follow the event, go online to competitioncorner.net/events/10160/workouts?f=team.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

"Each workout is designed to test their fitness, push them a bit and bring in things they may not have seen before."

Sunday, July 30, 2023

- 10:30am – Community Worship Service (PlayNow Stage)
- 12:00pm – 42th Legends Car Club Show in the Park
- 12:00pm – Bounce-a-rama Inflatables sponsored by Elmers MFG
- 12:00pm – Cole and Mace Law Office Petting Zoo by Riklyn Farms
- 12:00pm – 6:00pm Food Trucks Open
- 1:30 – 8:00pm – Free Public Swimming (Altona Aquatic Centre)
- 1:30, 2:30, & 4:00 – Twin Stunts Sponsored by Friesens Corporation
- 1:00 – 6:00pm – Sunday afternoon music in the Park (PlayNow Stage)
- 1:00 – 1:25pm Noah Gitzel,
- 2:00 – 2:45pm SNACKIE
- 3:15 – 4:00pm Bowen,
- 4:30 – 5:15pm Silas Presley
- 3:00pm – Free Fasma – Watermelon and Rollkuchen served to you by Town of Altona and Municipality of Rhineland
- 4:00pm – Legends Car Club trophy presentation
- 6:00 – 10:00pm – Old Time Dance (Pioneer Centre)

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July 27, 28, 29

Manitoba girls go Farming For Love on Canadian TV

By Becca Myskiw

Two Manitoban girls recently went Farming For Love for all of Canada to see.

CTV's new dating show, Farming For Love, aired this month, and there was more than just one familiar face.

Five young Canadian farmers, all from different farming specialties, meet prospective partners and choose if they wish to pursue a romance. Over time, eliminations occur, with the aim of finding the ultimate partner.

Bailey Gitzel from Carman and Amanda Bodner from Winnipeg were selected to be daters on the show's inaugural season.

"I'm a farmer's daughter and I'm really big into Canadian agriculture so I thought it would be a unique opportunity," said Gitzel. "I didn't actually think I'd get the call to go on."

But she did. The show's production team said there was a great response to the casting call for season one. After the last few years, they said, living in a rural, idyllic landscape appeals to people.

Farming For Love first cast the farmers, then launched their profiles online. From there, people from across the country applied as daters for the farmer of their choice, and the show's team acted as matchmakers, casting those they thought would be suitable for their farmers.

Gitzel and Bodner travelled to B.C. last fall to film the show and give love a chance. Neither made it to happily ever after, but that's not what they remember from the experience.

Gitzel landed in B.C. ready to open herself up to Farmer Doug, a dairy farmer from Chemainus. On her 15-minute date with him, she and Doug bonded over shared experiences — he lived in Manitoba for a while and has chickens.

"It went by in a flash," she said. "I was a bit nervous. I was putting myself out of my comfort zone, but overall, it was a really cool experience."

Gitzel said dating on national television was nerve-wracking and seeing the filming process was an eye-opening experience. Though that first date with Farmer Doug was all she got, she enjoyed everything about being on the show.

"Initially it was disappointing," she said. "But I know it wasn't meant to be. Now I can look at the humour of it. Not everyone has the chance to be rejected on national TV."

Bodner made it past the first episode with Farmer Dave and got to go to his farm on episode two, where she and the other daters watched him shear

sheep.

"When you're standing in front of him and he's calling out names, it's a very nerve-wracking experience," she said. "And when your name gets called, it feels really good."

Bodner worked on a farm in Australia for a few months, but other than that, she hasn't had many farm-related experiences. Seeing sheep being sheared was really cool, she said, and felt personal.

Bodner's run on the show ended after that day on the farm.

"OF COURSE, I WANTED TO SHARE IT, BUT I KNEW THAT WASN'T POSSIBLE AND THAT'S WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR,"



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Carman's Bailey Gitzel, left, and Amanda Bodner, right were both selected as a prospective partners for five young Canadian farmers, all from different farming specialties, for the premiere showing of Farming for Love.

"I didn't really get to connect with Dave on a deep level, unfortunately," she said. "But I felt like he was a great person...someone that I could have seen myself being with, but at the end of the day, that spark just didn't fly."

She was disappointed not to be chosen to go on, but she could see him forming connections with the other daters and understood his decision.

After the women were sent home, they had to keep the secret of what they'd just experienced until the cast for the show was revealed in May. Both of their immediate families knew but to the rest of the world, they had been on a trip (Bodner) or taking a class (Gitzel).

"Of course, I wanted to share it, but I knew that wasn't possible and that's what I signed up for," said Gitzel.

Bodner, on the other hand, liked keeping the secret.

"You want it to be a good reveal, so it was fun to be part of that," she said. "It was so exciting."

Once the news did come out, the

reactions from each daters' communities was overwhelming — so much so that Gitzel's work put up a sign outside their building telling everyone to watch her on the show.

Both Gitzel and Bodner said having the experiences they did helped them learn a lot about themselves, and Gitzel said she has a newfound confidence. Their advice? Do it. Put yourself out there and go out of your comfort zone.

Farming For Love is based on the hit show The Farmer Wants A Wife, which has been made in more than 35 countries across the globe.

"Farmers are extremely busy people that work almost 24/7, 365 days a year and often live in rural communities," said the show's production team. "If you're not already matched up, it can be hard to meet new people, so this show brings love to the farm."

People can watch Farming For Love live on CTV every Sunday at 7 p.m. Casting is open for season two at www.ctv.ca/farmingforlovecasting.

> CYCLIST RIDES, FROM PG. 14

- River, Kenville, Durban, Benito (N)
- Aug. 1 San Clara, Roblin (N)
- Aug. 2 Inglis, Russell, Angusville, Birdtail, Rosburn, Vista, Oakburn (N)
- Aug. 3/4 Menzie, Elphinstone, Sandy Lake, Erickson, Onanole, Wasagaming, Ukrainian Festival (N)
- Aug. 5 Ochre River, Ste Rose du Lac, McCreeary, Norgate, Kelwood, Riding Mt (N)
- Aug. 6 Eden, Neepawa, Minnedosa, Forrest, Brandon (N)
- Aug. 7 Carrol, Souris, Deleau, Pipestone, Melita (N)
- Aug. 8 Melrose, Deloraine, Boissevain, Ninga, Killarney (N)
- Aug. 9 Lena, Cartwright, Baldur, Neelin, Glenboro (N)
- Aug 10 Cypress River, Holland, Austi.n, Gladstone (N)

- Aug. 11 Woodside, Westbourne, Oakland, Portage la Prairie, Southport, Newton, Oakville, Elm Creek (N)
- Aug. 12 Haywood, St. Claude, Rathwell, Notre-Dame-de Lourdes, Manitou (N)
- Aug. 13 Darlingford, Thornhill, Morden, Winkler, Schanzenfeld, Gnadenthal, Altona (N)
- Aug. 14 Rosenfeld, Morris, Rosenort, Osborne, Domaine (N)
- Aug 15 LaSalle, Sanford, Brunkhild, Sperling, Carmen, Elm Creek (N)
- Aug. 16 Fannystelle, Elie, St. Eustache, Marquette, Warren, Stonewall (N)
- Aug. 17 Lockport, Birdshill, Oakbank, Dougald, Lorette, Landmark, Ill des Chenes, Winnipeg (N)
- Aug. 18 Ukrainian Pavilion

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A young entrepreneur starting out?

Please share your story ideas at news@winklermordenvoice.ca Phone 204-332-3456

The **Voice**

Denim & Dust Barrel Racing underway for 2023

Barrel racing takes place every Tuesday in Carman

By Ty Dilello

The Denim & Dust Barrel Racing Series is in full swing for the 2023 season.

On July 4, Denim & Dust held its first race night of the year at the Dufferin Agricultural Society (DAS) Grandstand. Other race nights will be on Tuesdays in July and the first three Tuesdays in August until the finals, which are held on Aug 19 for the competitors who have qualified.

Barrel Racing is a speed event with the horse and rider combo making a cloverleaf pattern around three barrels. It usually comes down to a tenth of a second, sometimes between first and second place.

There is no admission to Denim & Dust events, as everyone is welcome to come out and cheer on the competition as competitors travel from all over the province to participate each

week.

"We always have a big group of local people to come to support our riders and watch on Tuesday evenings," said Carlene Reimer. "We like to make sure we always have a food vendor or vendors available on Tuesday evenings for competitors and spectators. We also have phenomenal support from local and surrounding businesses who keep this barrel series a top-notch series with added money and amazing prizes for the finals."

Carlene Reimer started the Denim & Dust Barrel Racing Series four years ago in Carman. She has about ten volunteers who dedicate themselves to the series every summer.

"It is a ton of work to put together a good series, but seeing everyone enjoy themselves and come out and compliment on how encouraging and fun the atmosphere is, whether you're just watching or competing, makes all the hard work worth it."

If you're interested in checking out the competition, check out Denim & Dust Barrel Racing each Tuesday evening in Carman at the DAS Grandstand.



VOICE PHOTO BY CAREY LEE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Denim & Dust Barrel Racing Series is in full swing for the 2023 season. Tori Colosimo had strong showing on the first race of the season held on July 4.

Retiree tackling a new challenge: stand-up comedy

By Lorne Stelmach

A Mordenite is aiming to make a new career for himself in stand-up comedy.

Bob Wiens recognizes that it is a challenge to step out and try something different, especially to get established in something like comedy, but he is at a stage in life where he felt ready for something new.

"I've sort of been doing a bit of comedy on and off for many years ... when there was a stage, I would take the opportunity," said Wiens, who was born in Altona but has spent time in Saskatchewan and Northwest Ontario before settling in Morden.

He is now retired from the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, but he has also been working as a construction safety officer and a trades instructor in northern Manitoba.

He just arrived at a point where he felt it was the time for him to stop working full-time and tackle a new challenge.

"One of the hardest things I'm actually having to get used to is not being a nine to fiver," he noted.

Wiens started off being inspired by people like Jerry Seinfeld and Andrew Dice Clay, and he has more recently cited performers like Matt Rife and Nikki Glaser.

"I think Matt Rife would compare to my suggestive style of comedy," he said. "I think Nikki Glaser has a unique style which is in the same ball park as mine."

He sees his topics as perhaps touching on a wide range of things—from sex to religion to even the CFL. He also draws on his own career and experiences.

"For me, one of the hardest things about getting involved in comedy on a full-time basis is that when I meet people now, I don't try to be funny. I need to save it for the stage," said Wiens. "You might think then I'm a bit of an introvert, but it's just the opposite. I like everybody."

"And I realize everybody has something to contribute to a conversation ... so if I ask you the right question and you open up to me, it will be great. It's interesting to try to dig deep into seeing what people care about."

He also accepts there is the risk of

one's comedy falling flat with some people.

"One of the hardest things for me to understand was not everyone is going to like me. It doesn't matter how good you are or how bad you are ... some people just won't like it."

He also has the thought of working with other performers in the region to put on events.

"There's a lot of talent in southern Manitoba, be it music or comedy and many other things, so I'm trying to put together a variety show," Wiens said. "I see all these talented people, and I think it can be done."

Wiens now hopes to record a live performance and also wants to do an electronic profile kit for promotional purposes. He has been working with both Rendezvous Brewery and Taproom and Dead Horse Entertainment on an upcoming event. Details have yet to be firmed up.

In the meantime, he looks forward to doing open mic nights at places like Rumors, Yuk Yuks and Wee Johnny's in Winnipeg, and his long term goal would be to get to Nashville because it is such an entertainment hub.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/
VOICE

Bob Wiens is trying his hand at stand-up comedy and dreams of hitting it big.

"It just takes time ... really, eventually, my goal is to be based out of Nashville."

sports & recreation

Winkler wins 13U AA title

By Lorne Stelmach

Winkler went undefeated over the weekend to capture the 13U AA baseball championship right here in Winkler.

They swept through the round robin with wins of 10-0 over Red River, 15-2 over Bonivital and 18-8 over Kenora. The playoff games then saw them emerge victorious with wins of 11-3 over Stonewall, 7-4 over Steinbach and 9-3 over Fort Garry.

Morden was 2 & 1 in the round robin with an 11-5 loss to Fort Garry but wins of 12-1 over Neepawa and 13-7 over Rock Lake. They fell in the quarter-final with an 11-1 loss to Steinbach.

Winkler and Altona meanwhile both went 1 & 2 in the round robin of the 11U AA provincials in Altona.

Winkler lost 12-0 and 13-2 to Macdonald and Charleswood then beat Kenora 15-1, while Altona lost 3-2 to Fort Garry, won 9-0 over Neepawa and lost 2-1 to Rock Lake before bow-

ing out with a 2-1 loss to Red River in the quarter-final.

Macdonald edged St. James 6-5 in the gold medal game.

In the 15U AA championship in La Broquerie, Winkler made it to the final before falling 14-9 to Charleswood.

Winkler had gone undefeated through the round robin with wins of 11-0 over Roblin, 18-2 over Hamiota, 17-4 over North Winnipeg and 13-1 over Portage before getting to the final with a 10-0 win over La Broquerie.

Finally, at the 15U A provincials, Winkler won 3-2 over Seine River, 9-5 over Niverville, 6-4 over Neepawa and 16-0 over Lundar before falling 13-3 to Brandon in the semi-final game.

Altona beat Manitou 2-1, won 11-1 over Dauphin, lost 6-0 to Brandon and 6-4 to Wawanesa-Souris. Manitou also lost 8-2 to Wawanesa-Souris, won 17-11 over Dauphin and fell 10-2 to Brandon.

Wawanesa/Souris edged Brandon



WINKLER MINOR BALL FACEBOOK PHOTO

The Winkler Giants had an impressive run to the 13U AA provincial baseball championship.

10-9 in the gold medal game.

SOFTBALL

Central Energy made it to silver medal game at the U13 AAA championship before falling 8-6 to Westman. They had earlier advanced by downing Interlake 6-4 in the bronze medal

game.

Eastman edged Westman 4-3 in the gold medal game.

And Winkler lost 7-4 to Steinbach in the gold medal game at the U17 A provincials while Morden captured the bronze medal.

Provincial title for U13 Winkler girls

By Lorne Stelmach

It has been a dominant season for the girls softball program in Winkler.

The most recent accolades came with the U13 girls team winning the provincials on the weekend of July 7-9.

Not only has the U11 team won provincials but the U13 team now won the provincials as well in a performance where they merced every team with a final run count for the weekend of 97-11), and the U15 team is likely to have a good shot at provincials set for July 21-23.

The U13 regional playdowns ended up being a Winkler vs Winkler gold playoff game with there having been enough players for the two squads, noted team manager Roni Wiebe.

"Between the two teams ... I think the one team only lost to the other team," noted Wiebe. "Both teams were just doing incredible, and then they combined to go to the provincials."

Wiebe suggested regional softball people know about the strength of the program here but perhaps not the broader community

"It's just been building and building," said Wiebe, who noted the U13 team also won the league last year and just came up short at the provincials.

"The major thing, I believe, is the fact that we are doing pitching clinics starting in winter," she suggested, noting they now are able to go from January until April at the Meridian Exhibition Centre.

"We also have parents and coaches renting the MEC in the off season which has helped hone the players fielding skills as well as Winkler minor ball renting it closer to the start of the season.

"It's just been an incredible help because other teams that we run into don't have a lot of great pitching or they only have one pitcher. It's just been a really big difference for us."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The U13 Winkler softball girls recently claimed the provincial title in convincing fashion.

"I think it's kind of a snowball effect," Wiebe said of how the program has taken off in Winkler.

"Once they sign up for ball, and they see that they have good pitchers on their team, it provides them with con-

fidence that just helps the whole team rally around ... the confidence builds and then the ability grows off of that," concluded Wiebe.

Mixed results for Storm squads

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It was a week with a little bit of everything for the Winkler Storm soccer teams.

Storm 1, playing in the Manitoba Major Soccer League's Premier Division, fell 2-0 to the visiting Sporting Club Mosaic Sunday evening.

Storm 2, meanwhile, won their 3rd Division game against Dunvegan Castle 4-1 last Thursday. Mosi William, Mohammed Shahab, Munashe Siyawamwaya and Philipp Unruh scored for Winkler.

A few nights later, they battled the visiting Punjab FC to a scoreless tie.

With that, Storm 2 moved into second place with a 5-2-1 record, trailing Scorpions FC by nine points. Storm 1 is in eighth place in Premier with a record of 2-8.

This week, Storm 2 host WPG B FC at 4 p.m. Sunday while Storm 1 host Lions FC at 6 p.m.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Sporting Club Mosaic's Eamon Nugent-Doyle leaps to head the ball in between two Winkler Storm 1 players in action Sunday. Winkler fell 2-0 in this game and remain in eighth place in the Premier Division.

Border playoffs underway

By Lorne Stelmach

The Border Baseball League playoffs were underway this week after the regular season wrapped up this past week.

The Morden Mud Hens are facing the Carman Cardinals with game one Thursday and game two Sunday. If needed, game three is next Tuesday.

The Winkler Whips meanwhile are taking on the Altona Bisons in the east division semifinals with game one Friday and game two Sunday. If needed, game three is next Tuesday.

In the west division, Pilot Mound faces Clearwater and defending champion Cartwright takes on Baldur.

In the final regular season games last week, the Altona Bisons had gained

ground with a 5-3 win over Winkler Tuesday then a 6-2 victory over Morden Wednesday. The final game Friday though saw them fall 12-1 to Clearwater.

Altona outhit Winkler 11-5, and Dawson Rempel pitched a complete game including eight strikeouts

Against Morden, the hits were 9-7 in Altona's favour, and Colin Waldner earned the win on the mound with seven strikeouts.

On Friday night, Morden wrapped up their regular season with an 8-0 win at home against the Cartwright with Branden Hatley picking up his second shutout of the season.

Winkler then ended their season also Friday night with a 4-2 loss to Baldur.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

It was a close play here at second base in action last Tuesday. In the end, Altona prevailed 5-3 over Winkler.

The weekend then concluded with the east division outscoring the west division 12-10 in the all-star game in

Cartwright. Highlights included Tanner Bergman of Morden getting two home runs for the east division squad.

Bisons advance while Orioles grounded

By Lorne Stelmach

The baseball season came to an end this past week for the Pembina Valley Orioles while the Altona Bisons pulled off an upset to advance to the final four.

The best-of-five semifinals began Monday with Altona facing the defending champion Elmwood Giants while the St. Boniface Legionaires were taking on the Carillon Sultans.

It was a close game, but the Bisons came up just short with a 5-3 loss in game one. Game two went Tuesday and game three Wednesday with the results not available at press time. If the series was to go the distance, game four was scheduled for Thursday and game five Friday.

The seventh place Bisons had eliminated second place St. James while Elmwood swept Pembina Valley.

The eighth place Orioles lost game

one 3-0 last Wednesday then were edged 3-2 in game two last Thursday. The Orioles kept it close in game two but then gave up the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth inning.

St. James had the early edge against Altona with the Bisons being held to just five hits as the A's took game one by a score of 5-1.

Maddux Mateychuk then allowed no hits over six-and-a-third innings to earn Altona a 1-0 victory last Thurs-

day to keep their playoff hopes alive.

In the third and deciding game, a second inning grand slam was the key in providing the margin of victory as the Bisons defeated St. James 10-6 to advance to the semi-finals.

Meanwhile, the St. Boniface Legionaires downed the Interlake Blue Jays 3-1 to win their series 2-1. The Legionaires will face the Carillon Sultans, who took two straight from the Winkler South Wolves.

Fauquier running the races of her and her mother's life

By Joshua Frey-Sam

"One foot in front of the other:" it's a personal message that's pushed Stephanie (Steph) Fauquier in the most challenging moments over the last 11 months, and what she will continue preaching as she completes the race of her, and her mother's, life.

Fauquier, 34, is in the midst of a 16-week nation-wide endeavour that would make even the most elite athletes a bit skittish.

The Toronto product is attempting to complete 10 triathlons or half-ironmans, each in a different Canadian city, over the next four months to raise money for research toward Alzheimer's disease. Fauquier, who is five races into her journey, coined #RaceWithSteph, has raised almost \$250,000 since she started swimming, biking and running in May.

Her Canadian race made a pit stop in Hecla Island on Saturday, when she competed in the Hecla Triathlon — a 750-metre swim, 22.5-kilometre bike ride and 5km run. It was the fifth stop on her tour.

It's the reason Fauquier took on the ambitious journey that has inspired supporters, though.

Fauquier's mother, Dr. Robin McLeod, a world-renowned surgeon and Officer of the Order of Canada, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2021. Knowing the disease was fatal, Fauquier set her sights on making her mom's remaining days something the country could rally around.

"My mom had the best work ethic, she was tireless, she did everything," said Fauquier. "She achieved so many amazing things — being named to the Order of Canada — but then she was also an amazing parent and I think that was because she was very consistent, very deliberate — she was very focused with the time that she gave and was giving to you. So I see a lot of parallels coming together through this endeavour. We see my mom a lot."

Fauquier, who had already run 10 triathlons in her life and was a cross-country runner during her time at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, N.B., began training for the four-month challenge last August. Indeed, the task has been demanding as she had imagined, especially after fracturing her toe during a race almost two months ago.

"There's been two really interesting things that



Stephanie Fauquier, an amateur athlete has undertaken an endeavour in honour of her mother, a renowned surgeon who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease two years ago. Through #RaceWithSteph, she has raised nearly \$250,000 to support Alzheimer's research and is boosting awareness about a disease that affects 747,000 Canadians and their families. Pictured left to right, Stephanie Fauquier with her parents, Dr. Robin McLeod and John Fauquier.



Inside the suit shows two photos Stephanie keeps close to her heart during her races.



Stephanie Fauquier competed in the cycle course of the Half Ironman Triathlon in Victoria B.C. in May 2023.

have come from this: the first being — I've always been very ambitious and I've always taken on different challenges. But through training this year, I have really gotten into this idea of, 'one foot in front of the other.' That is, by putting and being very consistent and deliberate, all the small pieces together make big outcomes," she said.

"So often when I'm racing, I've just thought to myself, 'It's one foot in front of the other,' and you're totally unstoppable when you do it. And you get that feeling of consistency and discipline."

Fauquier finished third overall — first in her age group — at the Hecla Triathlon on Saturday. She made no reference of the importance of her finishes, but said it's "really cool to see all the people who are so supportive — who get on board with your ideas and rally behind you."

"When a family member goes through a change like Alzheimer's or a cognitive impairment, you don't really talk about it at first because there's embarrassment and all these sort of feelings. I felt like my mom went from being seen as an amazing person to people almost writing her off and saying, 'Okay, well, this is the end.'

"It's not the end, it is a next chapter and it's an important chapter and one that we should talk about. I felt that this was something I could do for my mom and start this conversation and make a disease like Alzheimer's disease, which is terminal and no one wants to talk about it — talk about it and educate people," said Fauquier, adding she decided to do a Canada-wide endeavour because the disease affects the whole country.

"I just felt like there's this uniquely patriotic thing — like let's race across the country, let's be united in this fight and let's have a conversation about it."

Andrew Flynn has been training Fauquier six days a week since she decided to race 11 months ago. While Flynn, who has coached all forms of ultra-endurance athletes for the last 15 years in Toronto, said he's seen others try to run multiple triathlons in a short period, he noted a few things that have separated Fauquier's journey.

"What's unique about this is the triathlon, coupled with doing it in every province, coupled with the philanthropic arm of it," said Flynn, who will



VOICE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Dr. Robin McLeod celebrates with daughter Stephanie Fauquier at the finish line of the Western Cycle Triathlon at Stony Plain, Alberta, July 2023.

cheer on Fauquier at a couple of races this summer.

"It's been a real pleasure working with Steph. One of the things that I really love about endurance pursuit is as we pursue these endurance goals, we really get in tune with who we are as people, so I really am able to see transformation through people."

That transformation for Fauquier, he explained, has come in the form of resilience and persistence, which were tested greatly once she broke her toe.

"The mental fortitude, but also the trust — at some point, we have to trust ourselves and really

get connected to who we are, and trust and believe in ourselves, and that was a real turning point for her with the broken toe because she had to believe and trust that her fitness was going to be there to support her.

"Even though what most would consider to be a roadblock with a fractured toe, really just became a resistance for her to figure out."

Fauquier will take the next couple of weeks off before flying to the Maritimes for three races. She'll finish her journey with a triathlon in Montreal and a half-ironman in Toronto. She said she's already considered making it an annual endeavour but would like to find a way to make

#RaceWithSteph more inclusive going forward.

"I said I was going to do it and I just did it," Fauquier said. "It's really cool to see all the people who are so supportive and get on board with your ideas and rally behind you."

If interested in donating, visit: racewithsteph.com

They can also email associates.ut@utoronto.ca and "indicate that your gift should be directed to support the Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases and mention Race with Steph."

"IT'S NOT THE END, IT IS A NEXT CHAPTER AND IT'S AN IMPORTANT CHAPTER AND ONE THAT WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT."

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PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE
Planning & Permitting Department

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

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.

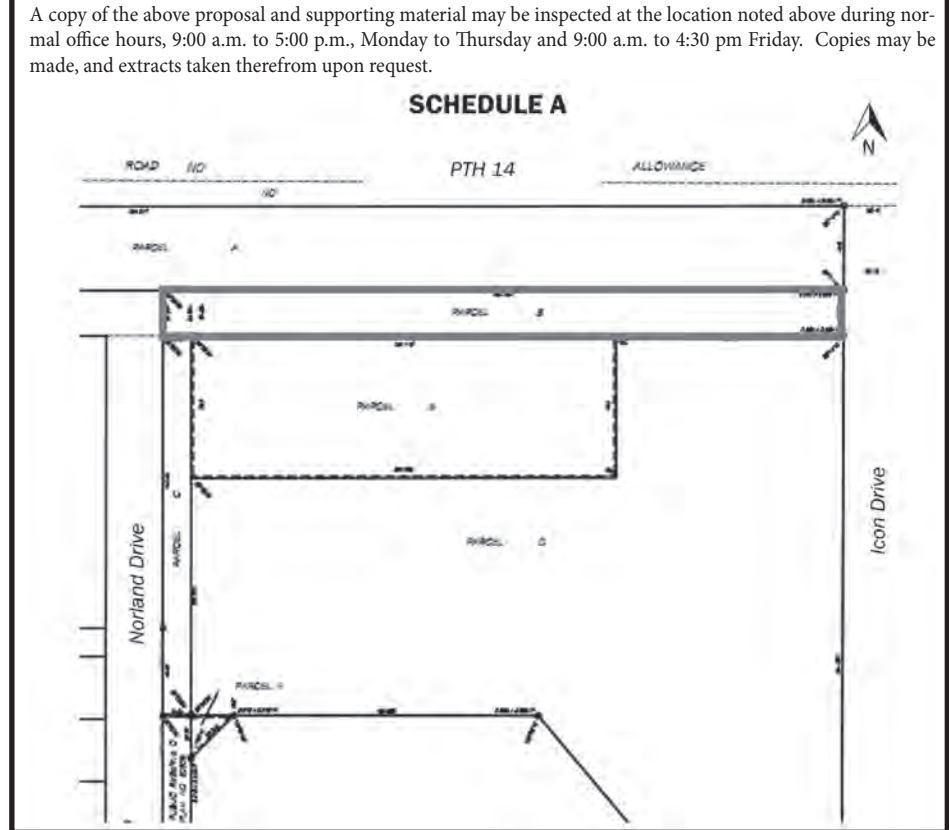
General Intent: Subject to Section 290 (1 & 2) of The Municipal Act, a municipality may close a municipal road by passing a by-law closing the road and must give public notice and hold a public hearing in respect of the proposed closure. The proposed closure is illustrated by heavy solid lines on Schedule A.

Area: All that portion of Russet Road, Parcel B, Plan (Dep 1597-2022) MLTO in the NW ¼ 2-3-4 WPM, as shown in heavy solid lines on the map attached hereto as Schedule A. (By-law 2294-23)

Contact: Jody Penner, City Manager
City of Winkler
Phone: (204) 325-9524

Date of Hearing: August 8, 2023
Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom upon request.



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

The Carman-Dufferin **STANDARD**

EMPLOYMENT

Halbstadt Mennonite Church
Halbstadt, Manitoba
Job Type: Part-Time Pastor

Mission statement: To Love our neighbor, revealing Christ to them in word and action, together becoming unified servants who worship God through Jesus Christ. An independent, Evangelical, Bible-based country church with 20 to 30 attendees, is prayerfully seeking a part-time Pastor. We are asking God for a pastor who is strong in pulpit ministry, with emphasis on Bible preaching and encouraging the congregation to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. The successful candidate will have a passion for God's work through the local church, and a desire to fulfill the New Testament requirements for office as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Please direct resumes and/or inquiries to Tony Knutt at knutt.ton@gmail.com. Compensation will be determined by experience and education. Website - halbstadtchurch.com

Classifieds The Winkler Morden Voice

Show Home for Sale

Aurora Plus RTM

1648 SqFt

3 bedrooms, ensuite large kitchen with quartz countertops
9ft walls
double cathedral ceiling
abundance of natural light

Pictures available at www.wgiesbrechthomes.ca
204-346-3231

WANTED

Buying large amounts of coins & coin collections!



Old coins, old money, collectors coins, rare coins, coin collections, pre:1969 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1., Olympic coins, coin sets, **Royal Canadian Mint Coins, Franklin Mints Sets, buying Entire Collections & Estates.** USA, Canada & world collections **wanted.** Also purchasing bullion, jewelry, scrap, nuggets, sterling, gold, silver, platinum.

Todd
250-864-3521

Starting a new business?

Call us - We have everything you need to promote your business

Call 204-467-5836



Response Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$239.00 (includes 35 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at **204.947.1691** or email classified@mcna.com

www.mcna.com

Senior Pastor Wanted

Carman Mennonite Church is an independent Anabaptist congregation seeking 0.5FTE pastoral position with the possibility of full-time. Located in Carman, MB.

For more info contact: cmcpastoralsearchcommittee@gmail.com

Danny's

MOVING AND DISPOSAL

- Local & long distance
- Household packing
- Estate clear out & clean up
- Small Demolition

Small Jobs & Free Estimates
Seniors Discounts
Professional & Courteous
204-298-7578



Camp Wannakumbac 75th Anniversary Family Camp August 4-7, 2023

Everyone invited especially current & alumni campers, counsellors, staff, families & supporters for all or part of weekend. Enjoy decade reunions, campfires, beef pit BBQ & dance. Info on fees, detailed program & registration at: www.campwannakumbac.com or Ph: 204 848-2380

Email: info@wannakumbac.com
Registration Deadline July 21, 2023

EMPLOYMENT



Border Land School Division invites applicants for a

FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN

FOR W.C. MILLER COLLEGIATE IN ALTONA, MB

FOR DETAILS VISIT WWW.BLSD.CA

CAREERS



MAINTENANCE MECHANIC/MILLWRIGHT

Bunge Altona has an opening for a Maintenance Mechanic/Millwright. Work involves process equipment installation, maintenance and repair, lubrication, steel fabrication and welding.

Preference will be given to those candidates holding a valid provincial Millwright or Industrial Mechanic ticket. Candidates who do not hold a valid ticket will be expected to enrol in the apprenticeship program to obtain their ticket as soon as possible.

Overtime and on-call duties are required. The successful applicant will possess excellent written and verbal communication skills, trouble shooting skills, and be a team player.

The following would be considered an asset for this position:

- Experience in grain handling, processing, or manufacturing facility
- Experience in industrial equipment maintenance and repair
- Ability to read blueprints and technical documents
- Pressure or structural welding tickets and related experience

This is a regular full time position providing an excellent wage and benefits package. Bunge is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace for all employees.

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

Bunge Canada is an equal opportunity employer.

CONDO FOR RENT

CONDO FOR RENT

at Katharina Court, Altona.

1100 sq. ft., All appliances included.

\$1100 per month.

Available: September 1st.

Contact Jack at 204-304-0656

McSherry Auctions

12 Patterson Dr., Stonewall, MB

Online Timed Auctions @ iCollector.com

Ray Caron Construction
Closes July 27 @ 6:30PM

Estate of Don Gulewich
Closes August 1 @ 7:00PM

Estate of Jean Wilkinson
Closes August 3 @ 7:00PM

Booking Auctions At Your Place or Ours!

McSherryAuction.com
204-467-1858
Consignors Welcome!

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*Construction *ATV
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*Marine *RV & more
Shipping/Delivery avail.

THE BATTERY MAN
1390 St. James St.
Winnipeg
TF 1-877-775-8271
www.batteryman.ca

CAREERS

Parts Sales Associate – AgWest

AgWest is looking for a Parts Sales Associate to join our team! The Parts Sales Associate plays a vital role in customer service at our Branch as the key customer contact for advising and distributing parts and consistently providing superior service.

As a Parts Sales Associate, YOU will experience:

- Working for the best in class equipment dealer and with premium brands to exceed our customer needs
- Opportunities to continuously Learn, Grow and Develop with our AgWest team for your success

In a typical day, YOU will:

- Demonstrate safe, environmentally sound and healthy work behaviours at all times
- Enhance our customer's experience and commitment to brand loyalty by providing product expertise, relevant parts recommendations and regular communication of current and upcoming parts promotions
- Manage parts inquiries and correspondence effectively over the parts counter, through email and by phone in a timely and courteous manner
- Manage the daily functions of the parts operation, including sourcing, procuring and ordering parts, following up on backorders and credits, conducting inventory counts, processing cores and warranties for both internal and external customers
- Provide on call service as required, at times on weekends and evenings

About AgWest

From CLAAS and numerous AGCO brands, our expanded line of new farm equipment and used equipment keeps your farming operation productive year-round. And with a full selection of attachments, supply products and genuine parts, our dedicated sales and service teams always have exactly what you need on hand. At AgWest, competitive advantage is derived by developing and harnessing the talents and skills of our team.

2 Job Technician positions available

Our **Ag Technicians** are responsible for supporting the customer in the shop and field with Ag equipment expertise (diagnosis and repairs) that are completed in a timely manner and with a high level of quality.

- Demonstrate workplace safety, environmentally sound and healthy behaviours at all times
- Diagnose mechanical and electrical problems using testing equipment in the shop
- Effectively repair Ag heavy equipment product lines represented by AgWest
- Prepare accurate service and repair reports in a timely manner
- Maintain excellent customer relations through frequent communication
- Licensed Technician, AGCO/Claas experience preferred with proven industry experience
- Mechanical aptitude to safely and effectively diagnose and repair Ag equipment
- Highly safety conscious with a positive attitude and strong commitment to customer service
- Self-motivated and able to work with a sense of urgency
- Focused on completing work with high standard of quality
- Strong computer skills are an asset
- Willing and able to work shifts as required in support of the business
- A valid Driver's Licence, Class 5 (Class 3 is preferred) with a clean Driver's Abstract

Resumes can be sent to: Don Miller

donmiller@agwest.com

Phone 204-880-5525

Ag West is an equal opportunity employer who recognizes and values diversity

INVITATION TO OFFERS

INVITATION FOR OFFERS

3816410 Manitoba Ltd. o/a Berg's Trailers & Prep and Paint

3816410 Manitoba Ltd. o/a Berg's Trailers & Prep and Paint ("Berg's" or the "Company"), based in Winkler, Manitoba, specialized in manufacturing grain and aluminum trailers, as well as providing sandblasting and painting services.

Deloitte Restructuring Inc., in its capacity as Receiver of the Company (the "Receiver") invite offers to purchase the Receiver's right, title and interest, if any, in the assets of the Company as follows:

- Parcel 1: Land and Building (1 - 550 George Avenue, Winkler, Manitoba)**
- Parcel 2: Work in Process**
- Parcel 3: Inventory and Equipment**

All offers must be sealed and marked "OFFER - Berg's" and be delivered or mailed, postage prepaid, to Deloitte Restructuring Inc. at 360 Main Street, Suite 2300, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3 to be received no later than **4:00 p.m. CT on Friday, August 11, 2023**. Every offer submitted shall be in the form of the Offer to Purchase prescribed in the Sales and Information Package. The highest or any offer will not necessary be accepted.

To obtain a copy of the Sales and Information Package and/or to arrange an appointment to view the assets, please contact John R. Fritz at (204) 944-3586 or (jofritz@deloitte.ca).

Deloitte.

Classifieds Announcements



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

BIRTHDAY



Nettie Dueck
Happy 80th Birthday
-With Love from your Family

ANNIVERSARY



1963 - 2023
Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to our Dad and Mom:
John and Eva Harder of Altona (previously from Lowe Farm)
-Love, from your family

HOLE IN ONE



Congratulations Gord on your hole in one.
You've waited a long time for this.
On the Winkler Golf Course.
-From your friends

take a break

> GAMES

SUDOKU

		4	1					2
9		8		2				5
	6				4			
	1		9					
		6		8				3
					2	5	6	7
	2							4
	3							7
7							1	

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

9	2	1	6	9	3	4	8	5	7
8	7	8	1	9	2	6	9	3	4
5	9	3	8	7	5	2	1	9	6
4	6	3	8	5	7	8	9	3	4
7	6	9	1	2	5	4	3	8	9
3	9	1	6	5	8	7	9	4	2
8	4	8	2	6	3	9	7	1	5
1	8	3	9	5	7	6	2	4	8
9	3	7	4	8	5	2	9	6	1
6	7	8	6	2	9	8	3	4	5
2	3	5	4	1	9	7	6	8	2

Sudoku Answer

N	E	V	S	O	B	Y	K		
E	V	T	I	M	O	N	E		
S	V	V	N	V	B	Y	R	V	S
S		E	S	T	A	B	E	S	
				P	I	T			
						G	I		
						U	N		
						M	E		
						D	E		
						S			
						W	A		
						M	I		
						O	R		
						K			
						S			
						L	E		
						S			
						O	N		
						L	E		
						S			
						S			
						O	N		
						L	E		
						S			
						O	N		
						L	E		
						S			

Crossword Answer

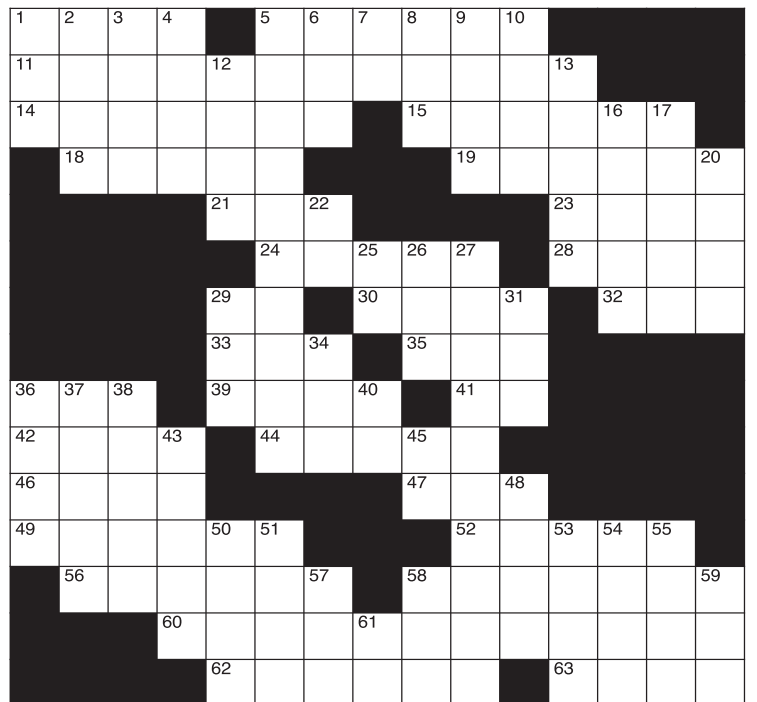
CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Commoner
5. Tea leaf
11. They save you a table
14. Submissions
15. Secretly revealed
18. Personification of the sea (Norse)
19. Unreal
21. No seats available
23. Bangladeshi currency
24. Leaders
28. Famed garden
29. Denotes past
30. Not living
32. Midway between south and southeast
33. Small island (British)
35. Woman (French)
36. Wife
39. Two-toed sloth
41. Blood group
42. Soaks
44. Biu-Mandara language of Cameroon
46. Japanese prefecture
47. Place to be during a rock concert
49. Fully grown humans
52. Emaciation
56. Sparkling
58. Fruits you peel
60. Derived from a noun
62. Popular items to grill
63. Port in Yemen

CLUES DOWN

1. Before
2. Actress Dunham
3. This (Spanish)
4. Director Peter
5. Dominant



6. English artists' society (abbr.)
7. NY Giants legend
8. It's in the ground
9. No No No
10. Pesky insect
12. Danish-American muckraking journalist
13. Kids love to do it
16. Good Gosh!
17. Fakes
20. A citizen of Denmark
22. Mystic syllable
25. Commercial
26. Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
27. Helpers
29. Water (French)
31. Young woman
34. Red-brown sea bream
36. Messenger ribonucleic acid
37. Comprehends
38. Walk with confidence
40. Home of the Flyers
43. Appetizer
45. News organization
48. Source of the Nile
50. A way to march
51. Soluble ribonucleic acid
53. Egyptian bull-god
54. Children's author Blyton
55. Baseball pitching stat
57. Rude young person
58. Table napkin
59. Monetary unit in Asia
61. One-time AL MVP Vaughn

Classifieds The Winkler Morden Voice Announcements

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836
or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Norma Caroline Daly (nee Dreger)
October 6, 1929 - January 31, 2023

The family invites you to a Celebration of Life for our mother, Norma Daly, Saturday, July 22, 1:30 p.m. at Trinity United Church, 933 Summerside Ave., Winnipeg, R3T 4Y1.
Reception in the church after the service.

*Your memory will live forever
Engraved within our hearts*

PUBLIC NOTICE



PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE
Planning & Permitting Department

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

The City of Winkler, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a hearing at which time and place the council of the City of Winkler will receive representation from the applicants and any other persons who wish to make representations in respect of the Rezoning Application No. RZ2023-002 and By-law No. 2301-23, being an amendment to Winkler Zoning By-law 2271-21 of the City of Winkler.

The general intent of the above By-Law No. 2301-23, is to zone the land described below, Namely:

Parcels A, B, C, D, E and F, Plan (Dep. 1597-22) MLTO.

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

FROM: "PI" PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE
"SI" SERVICE INDUSTRIAL

TO: "PI" PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE
"SI" SERVICE INDUSTRIAL

copy of the above By-Law No. 2301-23 and supporting material may be inspected by any persons between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Thursday and 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Friday, in the City Office.

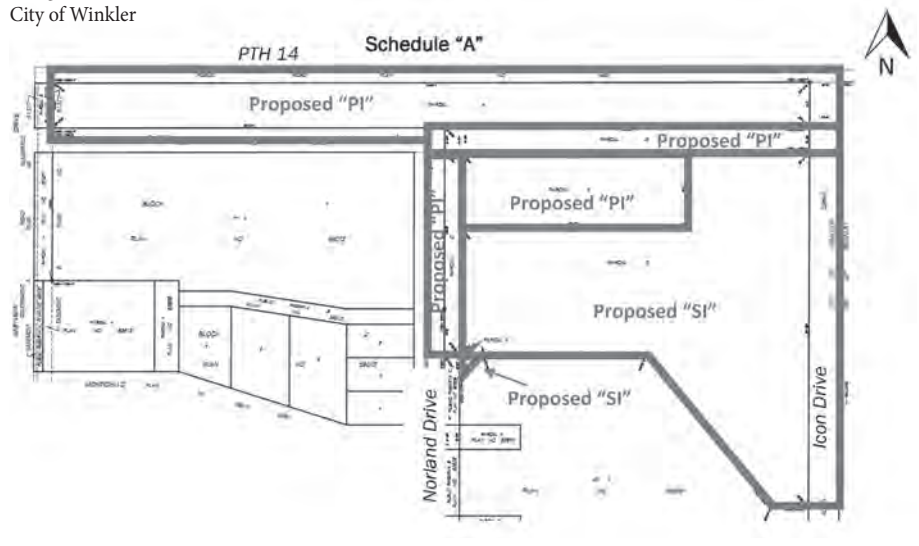
Date of Hearing: August 8, 2023

Time of Hearing: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Winkler Council Chambers, 185 Main Street, Winkler, Manitoba

DATED at Winkler, in Manitoba, this 29th day of June 2023

Designated Officer
City of Winkler



**FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION
with an EMPLOYMENT/CAREERS AD in**



Call: 204-467-5836 or Email: ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

OBITUARY



Frost, Joan Katherine (nee: Caswell)
April 27, 1932 – July 13, 2023

On July 13, 2023, Joan Katherine Frost of Pembina Manitou Health Centre, formerly of Miami and Morden, passed away at the age of 91 years.

Joan will lovingly be remembered by her sons Robert (Deb), Doug (Veronica) and Raymond (Bev) as well as grandchildren, Benji, Ryan (Kate), Kim (James), Michelle, Joel (Naomi), Amber (Danny), great-grandchildren Mason, Holden, Saul, Cody (Morgan), Tatiana, Emma, Layla, Ripplen, Adley, Daxton, numerous nieces, and nephews as well as many friends.

She was predeceased by her loving husband Cyril Roy Frost on December 7, 1992, her parents Roy and Joy Caswell, her in-laws Roy and Elsie Frost, great-grandson Brad Wall, two brothers, one brother-in-law and three sisters-in-law.

A private family service will be held at the Miami Cemetery with a come and go Celebration of Life at the Miami Community Hall, commencing at 2:00 p.m. July 19th.

Doyle's Funeral Home
in care of arrangements
www.doylesfuneralhome.ca

*Remember Your Loved Ones
with an Announcement in the*

The Winkler Morden
Voice

Call 204-467-5836 or ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

SALES CAREER OPPORTUNITY

**Big and Colourful
Printing & Publishing**

is looking for a dynamic, highly motivated person to become part of our advertising sales team in the Interlake area.

The successful candidate will thrive in a fast paced sales environment where a competitive nature, strong work ethic and excellent customer service skills are required and rewarded.

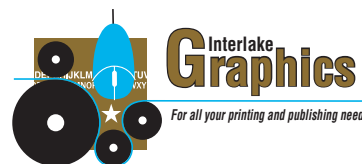
This opportunity involves building relationships and representing our newspapers to new and existing customers.

Qualifications: The successful candidate must be professional, dependable, energetic, goal-oriented, self-starter, can work within deadlines, well organized and friendly.

Customer service, sales experience and passion is a must.

- Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Office
- Excellent communication skills and a genuine love of people
- Willingness to learn
- Ability to work independently

If you fit this description please email resume to
Bigandcolourful@mts.net



Here are your Sunflower Queen hopefuls

By Voice staff

Seven Queen Quest hopefuls will take the stage at the Manitoba Sunflower Festival next week.

The competition's events include contestant speeches Friday afternoon at the Millennium Exhibition Centre, followed by contestant introductions at the Centennial Park stage that evening.

Saturday includes the annual fashion show and, finally, the big crowning of the 2023 queen and her princesses at the Centennial Park Stage at 10 p.m.

Vying for the honour this year is Teneka Doerksen, Olivia Driedger, Dalila Friesen, Lanea Friesen, Aria Ginter, Emily Wiebe, and Tiffany Wiebe.

Here's a peek at who's in the running to represent the community:

- Teneka Doerksen is the daughter of Cornie and Annie Doerksen and is being sponsored by Roger's Plumbing-Heating & Air Conditioning.

"In the fall I plan to work full-time and hopefully go to Bible college in the new year. In my free time, I enjoy reading, painting shoes, going to McDonald's, and spending time with my family and friends."

- Olivia Driedger is daughter to Chris and Karla Driedger and is sponsored by SK2 Custom Homes.

"I plan on working full-time as well as enrolling in videography courses to pursue a career in filmmaking. In my free time, I love spending time with my family, hanging out with my friends, watching movies, going



PHOTO BY LORI PENNER/VOICE

The 2023 Queen Quest contestants with the 2022 royalty at Altona's Canada Day festivities earlier this month.

swimming in the summertime and singing."

- Dalila Friesen is daughter to Walter and Susie Friesen and is sponsored by Friesens Corporation.

"This September I plan to attend Providence University College in Otterburn, Manitoba to start my three-year psychology degree. After that, I plan to further my education to a master's degree and pursue my dream as a therapist. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, playing softball in summer, playing music, and writing poetry."

- Lanea Friesen is the daughter of Mike and Tina Friesen. She is being sponsored by Altona Farm Service Ltd.

"I am very excited to be starting an aesthetics course this August. In my free time, I enjoy reading, going for long walks outside, swimming, and playing board games with my friends and family."

- Aria Ginter is the daughter of Ian and Christie Ginter and is being sponsored by The Altona Elks.

"This fall I am attending the University of Manitoba for my U1 and later plan on going into the dental hygiene program. In my free time, I enjoy horseback riding, curling up with a good book, laying by the pool and spending time hanging out with my friends."

- Emily Wiebe is the daughter of Trudy Wiebe and is being sponsored

Only Local by Bartsch Gardens and RuffMutts.

"This coming year I will be focusing on working, in hopes of one day doing a lot of travelling. In my free time, I like to hang out and watch movies with my brother, go for walks with my dogs, read, and spend time with friends and family."

- Tiffany Wiebe is the daughter of Leonard and Mary Wiebe. Her sponsor is Sun Valley Co-op Ltd., where she works as produce manager.

"Connecting with customers and meeting new people is a highlight for me. In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with friends and family, playing baseball, piano, shopping, and reading."

Vanderveen makes substantial contribution to BTHC

By Ty Dilello

Vanderveen Commodity Service in Carman has made a substantial donation of \$250,000 to go towards the Boundary Trails Health Centre's (BTHC) capital campaign to expand its hospital.

"The facility that Boundary Trails has in Winkler is great for everyone," said owner Andy Vanderveen. "It serves the whole Pembina Valley, and with its expansion, it helps services in the Carman area as well. It's better than having to drive to Winnipeg or Brandon for sure."

The \$100-million project at Boundary Trails will be completed in phases, with Phase 1 slated to begin this

year. Within a few years, the southern Manitoba region will have its expanded hospital with more beds, a new, state-of-the-art operating room, an expanded Emergency Department, and the Cancer Care unit being doubled in size.

"It's worth the donation and the support to help see it through," said Vanderveen. "They were raising money for this expansion, so that's why the decision to made."

Please contact the BTHC's Foundation office to discuss multi-year pledges for the expansion or make a donation at 204-331-8808 ext. 2 or office@bthcfoundation.com



VOICE PHOTO BY JENNIFER CHING-FAUX

Vanderveen Commodities donated \$250,000 to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation capital campaign last month. Pictured left to right: Brock Vanderveen, Brett Vanderveen, Andy Vanderveen, Jesse Vanderveen, and BTHC Foundation Chair Ben Friesen.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Harvest Bowl Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette

- 2 cups arugula
- 2 cups kale
- 1 cup Brussels sprouts petals, roasted
- 2 Honeycrisp apples, diced
- 2 tablespoons roasted pecans, unsalted
- 2 tablespoons roasted pepitas, unsalted
- 2 tablespoons dried cranberries

To make balsamic vinaigrette: In food processor, process avocado, avocado oil, shallots, Dijon mustard, balsamic vinegar, honey and water to smooth consistency. Set aside.

To make salad: In large bowl, combine avocados, sweet potatoes, quinoa, arugula, kale, Brussels sprouts petals, apples, pecans, pepitas and dried cranberries. Pour balsamic vinaigrette over salad mixture.

Toss salad to coat. Keep refrigerated until ready to serve.

- Servings: 8
 Balsamic Vinaigrette:
 1/2 Avocado From Mexico, diced
 1 tablespoon avocado oil
 2 tablespoons shallots, minced
 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
 3 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar
 1 tablespoon honey
 3 tablespoons water
 Salad:
 2 Avocados From Mexico, diced
 2 sweet potatoes, roasted and diced
 2 cups quinoa, cooked



Quinoa Overnight Oats

- 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds
- Prepare quinoa according to package directions. Let cool completely.
 In large bowl, combine almond milk, oats, bananas and cinnamon. Stir in quinoa and blueberries.

Cover and refrigerate overnight. Divide among four serving bowls and garnish with pomegranate seeds.

Tips: For added sweetness, drizzle with honey, maple syrup or agave syrup, to taste. For a grab-and-go breakfast, combine overnight oats mixture and divide in resealable, single-serving jars or containers. Seal and refrigerate overnight.

- Prep time: 15 minutes
 Cook time: 10 minutes
 Servings: 4
 1 bag Success Tri-Color Quinoa
 2 cups almond milk
 1 cup quick-rolled oats
 2 bananas, mashed
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1 cup fresh blueberries



Caterpillar Sandwich

- 1 green onion
 - 2 Roma tomato slices
 - 6 cucumber slices
 - toothpicks
 - mayonnaise or cream cheese
- Using bread, ham, lettuce and cheese, make two ham and cheese sandwiches and two lettuce and cheese sandwiches.
 Cut cherry tomato in half. Cut green onion into circles.

Using small biscuit or cookie cutter, punch out two rounds from each sandwich.

Arrange sandwich rounds on sides, alternating slice of cucumber and tomato between each. Use toothpick to secure.

Place halved cherry tomato on each end.

Using small amount of mayonnaise or cream cheese, "glue" green onion rounds to cherry tomato for eyes.

- Total time: 25 minutes
 Servings: 6
 4 Nature's Own Butterbread slices
 4 ham slices
 2 lettuce leaves
 4 American cheese slices
 1 cherry tomato

Ask the Money Lady

Dear Money Lady, I have been offered a new job as a contractor and I am not sure if I should take it. Could you tell me what the difference is between an employee versus a contractor. Thanks, Jenn.

Dear Jenn, great question – one that most people should know!

Most Canadians, if given the chance to take a contracted position over an employee position will always choose the employee placement, thinking it is more secure and better than being labelled an independent contractor. This is a false notion, one that always leaves a lot of money on the table. Long-time contracted Canadians know the benefits of this employment choice and often would never opt to go back to a "so-called" coveted employee position. So, let's discuss the differences and you can choose for yourself which is better.

The main difference between an employee and an independent contractor is the taxation, deductions, and benefits. As a contractor you will be responsible for paying your own taxation and CPP (Canada pension plan) and because you are not an employee, you most likely will not have any health or dental benefits. Because of this, contractors are always paid more than employees and often have a lot more freedoms.

Contractors can work for many different clients or companies, they have less restrictions, and are usually free to perform their duties the way they want to, provided the contracted work is completed within the time frame agreed upon. They are always paid without deductions, so it is necessary for a contractor to budget for taxation and setup a savings strategy for retirement. Personally, I have been an independent contractor since I was 22 and I would never go back to an employment position. As a contractor you are always paid more and have the ability to write off personal expenses to reduce your overall income. Cell phone fees, car expenses (gas, mileage, depreciation, or lease payments), home office, stationery and office expenses, equipment, gifts, meals, and entertainment are just a few of the write offs most contrac-



Christine Ibbotson

tors use to lower their taxable income. In my opinion, it is your take-home earnings that matter most. Someone who earns a six-figure income but is taxed at the highest marginal tax rate and then has multiple deductions off their pay is far worse off than a contractor that makes less but takes home more.

As an employee you normally do not have the opportunity to profit from your work. You would not need to make any investment into performing your job other than showing up and providing the services required by the employer. You are entitled to benefit plans, along with group health and dental insurance. All required deductions and taxation will be calculated by your employer, and you will receive your net income in the form of a regular pay cheque. Most people believe that as an employee you are "safer" than a contractor with more job stability. This however may not be true, since anyone who is not doing their job runs the risk of being fired.

Many industries today don't have contracted positions, however if you have the opportunity to try it in your working career, you should. You may find, like myself, that you never want to go back to an employee position ever again.

*Good Luck & Best Wishes,
 ATML - Christine Ibbotson*

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer, National Radio Host, and now on CTV Morning Live, and CTV News @6. Send your money questions (answered FREE) through her website at askthemoneylady.ca



Fluffernutter Sandwich

- Total time: 10 minutes
 - Servings: 1
 - 2 tablespoons peanut butter
 - 2 Nature's Own Butterbread slices
 - 2 tablespoons marshmallow fluff
- Spread peanut butter on one bread slice. Spread marshmallow fluff on second slice.
 Put two bread slices together to form sandwich.